What says unique better than this pretty round bowl resting on top of a matching quilted table topper.

**Finished size**

**Basket:** 7-inch-diameter at base, 11½-inch-diameter at top, 4½ inches tall  
**Table Topper:** 21½ inches square

**Materials**

- 65 feet 3/16-inch flexible clothesline with no hard center core  
- 8 different-color fat quarters of cotton fabric for basket strips (3 colors are also used for borders and binding of table topper)  
- ½ yard 45-inch-wide cotton fabric for front center panel and four cornerstones of table topper and strips for basket  
- ¾ yard 45-inch-wide coordinating piece of cotton fabric for table topper backing  
- 25 x 25-inch square low-loft batting  
- 20 (¼-inch) flat buttons  
- New 80 or 90 universal machine needles  
- Variety of hand-sewing needles  
- 50 (1-inch) brass safety pins or 50 straight pins  
- 2 acid-free glue sticks  
- Masking tape or colored tape  
- Needle-nose pliers  
- Bamboo stick or stiletto  
- Single-stitch foot and throat plate for table topper  
- Zigzag foot or open appliqué foot and zigzag throat plate for basket  
- Acrylic extension table or equivalent (to extend level sewing surface)  
- Basic sewing supplies and equipment

**Cutting**

Use rotary cutter, mat and ruler.

**From fabric for center panel and cornerstones:**

- Cut one 16 x 16-inch square for center panel.  
- Cut four 3½-inch squares for cornerstones.

**From fabric for backing:**

- Cut one 25 x 25-inch square for backing.

**From fat quarters for borders, binding and basket:**

- Cut four 1½ x 18-inch strips from each of three different-color prints for table topper borders.
• Cut 2¼-inch-wide strips on the bias to total 52 inches when joined for binding. **Note:** Use same color as selected for border strip next to center panel.
• After other pieces have been cut, begin rotary-cutting ½- to ¾-inch-wide strips for the basket. **Note:** Cut only a few strips at a time to conserve fabric and prevent fraying from handling.

**Table Topper Assembly**

Use a ¼-inch-wide seam allowance unless otherwise stated.

1. Place the 12 border strips in four groups of three each. Straight-stitch together each group of border strips. Press seams toward what will be the outer edge.

2. Trim two of the four assembled borders to 16 inches. Straight-stitch these pieces to two opposite sides of the 16-inch center panel (Figure 1). Press seams.

3. Trim remaining assembled borders to 16½ inches long. Sew a cornerstone to each end of each remaining assembled borders. Press seams. Straight-stitch assembled pieces to remaining sides of center panel unit (Figure 2). Press seams. Trim edges even.

4. With wrong side up, tape backing piece tautly on a flat, even work surface. Center the 25 x 25-inch square of batting over backing, then center the pieced top over the batting with right side up. Using safety pins or straight pins, pin together layers, beginning in center and working outward.

5. Remove tape. Beginning at the outer edge of one cornerstone, straight-stitch across the cornerstone diagonally to the opposite corner. Stitch diagonally across the cornerstone between opposite corners (Figure 3).

6. Make a 1-inch-wide paper guide to help stitch a total of seven straight lines centered diagonally across the center panel in both directions (Figure 4).
7. Stitch in the ditch at border and cornerstone seams, working diagonal lines on each cornerstone as you come to it.


9. Bind edges with 2¼-inch-wide bias strips using a ¼-inch-wide seam allowance and trimming seam to ⅜ inch.

10. Hand-stitch a button in the center of each cornerstone.

Basket Assembly

Use either zigzag foot or an open appliqué foot and zigzag bed.

1. Apply glue to 1 inch of both the wrong side of the fabric strip and the end of the clothesline. Wrap approximately 4 inches of line with fabric; pin in place to hold. Beginning at the end, straight-stitch a basting line for 2 inches (Figure 5). Remove from the machine and cut threads. Continue wrapping fabric around line, occasionally using a dab of glue.

Sewing Tips

A Must: Clean and oil machine before beginning. Insert a new needle.

Preparing Fabric: Always wash, machine dry and iron fabric before beginning project.

Hint: When wrapping, glue and pin at the beginning and the end of each strip to help hold it in place until the area has been sewn. Don’t wrap more than a yard of line at a time. Always sew whatever you have glued. Dried glue may make your stitches irregular.

Keeping Track of the Tail: The tail is the wrapped line ready to be sewn. Keep the tail moving through the area that forms the arch or very center of your machine bed. Check this often as it is common to reverse the coil.

Consistent Stitches: Using zigzag attachments, make several wrapped sample lines to test which setting for zigzag is best. The stitches should touch adjacent lines evenly without entering the very center of the lines. Ideally the tops of the zigzags are ⅛ inch apart. Write the correct setting on tape and place it on the front of your machine as a reminder.

Fixing Mistakes: Occasionally, after wrapping and stitching, a portion of the line may show through. Use a permanent marker to color in a very small area. If you need to cover a larger area, cut a scrap of the same-color fabric, and glue and stitch it in place. Check for areas where stitches are off. Go back to that area and restitch. No one will ever know!

Joining Lines: It is easy to join lines together. Glue and overlap the unwrapped lines by ½ inch. Hold the area together. Wind an 18-inch piece of thread tightly around the joined area. Finger-press to decrease bulk and wrap tightly with fabric; zigzag while glue is wet.
2. Tighten coil wrapped line so it is about the size of a 50-cent piece. **Note:**
Use the machine bed to help maintain that shape.
Straight-stitch an “X” over the coil for easier zigzagging later (Figure 6). Remove from machine and cut threads.

3. Using a predetermined stitch setting (see **Consistent Stitches** tip in sidebar) zigzag edges of line together, starting at beginning of the coil (Figure 7). **Notes:** Use the needle-down option to hold the line under the presser foot and free both hands. You will need to reposition the coil often because of stitching in a small area. A bamboo stick or stiletto will help twirl the coil under the needle. Continue wrapping and zigzagging until the coiled base is 1 7/8 inches in diameter.


5. Add new colors of staggered lengths of fabric to achieve a patchwork affect. When base reaches a diameter of 7 inches, prepare to begin shaping the sides. Place a piece of tape on the coil to the left of the needle to mark where to change hand positions (Figure 8).

6. At the tape marker, with the needle down, lift the base halfway between the machine bed and the flat side of the needle arm (Figure 9). Zigzag one row until you again meet the marker. Stop with the needle down.

7. Change hand position so base touches the side of the needle arm (Figure 10). Continue stitching until the side measures 2 inches at the marker.

8. At this point, allow the side of the basket to fall onto the extension table as you sew. The top of the basket will widen and create V-shaped sides. Continue in this position until the side measures 4 inches at the marker (Figure 11 on page 6).
9. Wrap and zigzag three continuous rows using a focal color.

10. To finish off the end, apply glue to the fabric only and wrap line more firmly so the end tapers to just-wrapped fabric. Cut off remaining fabric and zigzag this area to finish the rim of the basket.

**Note:** Use a bamboo stick or stiletto to guide this end of line tightly to the adjacent row. If end is bumpy, push straight pins into the rim and leave in place until glue dries.

11. To help prevent the top from fraying and to strengthen the project, secure the top edge by zigzagging around it once on the fabric and one more time just off the rim.

12. Embellish the top edge of the basket with 16 (¾-inch) buttons sewn evenly spaced around the top three rows. **Note:** Needle-nose pliers will help pull the needle through the thickness. Cut off fraying threads.

Figure 11