A zero-waste basket from scrap fabrics

1. Rip or cut strips of fabric, they should be about $\frac{1}{2}$” to 1” wide (the shape does not have to be completely uniform)

2. Tie three strips together to make a knot. Take some washi tape or masking tape to secure the knot in place as you prepare to braid the pieces together

3. Start the braid by crossing the right strand (purple) over the middle strand (white).

4. Continue braiding by crossing the left strand (blue) over the middle strand (purple)
5. Next, repeat the process of crossing right over middle, and then left over middle.
6. Continue the braiding process. Once a strand of fabric has run out, take another strand and fold and twist it into the first strand of fabric.

7. Once you have completed your braided rope, roll the fabric into a small swirl, place it under the sewing machine foot and set it to a wide zigzag stitch.
8. Stitch so that the needle punctures both sides of the rope that will be sewn together. As you sew, keep wrapping the rope around into a circular shape.
9. Once the circle is the size you want the basket to be, start leaning the rope inwards — this will create the walls of the basket.

10. Continue to sew and build the wall with the rope until you have achieved your desired height.
11. To finish off the basket, cut off the remaining rope (or if you are using all of the rope you created there is no need). Tuck the end into the basket and sew over it to close of the basket.
12. This is the completed look

13. If you want to add handles to the basket, sew up to where you want to position them. Pull out some of the rope, and pin where you want the handle to end. Fold the basket in half to mark where the handle starts and ends on the other side.
14. Continue sewing from the first pin (of the first handle) and sew until you hit the second pin (which indicates where the second handle will start). Fold the basket in half once more and pull the rope to match the length of the first handle. Repin where the second handle will end (matching the first).

15. Continue sewing the rope all the way around the circumference of the basket a second time. This will give the handles more stability and thickness.

16. An inch before you reach the first handle, cut off any remaining rope. Tuck it into the basket and sew over (just like we did with the first version) to complete the basket.