

Retro Wedge Felted Bag

DESIGNED BY MIRIAM L. FELTON



SPECIFICATIONS:

Yarn: Cascade 220, or other worsted weight wool or wool blend yarn suitable for felting. 3 skeins (the bag took 2 full skeins plus a bit of a third). Yarn is doubled throughout. Waste yarn such as kitchen cotton.

Needles: US Size 13 (9 mm) 24" circular needle. Two (2) US Size 13 double points for I-cord (optional).

Gauge: 3 stitches per inch in stockinette.

Notions and Extras: Size N crochet hook for provisional cast on. Two (2) small stitch holders or large safety pins. Clasp for bag as desired.

Finished Size: 10" across the front at widest point, 7" tall without strap, and 4.5" deep. Strap is finished separately and then can be sewn together after felting to achieve the desired length of strap.

ABBREVIATIONS:

k: knit

p: purl

dec: decrease 1 stitch by knitting 2 stitches together

st(s): stitch(es)

w&t: wrap and turn

RS: right side

WS: wrong side

NOTES:

- Since yarn is used double, a good way to do that is to wind each hank into a center-pull ball and pull yarn from the inside AND the outside of the ball.
- Provisional cast on instructions can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2xz4r>.
- An instructional movie for wrap and turn short rows can be found at <http://www.dnt-inc.com/barhtmls/knit/shortrows.html>, and a written description can be found at <http://www.socknitters.com/Tips/shortrow.htm>
- All decreases for the welt and side sections are worked on Right Side (knit) rows.

PATTERN:

Bottom/Sides of Bag (worked flat)

Using crochet hook and waste yarn, provisionally cast on 80 sts.

Rows 1-4: knit

Row 5: k 70, w&t.

Row 6: k 60, w&t.

Row 7: k 50, w&t.

Row 8: k 40, w&t.

Row 9: k 30, w&t.

Row 10: k 20, w&t.

Row 11: K 20, pick up and knit wrap, [k9, pick up and knit wrap] 3 times, k9.

Row 12: K 50, pick up and knit wrap, [k9, pick up and knit wrap] 2 times, k9.

Row 13-14: knit

Welt & Front (worked in a crescent shape)

Row 15 (RS) - 18 (WS): Work 4 rows in Stockinette stitch (knit right side and purl wrong side)

Row 19: Make welt by picking up the purl bump of the first stitch on WS of Row 15 & knitting it together with the next stitch on your needle from row 18. Then pick up the purl bump from the second st of Row 15 and knit it together with the second stitch from Row 18, etc... continuing across the row like this.

Row 20: Purl all sts.

Row 21: [k8, dec] repeat across (72 sts)

Row 22: Purl

Row 23: k8, dec, k6, dec twice, k32, dec twice, k6, dec, k8 (66 sts)

Row 24: purl

Row 25: k1, dec, k13, dec twice, k26, dec twice, k13, dec, k1 (60 sts)

Row 26: purl

Row 27: k1, dec, k6, dec, k3, dec twice, k6, dec, k8, dec, k6, dec twice, k3, dec, k6, dec, k1 (50 sts)

Row 28: purl

Row 29: knit

Row 30: purl

Row 31: k1, dec, [k3, dec] 9 times, k1 (40 sts)

Row 32: purl

Row 33: k1, dec, [k2, dec] 9 times, k1 (30 sts)

Row 34: purl

Row 35: knit

Row 36: purl

Row 37: k1, dec, k4, dec 8 times, k4, dec, k1 (20 sts)

Row 38: purl

Row 39: k1, dec twice, k1, dec 4 times, k1, dec twice, k1 (12 sts)

Row 40: purl

Row 41: dec across (6 sts)

Row 42: purl

Cut thread with a tail about 8" long and weave back through remaining 6 sts a few times to secure. Weave end in.

Welt & Back

Pick up 80 sts from provisional cast on and remove waste yarn. Attach yarn so that you are ready to start a right side (outside of the bag) row.

Repeat instructions for Welt & Front to form second Welt & Back.

Flap

Pick up 37 sts along top of back making sure to attach yarn so that you're ready to work the right (knit) side.

Row 1 (RS): knit across all picked up sts.

Row 2 (WS): purl

Row 3 - 12: work in Stockinette stitch for these 10 rows.

Row 13: k2, dec, k29, dec, k2 (35 sts)

Row 14: purl

Row 15: k2, dec, k27, dec, k2 (33 sts)
 Row 16: purl
 Row 17: k2, dec, k2, dec, k17, dec, k2, dec, k2 (29 sts)
 Row 18: purl
 Row 19: k2, dec, k21, dec, k2 (27 sts)
 Row 20: purl
 Row 21: k2, dec, k2, dec, k11, dec, k2, dec, k2 (23 sts)
 Row 22: bind off all 23 sts in purl.

Strap (worked in I-cord)

-If you would prefer to use double points to make I-cord, this is the point where you would need them.

Step 1: Pick up 4 sts closest to the welt on one front corner of bag. Work 10 rows of I-cord, break yarn and place sts on first holder.

Step 2: Repeat on nearest welt (the one on the back of the bag on the same side), but do not break yarn.

Step 3: Using 8 live sts from I cords, work the following row:

Step 4: Dec, k3, dec (6 sts)

Step 5: Work 2 feet (slightly stretched) of I-cord, break yarn and weave end through rem. sts.

Repeat steps 1-5 on other side of bag, and weave in all ends.



Closure Options

Option 1: If you would like to use a loop and button closure, using one strand of yarn, and smaller needles (perhaps size 8 dpns) pick up 3

sts from center of flap and work 2" of I-cord then attach end of I-cord back to center of flap to form a loop. Felt the bag, then attach a pretty button to wrap the loop around.

Option 2: Purchase a magnetic purse closure and attach after felting using provided instructions.

Felting

Place bag into a pillowcase (or lingerie bag) to keep it from wrapping around the agitator. Fill washing machine with hot water and place the bag in the pillowcase into the water.

Set Washer to longest setting with the most agitation (usually an extra heavy soil cycle). Check bag every 5-10 minutes until completely felted. The bag will be completely felted when it feels sturdy, and you can no longer see stitch definition.

Felting time will vary depending on the temperature of your water and the violence of your agitator.

Once it is completely felted, run through a few spin cycles to remove a lot of the water. Then remove from washer and pillowcase and block using rolled up towels and/or crumpled plastic grocery sacks.

Allow to dry completely and then sew I-cord strap sections together using a length of the original yarn so that the bag is the desired length. Trim any excess I-cord.

Attach desired closure, and embellish as desired. A nice vintage floral pin would be pretty.

Enjoy!

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