

Wash + Filz-it Baskets

Difficulty Level



Felting Guide

Very important Before starting, always read the following sections on Knitting and Felting in the Washing Machine and Needle Felting. These are full of useful tips to ensure your designs are always a success.

The measurements given in the method for the felted panels are a guide only. The felting process depends on many factors, including how the wool has been dyed, how loosely or how tightly you knit, from the temperature of the water when being washed, from the washing program, and even how full the washing machine is. Also, every machine washes differently. Your felted item can thus turn out smaller or larger than the measurements given. If you have never felted a knit or crochet item in the washing machine before, start with an item where size is not so important. Even if the felted size should be different from ours, you will still have a beautiful home made item.

Materials

The yarn Wash+Filz-it! Tweedcolor consists of 76% new wool and 24% polyamide, each 50g ball has a length of about 70m. With such a high percentage of new wool this yarn is not machine washable, and consequently perfect for machine felting.

Tension felting

Only by working a tension square will you be able to determine the correct needle size to use and the correct washing program for the felting.

To do a tension sample cast on 4 stitches more than given for the appropriate pattern on the correct needles, work 4 more rows than given, then cast off all stitches.

With a piece of waste yarn embroider running stitches around the centre area, enclosing the number of stitches and rows as given for the tension sample. This area should measure about 10 x 10cm [4 x 4"]. If it is bigger, you knit too loosely and need to knit firmer and/or use smaller needles. If it is smaller, you knit too firmly and need to knit looser and/or use larger needles. Felt this sample in the machine under the same conditions as you will later felt the completed item. Then block the sample into shape well, allow to dry, then measure out the marked out area; this is now smaller than when it was not felted.

If the square is not felted enough, you can always wash it again, select



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a different program with more spins or even a higher temperature.

If the square has been felted too much, you will need to use a program with less spins and/or a lower temperature.

To estimate the width and length of your felted item, measure the width of the felted square and divide it by the width of the unfelted square, then work alike and divide the measurement of the felted square in length by the length of the unfelted sample. Multiply the width or length of your knitted accessory by this number.

Felting in the Washing Machine

In general, felting in the washing machine is done at a temperature of 40°C. Use a colour detergent or all-purpose detergent, but not a detergent for woollens and no fabric conditioner.

To make the most efficient use of the washing machine, and also to increase the felting effect, wash the items together with hardwearing coloured items, jeans or towels, but never wash them together with new towels since these can still lose fibres that will then bind with the items to be felted. Different designs and colours can be felted together. When washing with light colours and/or if you add jeans or coloureds to the machine, always add a colour protect sheet. Select a program that has a higher water level, e.g. delicate cycle with spin, but not a special program for woollens.

In the washing machine the parts will shrink by about 30%; these figures are only a general guide.

If your item is still too big or has not been felted enough after the first wash, wash it again at 40°C, or even at a higher temperature, or select another program, see also the section on "Tension and Felting".

Shaping and Drying

After washing, pull your felted item firmly into shape, as given in the Method, and press the seams apart well from the inside. Rounded shapings are easily worked over a fist. Hats are easily shaped using a suitable form (e.g. wig stand, inflated balloon), and allowed to dry on the shape.

With some garments, e.g. hats with long tips or the thumbs of mittens it is easier to shape the points using the handle of a wooden spoon.

Frequently Used Abbreviations

alt alternate/ly; altog altogether; ch chain; cm centimetres; col colour/s; g grams; htr half treble; K knit; LH left-hand; P purl; rem remaining/remainder; rep repeat; rev st-st reversed stocking stitch; RH right-hand; RS right side; dc double crochet; sc single crochet; sl-st slip stitch; st(s) stitch(es); st-st stocking stitch; tbl through back of loop; tog together; tr treble; WS wrong side.

Instructions

All measurements in the Method apply before felting unless given otherwise. Figures for the small basket are in front of brackets, with those for the larger ones inside. Where there is only one figure, this applies to both sizes.

Materials

YARN

Wash+Filz-it! Tweedcolor, 200(350)g #01083 beige tweed color.

One 6-7mm crochet hook.

Size

Before felting:

diameter about 22(32)cm, height about 16(21)cm.

After felting:

diameter about 18(24)cm, height about 13(19)cm.

TENSION

before felting: about 10 tr and about 8 rounds; after felting about 13 tr and about 11 rounds, each to 10cm.

Pattern

BASIC PATTERN

crochet 4 ch and join to a ring with 1 sl-st. Cont in rounds with htr, tr and relief tr; start each round with 2 ch to stand for 1st tr, and end with 1 sl-st into upper ch at end of round.

Crochet relief tr into relief tr or tr below at front of work, inserting hook from right to left behind the relief tr or tr. Crochet each tr between 2 tr of the previous round. From 5th round only 1st motif at start and end of round are given. Work motif 9 times, then end of round once. For details on rounds see Method.

METHOD

rst crochet dc for 2 handles for each basket as foll: crochet 6 ch and join to a ring with 1 sl-st. Crochet 1 ch, then 8 dc in spirals for rounds. When handle measures 22(27)cm, end with 1 sl-st. Lay cast-on edge of each handle at and sew tog; sew 2nd edge alike. Now crochet the basket. In basic patt work the base foll stitch dia A, work rounds 1-10 (1-13) once, then for side of basket for the small basket work foll stitch dia B rep rounds 11-12 (for large basket work foll stitch dia A rep rounds 14-15) throughout.

When small basket measures about 16cm (= 13 rounds) end round with 1 round sl-st into each tr.

When large basket measures about 26cm (= 21 rounds), just before the end of the ball of yarn, end with 1 round sl-st.

TO MAKE UP

felt baskets and handles in the washing machine foll our Felting Guide. Then pull all pieces firmly into shape and allow to dry. Sew on handles.

