

FELTED BUCKTOWN BAG

BY JACKIE VALDEZ

Inspired by one of my old favorite leather purses, this handy accessory is knit in one piece, wet felted and then finished with faux stitching to give it a more structural look. Great first felting project, and the body and stitching color combos are endless! This pattern was included as a free pattern from Firefly Fiber Arts Studio as part of the 2021 Chicago Yarn Crawl.

MEASUREMENTS

10" x 6 1/2" x 2"

YARN

Peace Fleece Worsted in "Evening Marigold"

2 skeins - 400 yards

Jamieson's of Shetland Fingering in "Anemone"

1 skein - 115 yards

NEEDLES AND NOTIONS

Size 10 US needles with 24" cable

Stitch markers

Tapestry needle

Laundry bag or pillowcase with zipper

GAUGE

15 sts x 19 rows = 4in x 4in stockinette before felting

PATTERN & FELTING NOTES

- ▶ You should be familiar with the following skills: stockinette in the round and flat, knit, purl, picking up stitches, binding off mid row
- ▶ I strongly recommend knitting a swatch and running it through your washing machine to see how long and on what settings to use when felting your bag. Using the Peace



Fleece, I found a full machine helped to agitate and a hot setting helped with shrinkage. I ran my bag through 3 full cycles, but it may be different for you! If you're unsure where to begin, wash your swatch in a laundry bag or zippered pillowcase on your hottest and shortest setting and assess your swatch after. If it needs more felting, run another cycle. If you have a top-loader, you can check on it periodically. Different yarns and even the same yarns in different color ways will felt differently, so don't skip this step!

ABBREVIATIONS

CO - cast on

st - stitch(es)

k - knit

p - purl

BOR - beginning of round

m - marker

pm - place marker

BO - bind off

FELTED BUCKTOWN BAG

INSTRUCTIONS

MAKING THE BASE:

CO 13 st

Knit stockinette st for 12", ending with a purl side row

MAKING THE BODY:

We will now be picking up stitches around the perimeter of our knitting

With knit side facing, rotate clockwise to pick up stitches on long edge

Place marker, and pick up 4st for every 5 rows (about 44 st, exact number is not important)

Rotate clockwise again, place marker, pick up 13 st along the bottom edge



Rotate clockwise again, place marker, pick up the same number of stitches as you did along the opposite long edge

You should now have stitches surrounding the entire base of the bag

Place BOR marker and prepare to knit in the round

Knit stockinette in the round until your piece measures 9" from the base

CREATING THE FLAP AND SETTING UP FOR STRAPS:

K to m, BO to m, k to BOR, TURN

P to m, TURN

We will now be knitting stockinette st flat along the long edge to create the flap of the purse

Note: You may transfer the 13 edge stitches on each end of the back flap to a holder if that is easier for you

Knit stockinette st until flap measures 8-1/2"

BO all flap stitches

Cut yarn

MAKING THE STRAP:

Rejoin your yarn and pick up one side of the 13 st you set aside earlier (does not matter which side)

Knit stockinette st for 60" or desired length of the strap

Kitchener stitch the knitted strap to the 13 st you have on hold, being careful not to twist the strap before attaching

Weave in all ends before felting

FELTING IN THE WASHING MACHINE:

Enclose your finished bag in a laundry bag or pillowcase with a zipper; this helps keep all the wool shedding out of your washing machine! Wash your bag according to how your swatch felted.

I washed my bag in a full washing machine on a hot setting. I ran it for 3 full cycles.

FELTED BUCKTOWN BAG

Block it into a boxy shape, smoothing out any wrinkles and placing something boxy inside to shape it if necessary. Let fully dry.

FAUX STITCHING:

Fold and sew around all the edges of the bag body using blanket stitch. Sew around the edge of the flap and along both edges of the strap. For a thinner strap, fold in half and sew both halves together along the edge; this helps create a pleat on the sides, creating a more structured look. My sample bag is made with a folded strap. You can refer to the illustrations for the difference in where to stitch.

Single crochet st would also work for the faux stitching if you are more comfortable with that.

If you are unfamiliar with blanket stitch, here is a short tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9zegUYdPmg>

NOTE FROM THE DESIGNER:

Thanks to you for knitting my pattern! I would absolutely love to see your finished bag, so please share your pictures using the hashtag #bucktownbag, and feel free to tag me and Firefly at @onceweweremonsters and @fireflyfiberarts. Thank you and I hope you enjoy your new knit!

