

Felted Waves Purse

for Intermediate knitters

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Abbreviations:

co = cast on

yo = yarn over

k = knit

p = purl

k2tog = knit 2 together

sl1p = slip one as if to purl with yarn in front

st(s) = stitch(es)



Yarn: One skein, 250 yards, approximately 100gm, Mountain Colors 4/8's Wool.

Needles: 10 US (6mm) straight or 24" circular, 2 double pointed needles for I-cord strap and side panels.

Gauge: 4 stitches and 5 rows to 1 inch in stockinet. As a guide, it is better to have a tighter gauge (more stitches and rows per inch) than a looser gauge to be sure you won't run out of yarn.

Felted Dimensions: Approximately 7" wide, 7.5" tall, 1.5" interior width.

The purse body is knit as a long rectangle beginning with the cover flap edge. The flap is 3 stitches wider initially to prevent it from becoming too narrow during the felting process. The side panels and I-cord strap are knit separately and sewn to the body before felting. Were it not for the colorful variegated Mountain Colors yarns and the wavy shape of the front flap, you'd never know there was a pattern!

Purse Body:

CO 40 stitches.

Set up row: k2, (p1, k1), repeat across

Seed Stitch Border Row 1: sl1, (p1, k1), repeat across ending with k1.

Row 2: sl1, (k1, p1), repeat across ending with k1.

Work row 1 once more.

Pattern Row 1: sl1p, k2tog 3 times, (yo, k1) repeat 5x, yo, k2tog 9x, (yo, k1) repeat 5x, yo, k2tog 3x, end k1. 39 sts

Row 2: sl1p, purl across, end k1

Row 3: sl1p, knit across

Row 4: sl1p, purl across, end k1

Repeat Rows 2 through 4 following every pattern row.

Pattern Row 5: sl1p, k2tog 3x, (yo, k1) 5x, yo, k2tog 8x, (yo, k1) 5x, k2tog 3x, k1 38 sts.

Pattern Row 9: sl1p, k2tog 3x, (yo, k1) 5x, yo, k2tog 7x, (yo, k1) 5x, k2tog 3x, k1. 37 sts

Pattern Row 13: sl1p, k2tog 3x, (yo, k1) 5x, yo, k2tog 6x, (yo, k1) 5x, k2tog 3x, k1. 36 sts

Repeat Pattern Row 13 and the following purled and knit Rows 2 through 4 a total of 30 times ending with purled Row 4. This will give you a total of 33 yarn over pattern rows making it easy to keep track by counting the yarn over rows only. It is now necessary to decrease 5 stitches evenly across to prevent the front opening edge of the purse from being too baggy.

Seed Stitch Front Opening Border Set Up Row:

Sl1p, k2tog, (p1, k1) 6x, p2tog, k2tog, p2tog, (k1, p1) 6x, k2tog, k1. 31 sts

Work 3 Rows Seed Stitch: sl1, (k1, p1) across, end k2

Bind Off all stitches in Seed Stitch.

Side Panels and I-cord Shoulder Strap

Side Panel: co 7 stitches.

Setup Row: k2, p1, k1, p1, k2

Seed Stitch Pattern: sl1p, (k1, p1) twice, end k2

Work Seed Stitch Pattern for 52 rows to equal side of purse without the cover flap included. It is easy to count the number of rows knit by just counting the 26 slipped edge stitches and doubling that number. Change to stockinet I-cord on 2 double point needles, sliding your work from the end of one row to the beginning of the next row (other end of your needle) without turning, knitting all rows. Work I-cord strap for the desired length without stretching. The strap shrinks as much as it stretches so a relaxed length as knit is usually the felted length when stretched. I like a 36 inch shoulder strap but that's me and this is yours. Finish with the 52 rows in k1p1 seed stitch worked flat again as before. Bind off in pattern.

Sew: Using a tapestry needle and your yarn, sew end panels to front and back panel sides of purse being careful not to twist the strap when you sew the second panel on. I sew in and out of the slipped stitch edges with the edge stitches to the outside (the finished/public side) of my bag all the way around one side edge then back again, filling in the back side of stitches so that the whole seam is stitched solid. Keep your sewing yarn relatively loose as it will shrink more than the knitted yarn because it is predominantly straight. Begin by sewing the top of one Side Panel to the front opening Seed Stitch Border bound off edge. One 4 row Purse Body Pattern repeat (2 slipped edge stitches) will form the bottom of your bag along the cast on/bound off edge of the Side Panels. The front cover flap should now come about half way down the front of the bag. Work in all yarn tails leaving about an inch hanging to be trimmed after felting.

Felt: Machine wash Medium size load, Hot water wash, Cold rinse with a small squirt (about 1 teaspoon) of Dawn or similar liquid dish soap. It usually takes one to three wash cycles but this will vary with machine, hot water heater temperatures, or final size desired. Check the strap frequently as it has a tendency to tie itself in knots. Shape by pulling, pushing, stretching, and compressing where necessary to achieve the correct shape. Air Dry and Enjoy!