



The Felted Bucket Bag

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Sketched-On-A-Napkin Designs

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This felted bag was described by my friend, Kate, as resembling a bucket because of its flat, round bottom. The name has stuck although, in my personal opinion, the bag is a lot cuter than a bucket. It reminds me of the soft leather drawstring bag in which I kept my ball and jacks back in grade school.

The dimensions of the bag may be altered by changing the number of cast on stitches for the bottom, but the number of stitches cast on must be an even multiple of three (e.g., 18, 21, 24, ...). Additional short-rows may need to be worked, each time working three fewer stitches than the previous ridge, following the same form of the sequence given explicitly below.

Gauge

3.5 sts = 1" (As with most felted bags, gauge is not really important!)

Materials

Yarn: 4 skeins of Noro Kureyon
Any "feltable" yarn may be substituted for the Kureyon. A variegated or space-dyed yarn will give the "pie wedge" effect on the bottom and the spiral effect on the sides. When substituting yarns, be sure to use a needle at least three sizes larger than you would use if you were knitting the same yarn to make a sweater. For example, the second model was knitted on size 11 needles with a space-dyed, handspun yarn very similar to Manos Del Uruguay.

Needles: Size US #10 or 10.5 or size needed for a loose, draping fabric

Abbreviations

CO = Cast On; **ST** = Stitch(es); **K** = Knit; **YO** = Yarn Over; **K2tog** = Knit 2 Together.

Instructions

Pie-Wedge Bottom

The "pie wedges" on the bottom are formed using a short row technique in garter stitch. Because the bag will be felted, it is not necessary to wrap a slipped stitch to avoid creating a hole when turning the short rows as these holes felt closed all on their own.

- Ridge 1: CO 21 sts; turn; K21 – first garter ridge formed
- Ridge 2: K18, turn, K18 (second garter ridge formed)
- Ridge 3: K15, turn, K15 (third garter ridge formed)
- Ridge 4: K12, turn, K12 (fourth garter ridge formed)
- Ridge 5: K9, turn, K9 (fifth garter ridge formed)
- Ridge 6: K6, turn, K6 (sixth garter ridge formed)
- Ridge 7: K3, turn, K3 (seventh garter ridge formed)
- Ridge 8: K21, turn, K21 (first garter ridge of second wedge formed)

Repeat ridges #2 – #8 until you have formed a complete circle. The Kureyon model required 22 wedges to close the circle.

Bind-off, leaving a tail several feet long.

Using the tail, seam the bound-off edge to the cast-on edge. Using the remaining tail, close the hole in the cen-

ter of the circle using a purse-string technique. Weave in all threads on the side you choose to be the “wrong” side.

You have now completed the “pie.”

Sides

With the right side facing you, pick up one stitch in each garter ridge around the entire circumference of the circle. It is **NOT IMPORTANT** to pick up an exact number of stitches as long as you pick up one stitch for each garter ridge. If you absolutely must know how many stitches to pick up, here is the formula:

1. Take the number of stitches you cast on for the radius of the circle.
2. Divide that number by 3.
3. Multiply that number by the number of wedges.

For example:

1. Cast on = 21
2. 21 divided by 3 = 7
3. 7 times 22 wedges = 154.

Knit in the round until you have approximately enough yarn left to knit one more inch of fabric.

Create eyelets by knitting one round as follows: *YO, K2tog, K12*, repeating from * to *. You may also make closer eyelets with *YO, K2tog, K6*, if you wish.

Knit until you have enough yarn left to bind off and then bind off. Weave in all remaining tails.

Felting Advice

Run a piece of string or other non-felting fiber through the eyelets to keep them open during felting.

Because knitted fabric shrinks more vertically than it does horizontally when felted, it is important that your bag be 25% – 35% taller than it is wide. Before felting, the Kureyon model was 12” in diameter and 15” tall. After felting, it measured “?” by “?”.

After felting, I use a pan lid to stretch the bottom of the bag into a circle during drying.

Finishing

You may use small gromets to keep the eyelets open and to give the bag a more finished look. I recommend using some type of heavy cord or rattail as a draw string. Knitted I-cord is generally too thick and is not suitable for a drawstring that will be getting a lot of wear.