Chapter 1

Clothesline Crochet
Clothesline Crochet is a technique used to create baskets, rugs, coasters, chair pads, placemats, etc. The crochet stitches are worked over a core of clothesline or other cord for body, thickness and durability.

What Kind of Clothesline to Use
100% cotton clothesline works best, but that's hard to find these days. I found a 100% cotton 1/8" diameter sash cord that's thinner than clothesline, but it works nicely for smaller projects like coasters, trivets and small baskets. I also tried a 7/32" diameter polyester/polypropylene blend sash cord, and that worked well for larger projects. You can also use the cording that's sold in fabric stores for things like welt seams. Nylon cord does not work for clothesline crochet. Especially avoid cotton clothesline with a nylon core. The nylon core is made up of several strands of what looks like 20 lb. test fishing line that is very wiry and doesn't want to stay together when the ends are cut.

What Kind of Yarn to Use
For the smaller diameter sash cord you can use one strand of worsted weight yarn (acrylic, cotton, chenille, nylon, or Aunt Lydia's Denim) and a size G or H hook. For the larger diameter cord, use 2 or 3 strands of worsted weight yarn, bulky yarn, jute, etc., and a size I or J hook. Variegated yarns work well, or you can change colors if you like, for variety. You can even work simple patterns into your color changes.
Step 1: Thread a yarn needle with about 2 yards of the yarn you'll be using for the project. Coil the clothesline as shown (actually, the coil should be tighter...I made it loose to better illustrate.) Insert the needle through both thicknesses of the clothesline.

Step 2: Wrap the yarn tightly around the coil as shown to form a ring; tie to secure, then run the ends of the yarn under the wraps to hide.
**Step 3:** Attach yarn to the hook with a slip knot. Beginning to the left of the uncoiled clothesline, work 8-10 sc around the ring to cover.

**Step 4:** Insert hook into the first sc and under the uncoiled clothesline.

**Step 5:** Complete sc. Do not join rounds; instead, use a stitch marker to mark the first sc of each round. (I'm using pink yarn for a marker.)

**Step 6:** Working each sc into the indicated st and around the uncoiled clothesline, work 2 sc in each sc around.

**Step 7:** Continue working sc in rounds, working around the clothesline and increasing each round (if you worked 8 sc in step 3, increase 8 stitches in every round. If you worked 10 sc in step 3, increase 10 stitches in every round) until the piece is the desired size.
Coaster size: 4" - 5"
Trivet size: 8" - 9"
Chair pad size: 14" - 15"
Placemat size: 16" - 18"
Rug size: 36" or more

Step 8: Cut the clothesline, leaving 1" - 2" of unworked clothesline exposed. Fasten off yarn, and cut the yarn, leaving a 24" yarn tail. Thread the yarn needle with the yarn tail. Insert needle through the clothesline, near the last sc, and into the clothesline of the previous round. Repeat 2 or 3 times.

Step 9: Cut clothesline close to the last stitch. Knot yarn in the back of the piece, then run yarn needle under coils to hide yarn end.

Happy Crocheting!
Clothesline Crochet Section 3

Clothesline Crochet in Rows

Step 1: Thread yarn needle with about 2 yards of the yarn used for the project. Fold end of clothesline back and stitch as shown.

Step 2: Wrap yarn tightly around both thicknesses of the clothesline, then take another stitch as in step 1. Continue doing this until the entire clothesline tail is covered. Knot yarn and run back through the wraps to hide. Cut yarn.
Step 3: Attach yarn to the hook with a slip knot. Work a sc in the clothesline loop.

Step 4: Work sc’s around the clothesline until you have the desired width by inserting the hook under the clothesline then completing the sc.

Step 5: Ch 1, turn. Pull the clothesline back across the stitches of the first row. Insert hook into first sc and under the clothesline; complete sc. Continue working in this manner across the row.

Step 6: Work as many rows as needed to complete the length of the project.

Placemat: 13”
Runner: 13” - 15”
Rug: 24” or more
Placemat: 18”
Runner: 36” or more
Rug: 36” or more

Step 7: Do not work the last 6 stitches of the last row. Cut the clothesline 3” beyond the length of the row. Fold clothesline back and work the last 6 sc of the row around both thicknesses of the clothesline.

Step 8: Fasten off yarn leaving a 24” yarn tail. Thread needle with yarn tail and take a few stitches through both thicknesses of the clothesline to secure. Trim clothesline end and yarn tail. Weave in ends.

Step 9: You can leave the clothesline loops along the sides exposed, add fringe to them, or cover them by working 3-5 sc in each loop, with a sc between loops. Weave in all ends.

Happy Crocheting!
Joining a New Piece of Clothesline

**Step 1:** Overlap the new piece of clothesline about 2” - 3” over the piece of clothesline you want to lengthen. Cut a 1-2 yard piece of yarn. Thread yarn needle with yarn and insert through both pieces of clothesline.

**Step 2:** Wrap both pieces of clothesline tightly with the yarn about 5 times, then take another stitch through both pieces of clothesline. Continue doing this until you near the end of the new piece of clothesline.
Step 3: Knot securely, then run the yarn ends under the wraps to hide. Trim the ends of the clothesline.

Happy Crocheting!
Clothesline Crochet Covered Basket & Coaster Set

The pattern for a small covered basket with coasters is included on this page. Other ideas for using clothesline crochet covered baskets...spare toilet tissue roll holder, sewing basket, coffee can cover, canister covers, trinket baskets, potpourri baskets, casserole holder, wastebasket cover...I’m sure you can think of lots more!

Covered basket formula

For the basket: Work following the tutorial instructions until you reach the desired diameter size for your basket.

Next round: Work as in the tutorial, but instead of inserting hook through both loops of each sc, insert hook in the back loop of each sc and under the clothesline.

Additional rounds: Work as in the tutorial, resuming working through both loops of the sc's. Continue working rounds on the same number of stitches until basket is the desired height. Finish off as in the tutorial.

For the lid: Work as for the basket, but add one or two additional increase rounds to the diameter.

Next round: Work as in the tutorial, but instead of inserting...
hook through both loops of each sc, insert hook in the back loop of each sc and under the clothesline.

**Additional rounds:** Work as in the tutorial, resuming working through both loops of the sc's. Continue working 1-2 rounds on the same number of stitches. Finish off as in the tutorial.

**Materials:**
- For basket only: 2 ounces worsted weight cotton yarn
- To add coasters, you’ll need an additional 2 ounces of the same yarn
- 1/8” 100% cotton sash cord
- Crochet hook size E

**Gauge:** Rounds 1-4 = 2”

**Finished size:** Basket - 5” across the lid; 2 1/2” high

See the “Clothesline Crochet in the Round” tutorial.

**Pattern Note:** Work stitches tightly for best results, but do not pull clothesline tight...just carry the clothesline along the stitches.

**Lid**
Join clothesline into a starting ring as shown in the tutorial.

**Round 1:** Work 10 sc around the clothesline ring; do not join...use a marker to mark the first stitch of each round.

**Round 2:** Working into the stitches of the previous round and around the clothesline, work 2 sc in each sc around. (20 sc)

**Round 3:** Working into the stitches of the previous round and around the clothesline, (sc in the next sc, 2 sc in the next sc) 10 times. (30 sc)

**Round 4:** Working into the stitches of the previous round and around the clothesline, (sc in each of the next 2 sc, 2 sc in the next sc) 10 times. (40 sc)

**Round 5:** Working into the stitches of the previous round and around the clothesline, (sc in each of the next 3 sc, 2 sc in the next sc) 10 times. (50 sc)

**Round 6:** Working into the stitches of the previous round and around the clothesline, (sc in each of the next 4 sc, 2 sc in the next sc) 10 times. (60 sc)

**Round 7:** Working into the stitches of the previous round and around the clothesline, (sc in each of the next 5 sc, 2 sc in the next sc) 10 times. (70 sc)

**Round 8:** Working into the stitches of the previous round
and around the clothesline, (sc in each of the next 6 sc, 2 sc in the next sc) 10 times. (80 sc)

**Round 9:** Working in the back loop only of the stitches on the previous round and around the clothesline, sc in each sc around. (80 sc)

**Round 10:** Working through both loops of the previous round and around the clothesline, sc in each sc around.

**Round 11:** Working through both loops of the stitches of the previous round, but NOT around the clothesline, sl st in each sc around. (80 sl sts) Fasten off yarn, leaving an 18” tail for sewing. Cut clothesline, leaving a 1” tail. Finish as in the tutorial.

**Finishing:** With the top of the lid facing you, sl st in each of the unworked front loops on round 9; join with a sl st to the first sl st. (80 sl sts) Fasten off. Weave in ends.

**Basket**

**Rounds 1-7:** Work as rounds 1-7 of the lid. (70 sc at the end of round 7)

**Round 8:** Work as round 9 of the lid. (70 sc)

**Rounds 9-14:** Work as round 10 of the lid. (70 sc in each round)

**Round 15:** Work as round 11 of the lid. (70 sl sts)

**Finishing:** Turn the basket upside down. With the side of the basket facing you, sl st in each of the unworked front loops on round 8; join with a sl st to the first sl st. (70 sl sts) Fasten off. Weave in ends.

**Coasters to fit in this basket**

**Make 4-6:**

**Rounds 1-6:** Repeat rounds 1-6 of the lid. (60 sc at the end of round 6)

**Round 7:** Work as round 11 of the lid. (60 sl sts) Weave in ends.

**Happy Crocheting!**