

# Cowgirl Felted Purse

**Needles:** Size 13 circular needles for purse and, size 13 straights or double points for knitting the tab.

**Notions:** 1 Decorative Western Style Button, 1 Magnetic Snap Clasp (large), yarn needle, leather strap and hardware for attaching strap. 3 safety pins for marking strap and tab placement.

**Approximate size after felting:** 9" wide X 10" tall

**Main Color Yarn (MC):** 2 hanks of Brown Sheep BS240 Burley Spun Strawberry Patch (130 yards per hank). *This pattern takes one entire hank and approx. ¼ of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hank to complete.*



**Tab Color Yarn (TC):** 2 skeins of Brown Sheep Lambs Pride Worsted Weight M05 Onyx. Or any black worsted weight 100% wool (no super wash wool). *Tip: to save on having to buy a second skein of yarn, use each end of the same skein for your two strands.*



**Cast On (purse is knit from bottom up):** with one strand of MC and size 13 circular needles cast on 75 stitches and join in the round being careful not to twist your work when connecting.

**Row 1 and entire purse body:** Place stitch marker at beginning of row. Knit in the round until your purse measures 17 – 18 inches tall, ending at your beginning row marker. If you want a taller purse, keep knitting in the round, using more of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hank of MC yarn. Bind off your work knit wise, placing safety pin at the beginning where your beginning row marker was. Weave in tail. Turn purse inside out, and sew closed the bottom using a piece of MC and a darning needle.

**Tab Placement:** Turn purse right side out and place another safety pin at the opposite end of the purse marking where the other strap will go. Fold purse in half bringing the two side safety pins together, place a third safety pin on the fold marking the center of where your tab will go. Using your center safety pin as a guide, and on size 13 straight or double point needles, pick up an even amount of stitches on either side of the safety pin (sample purse tab is 13 stitches wide – pick up more stitches if you would like a wider tab). With knit side of purse facing you, tie on 2 strands of (TC).

**Tab Rows 1 - 26:** With 2 strands of (TC) held together; knit odd rows, and purl even rows.

**Tab Rows 27, 29, & 31 (decrease rows):** K1, SSK, knit to last 3 stitches, K2Tog, K1

**Tab Rows 28 & 30:** Purl

**Tab Row 32:** Bind off purl wise, weave in yarn end.



**Felting:** Set your washing machine to small load, hot wash, and regular cycle. Place purse in zippered mesh bag, or large pillow case closed tightly with a rubber band. Toss into washer with non-rinse wool wash such as Eucalan or 3 tablespoons of non-chlorine laundry detergent & 1 cup of Distilled Vinegar, and a couple of tennis balls, if you have them, to enhance agitation. Run through one complete wash cycle; do not let machine spin or rinse. Remove and shape purse. If you can still see the stitches in your work, continue running your piece through hot wash cycles, checking every 10 minutes or so, until you can no longer see your stitches. When you are satisfied, run your purse through one cold rinse cycle in the washer, do not let it spin. Remove and place purse flat between two absorbent terry cloth towels and step on it to remove any excess water (repeat with more dry towels if necessary). Shape and let dry. If you have a lot of unwanted “fuzz” or “fur” from the felting process, carefully trim your bag with scissors, a beard trimmer or garment shaver. The shape and size of your purse may vary depending upon the types of yarns used, how tight or loose you knit and how far you take the felting process.



**Attaching Leather Handle & Clasp:** after purse is dry, attach magnetic clasp to the tab & purse, and glue (or sew) on button to outside of tab covering magnetic tab plate. Make a cut with sharp scissors on each end of the purse just wide enough for your leather strap to feed through and attach with hardware.

**Alternate Felted Purse Handle:** Using a spool knitter and holding 2 strands of the TC together, follow directions on spool knitter and knit a cord handle to the desired length, taking into consideration that the piece will shrink approx. ¼ of its original length when felting. Weave in tail ends. DO NOT attach to the purse prior to felting. Felt purse and strap separately in same washer load.

**Attaching (alternate) Felted Purse Handle:** after your purse and handle are completely dry, make a small slit or cut with sharp scissors through the ends of each side of the top band. Feed one end of your felted handle through the hole from the inside out – tie a tight knot in the end of the felted handle to secure – repeat for the other side, as shown in the figure on the right.



Remember each felted project is **unique** and will develop a character and shape of it's own in the felting process – so go with the flow and have fun experimenting with different yarns.

K1 = Knit One

K2Tog = knit next two stitches together

SSK = slip next 2 stitches purl wise and then knit them together