

Wild Child Felted Purse

Knitting Needles: Size 11 straight or circular.

Notions: 2 Decorative Buttons, 1 Magnetic Snap Clasp (small), yarn needle, & spool knitter (optional).
Dichroic glass buttons used on sample can be purchased through glass designer Gail Lacy at <http://www.lacyglass.com>

Approximate size after felting:

11 ½" wide x 7" tall

Main Color Yarn (MC): 1 skein of Nature Spun Worsted Weight 100% Wool - 245 yards. Color: 601 Pepper OR any 100% worsted weight wool (do not use superwash wool, it will not felt).

Accent Yarn (AC): 2 skeins Yarn Bee Wild Child Eyelash Yarn 100% Polyester – 134 yards total. Color: Fall Leaves OR any fur type novelty yarn.



Top Band: With one strand of MC, cast on 40 stitches.

Row 1: Knit (right side)

Row 2: Purl (wrong side)

Rows 3 – 25: Repeat rows 1 & 2 continuing in a stockinet stitch.
Continue with Body of purse.

Body: Tie on AC yarn. Holding one strand of MC and one strand of AC together, continue project in a **garter stitch** (knitting every row) until you have used both balls of the AC yarn. Cut & tie off AC yarn and weave end into your work. Continue with Top Band (other side). *For a taller purse you will need an additional 2 balls of AC yarn and knit until all 4 balls of AC yarn are finished and continue with rest of pattern.*

Top Band (other side): With one strand of MC only, start stockinet stitch (knitting right side rows and purling wrong side rows) until you have completed 25 rows, bind off, leaving a long tail to sew up side with.

Sewing up your purse: With right sides (knit sides) facing each other, match up the top corners and sides of the purse, pin if needed to hold in place. Using the MC, sew up sides with a straight running stitch, knot and cut yarn, leaving a 4 inch tail – weave the tail into your work. Repeat for the other side. Turn purse right side out.

Purse Handle (shown): Purchased handle that was attached after purse was felted and completely dry.

Optional Purse Handle #1: Using a spool knitter and holding 2 strands of the MC 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 handle along with purse in same wash load, but in a separate mesh bag.

Optional Purse Handle #2 Leather Strap Handle: After purse is completely dry, 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.



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 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” on the top band of your purse 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 the Magnetic Snap: when purse is dry, center one half of the magnetic snap on the inside top band of your purse, push snap prongs through the felting to the outside of the purse, this may take a little muscle, especially if your piece is tightly felted. Or you can make tiny slits with the tips of your scissors and push prongs through (do not make slits too large). Place the prong plate over the prongs and bend inward one at a time, flattening the prongs as much as possible against the plate, use a small hammer if necessary to tap them down flat. Repeat for other half of the snap closure on opposite side of purse. Remove shanks from buttons and glue onto outside snap plate with E6000 glue and let glue cure for 24 hours. **Note: glue on ONE button at a time, letting the first button cure for approx. 4 hours before gluing 2nd button to other side. You will still need to be careful not to dislodge the first button, while gluing on the second, as the glue will not be fully cured for 24 hours.**

Attaching Optional 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.

Remember each felted piece is **unique** and will develop a character and shape of its own in the felting process – so go with the flow and have fun experimenting with different wools and novelty yarns.



Optional Felted Handle Attachment