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PUBLISHED FROM 2015:

I started this rug as a bit of an experiment and with no plan to create a tutorial so please forgive me if the photos are a little cobbled together.

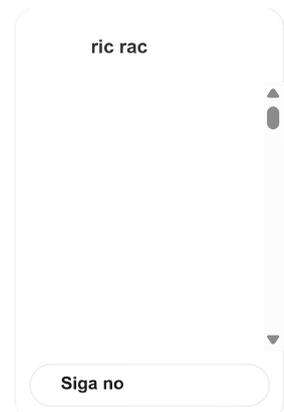
OK guys, now this is more of a marathon than a sprint (although it is super quick) so I think we need to organise ourselves before we start. Why ? because of course I jumped in feet first and fluffed up a few things and could have done them better so you guys get the benefit of my experience.

You will need :

- Cotton sashing cord: I started with 8mm and had to really squeeze it under my presser foot. Once I ran out of 8mm I had to use 7mm - and it was much easier. You may need to see what your own machine is happy to cope with. My finished rug measures approx 47 inches across and I used 125 metres (almost 400 feet) of cotton sashing.



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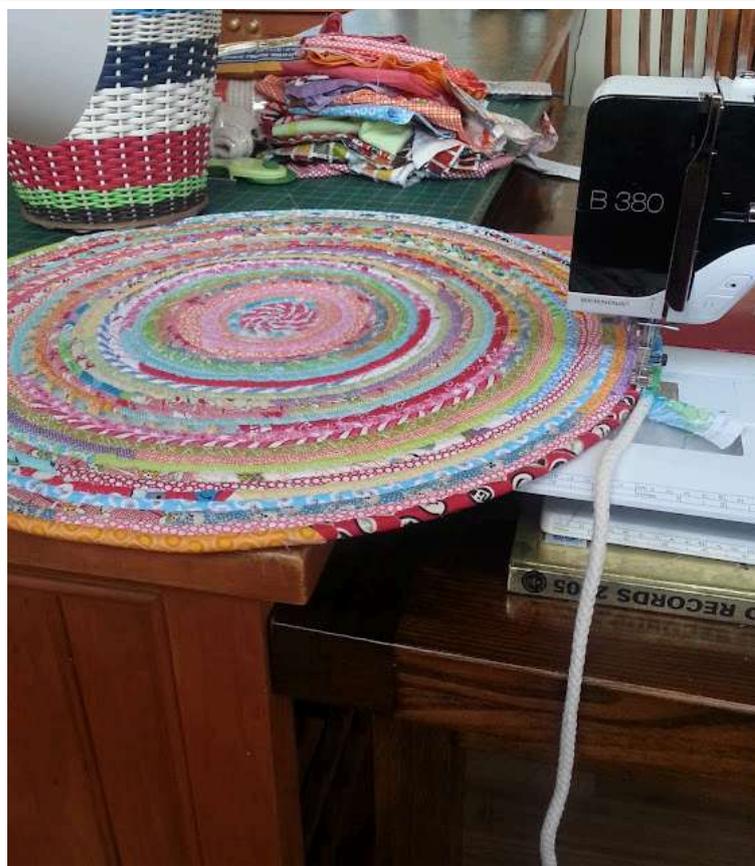
- Fabric strips: Any length x 1 1/4 inches wide. (Depending on my mood, I ripped some and cut some.) My strips varied between 1 and 2 inches but I found the narrower ones easiest to wrap. I have no idea how much fabric I used but my scraps are once more actually fitting in the scrap basket.
- Polyester Thread : Lots of thread - more thread than you can imagine. It is a good idea to pre-wind a stack of bobbins as well, because once you get started you are going to want to keep on going - it is highly addictive!
- Jeans needle: I started with a regular needle and broke one before commonsense kicked in and I switched to a jeans needle.

Set Up:

OK guys, this is the secret to success. You need to be able to sew somewhere that your machine will be at the same level as a flat surface roughly the size of the rug you want to make. You cannot fudge this step or you will end up making a basket.

I started by putting the weird little plastic table on my sewing machine (I have never used it) but in the early stages the rug grows so quickly that it outgrew that little table in no time.

In the end, my kitchen table, butted up against the kitchen bench (With the Guinness book of records under my machine to raise it) was the perfect workstation. There is a box, also on a book behind my machine and once the rug got wider than this arrangement I put chairs next to the bench. Yep, home beautiful all the way.
You really need to be able to sort this out, if you don't have a flat surface it is impossible to keep your rug flat.



Machine settings:

I set my machine at the widest zigzag stitch possible and the stitch length at roughly the midpoint of what my machine offers.



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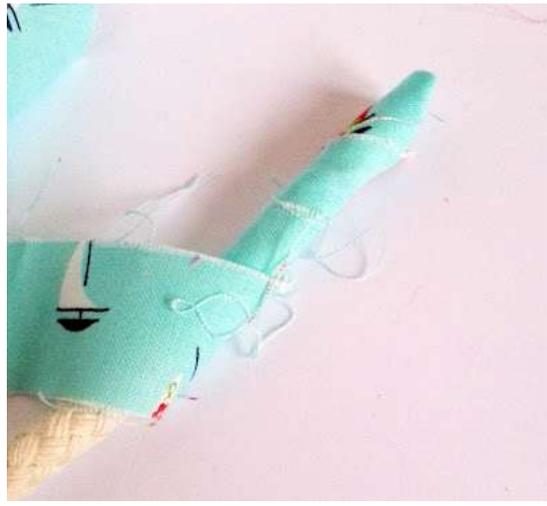
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Getting started:



Simply wrap one of the strips around the end of your sashing, making sure you have covered the end.



If you look closely you can see, not only the zigzag stitch but also a straight stitch running the length of the cord. I began by stitching the length of the cord after I had wrapped it. I soon realised this was double handling and it wasn't really needed.

Wind your covered sashing into a circle and sew. It could not be simpler.

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The Selvedge Frock





Simply tuck the next fabric strip into the one previous and keep wrapping.



You will most likely get little bits hanging out - it is no problem at all, they get hidden as you add the next row around the rug.



I began by sewing the ends of the sashing cord together but that meant taking the rug out of the machine each time. The sashing cord had tape on each end to stop fraying, so in the end I just taped them together - woohoo
!! Easy !!

As the rug grows it is going to get heavier - a lot heavier ! It will then become harder for your machine to 'pull' the rug through. Once the rug became very large, I would sew about 20 cm and then pull the rug around, constantly readjusting it so I was doing the heavy work not the machine.



Tips: if you have a needle up/needle down function on your machine set it at needle up. Once your rug gets large and heavy and you start shoving it around a bit, you are less likely to break a needle if you leave it up.

Finishing:

I took this photo late at night so please excuse it.



I wrapped the end of the sashing in sticky tape (just one layer) and then cut it, tapering it to a kind of point. I covered the raw cut edge with a bit more tape and then wrapped it and sewed. A little spot of backtacking and the rug is done!

Note : My machine collected an amazing amount of lint during this project. I am not sure if it was the hours of sewing in one sitting, or something to do with the cotton sashing but it is worth your while to stop every few hours and remove the lint build up.



My new website (and blog) is at www.jodiericrac.com
come and check it out !

Posted by Jodie at [2:16 PM](#)

Labels: [fabric rug](#), [how to sew a fabric rug](#)

40 comments:



ZippyZippy Thursday, July 30, 2015

Wow this looking amazing Jodie. Think I need to give one of these a go, lots of scraps to use up here.

Thanks for the tutorial

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