

**A free project, compliments of...**

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# Sewing Machine Cords by Sue Bleiweiss

Making a machine stitched cord is easy. All you need is a length of yarn, string or cord and a sewing machine set to a zigzag stitch. I like to use my rayon, metallic and specialty threads when I make a cord. Variegated threads are especially nice to use.

Depending on the thickness of your base cords you may want to use as many as 3 or 4 lengths twisted together. For this example I am using 3 cords twisted together. You'll need to experiment to see which is right for the cord you're using.

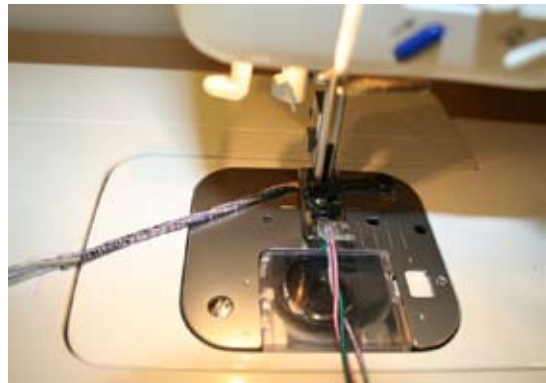
How fast or slow you move the cord as you are stitching will determine how much coverage you get. It's not necessary to completely cover the cord. Set your machine to stitch a zigzag stitch and thread it with whatever thread you like. Start with a length of cord longer than you need since it's difficult to stitch the first few and the last few inches of the cord.

Twist your cords if you are using more than one and place one end under the needle on your sewing machine. You'll need to leave a little hanging off the back edge so that you have something to hold onto as you're stitching.



Now start stitching. As you stitch you will need to pull the cord through the machine since the feed dogs won't be much help. How fast or slow you pull the cord through will determine what kind of coverage you

get. I sometimes run the cord through the machine two or three times.



Make as many passes over the cord as necessary until you are happy with the result. You can see this finished cord on the right in the photo below.



Experiment with different novelty yarns and fabrics. The cord on the far left in the photo was made by twisting a 1" strip of organza into a tight twist and then stitching over it. The middle cord was created by twisting a fun fur novelty yarn with another thicker boucle style novelty yarn.

Use your machine cords as tie wraps for journals, couch them onto surfaces or ready to wear items such as hats, jackets or bags or even use them as funky shoelaces!