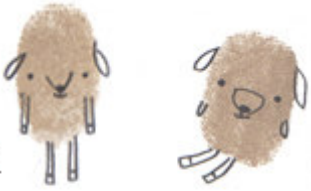




Felted Knitting Tote

by Adrian Bizilia



a free pattern from  hello yarn

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Materials:

- MC-10 oz./ approx 500 yards worsted weight 100% wool yarn in your main color (black shown)
- CC- 2 oz./ approx. 100 yards worsted weight 100% wool yarn in contrast color (white shown)

I used vintage Coats and Clark's Red Heart 100% Virgin Wool 4 ply Knitting Worsted, but as long as you use worsted weight 100% wool you should have very similar results.

- One size 13 US circular, 32" long. I never had to switch to DPNs while decreasing for the bottom. I just pulled the excess needle cable out between two stitches at the back of the work. If you like, DPNs may be used for the latter decreases at the bottom and the i-cord.

- 4 stitch markers or scraps of contrasting yarn for this purpose
- tapestry needle to weave in ends

BEWARE! Some white and pale yarns will not felt, due to the bleaching process. Always test a swatch.

This pattern produces a tote approx. 17.5" x 14" before fulling and 13" tall by 10.5" wide, with 23" straps that fit nicely over the shoulder after fulling. When fulling (felting) your tote, pull it out of the washing machine once in a while to check its size. You may decide you like yours smaller or bigger than mine.

Note:

Rather than using the intarsia method to create the skulls, this tote is knit in the round, with the contrast color yarn carried loosely across the plain sides of the tote. The long floats on the sides were cut and tied to a neighbor before fulling. Otherwise, the floats might shrink too much during fulling and cause lumpiness. The ends of yarn were trimmed to about an inch and felted into the bag neatly. No lumps! This makes the knitting of the tote a whole lot more pleasurable to me, since I find intarsia quite fiddly. You may disagree and knit flat.

Option:

You can certainly knit this flat and seam, if you wish. Use the center of one of the side panels as the beginning of your row. Position stitch markers as follows: K1, M1, K5, pm, K28, pm, K12, pm, K28, pm, K5, M1, K1, turn. Make two bobbins of contrast color for the skulls and use the intarsia method to create them. Before decreasing for bottom of bag, join into round and K2tog for first and last 2 sts. of the round. See <http://sweaterscapes.com/intars.htm> for more info on intarsia.

This entire pattern is knit with two strands of yarn held together.

Abbreviations:

pm- place marker

M1- make one stitch

SSK-slip, slip, knit these 2 stitches together—a decrease

K2tog-knit 2 stitches together

Pattern:

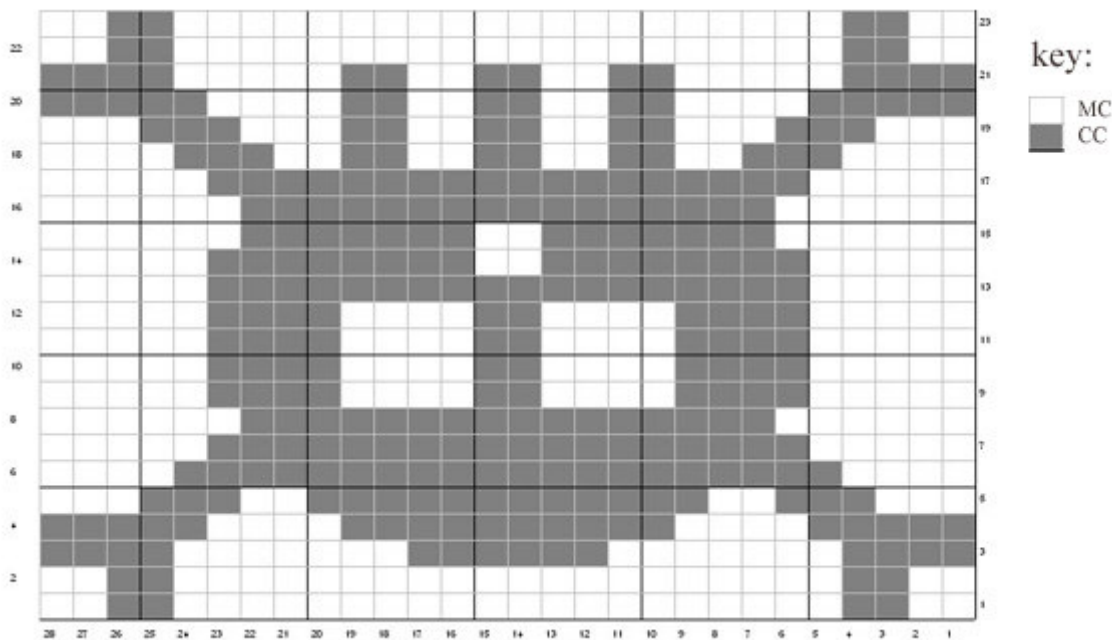
With yarn double and in MC (main color), cast on 80 stitches and join into round.

Knit 18 rounds, positioning stitch markers during last round as follows:

K28 (for chart on front of bag) , pm, K12 side stitches, pm, K28 (for chart on back of bag), pm, K12 side stitches, pm to mark beginning of round.

At the beginning of the next round, knit chart on each set of 28 sts., continuing sides of bag in MC.

When chart is complete, knit 18 more rounds in MC, then begin bottom.



Bottom:

Your stitches are already divided into a perfect rectangle for decreasing to make a flat-bottomed bag that will stand up on its own.

You will be decreasing on every other round before and after each stitch marker as follows:

Knit to 2 sts. before marker, SSK, pass marker to right needle, K2tog.

Do this at all 4 markers, then knit a round plain. Continue in this manner (1 decrease round, then 1 plain round) until you have 2 sts. left on each short side. When you get to the stitch before the first marker, slip it and remove marker, slip st. back onto left needle, then knit the two corner sts. together. Do this around, then turn bag inside out and bind off the remaining stitches using the three needle bind off method.

Straps:

With MC, make 2 handles with an 8 st. i-cord, each 25" long. Sew them to the bag on either long side, about an inch from the top. I sewed the ends of the bag coming straight out from the bag, in a circle, rather than flattening them and sewing across the bottom edge.

Fulling your bag:

To firm the fabric of your bag and make it nice and sturdy and able to stand on its own, you will need to full (felt) it in the washing machine. All you need to do is throw it in with a pair of jeans and some laundry soap and wash it in hot water. I put mine through two cycles, but you may prefer more or less. Air dry it and then strut your stuff with your skull tote bag!

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