

# Creel Bag and Purse Pattern



This bag and purse are knitted loosely, as single pieces, then felted in your washing machine. During the felting process the bag will shrink considerably and become much sturdier. Any fastenings must be added after this felting stage.

The exact size of your finished bag will depend on wool and felting temperatures used, but an indication is given below.

The photographed example is made using Wensleydale wool, available from Sheepfold's online shop: [www.sheepfold.co.uk/Wools\\_from\\_British\\_breeds.html](http://www.sheepfold.co.uk/Wools_from_British_breeds.html)

## You will need:

- Approx 300g aran weight pure wool (not machine washable or superwash varieties). The photographed example was made using 2 strands of Sheepfold's 4-ply Wensleydale wool, knitted together
- 1 pair of 5.5 mm straight needles
- 5.5 mm circular needles (or 4 double ended needles if you prefer)
- 1 pair of 4.5 mm double ended needles
- 4 stitch markers
- 2 stitch holders and 2 safety pins
- Wool needle to graft handles, sew seams, finish off ends of yarn and attach buttons

## Approx finished size:

*Before felting:* Bag: width 25 cm, height 19 cm, depth 10 cm  
Purse: width 15 cm, height 16 cm

*After felting:* Bag: width 21 cm, height 18 cm, depth 8 cm  
Purse: width 12.5 cm, height 12.5 cm

## Instructions:

### Body of bag:

Using the 5.5 mm straight needles, cast on 33 sts and working back and forth in moss st (k1, p1 every row), work 24 rows. Change to the circular needle, place the first stitch marker on your needle, then work across the 33 st in moss stitch. Keeping the pattern correct, pick up and work 14 st from the short

side, 33 st from the cast on edge and 15 st from the second short side, placing a marker at each of the three remaining corners. There will now be 95 st on your circular needle. Starting with a purl stitch, work in moss stitch, in the round, until the sides measure 19 cm from the base, slipping the stitch markers across to the working needle and ending at the first marker. Maintaining the moss stitch pattern, alternate rounds will start with a knit stitch.

### Upper edge:

Cast off 33 sts in pattern keeping the working stitch on the needle. Work 13 more stitches from next short side and transfer the 14 st on your needle to a stitch holder. Cast off 2 sts in pattern then work the next 31 sts (to next corner marker) keeping the pattern correct. Transfer the remaining 15 sts from the second short side to a second stitch holder.

### Flap:

Turn work. Cast off 2 sts in pattern and work across the remaining stitches. Continue back and forth in moss st on these 29 stitches for until the flap measures 12 cm (approx 28 rows). To make the buttonhole, work 12 sts in pattern, cast off 5 sts, continue in pattern to end of row. Next row, work 12 sts, cast on 5 stitches over the previously cast off sts, then continue in pattern to the end of the row. Continue to work in moss stitch until the flap measures 17 cm (approx 12 more rows) and cast off in pattern.

### Handle:

Return to the stitch holder with 14 sts. Transfer 5 sts to a 4.5mm double ended needle, rejoin yarn and work in I-cord on these for 70 cm (knit, do not turn work and slide stitches to opposite end of needle. Repeat until you reach the desired length). Leave the stitches on a safety pin. Transfer the centre 4 sts to a double ended needle and knit 1 row, making 1 stitch in the middle to give 5 sts in total. Work in I-cord on these 5 sts for 70 cm, as before. Leave these stitches on a second safety pin. Work 70 cm in I-cord on the remaining 5 sts. Plait these 3 strands of I-cord together, then graft to the 15 sts on the opposite short side.

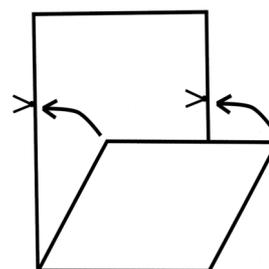
### Purse:

Using the 5.5 mm straight needles and two strands of wool, cast on 21 st. Work in moss stitch until the piece measures 30 cm (approx 80 rows). Place a marker (or safety pin) at each end of the last row. Continue in moss stitch until the piece measures 37-38 cm (approx 20 more rows). To make the buttonholes, work 5 st in pattern, cast off 3 st, work 4 st (giving 5 st on your needle), cast off 3 st, work to end. On the next row, work in pattern casting on 3 stitches at each buttonhole. Work in pattern until the flap measures 41 cm (approx 6 more rows) then cast off all stitches.

### Finishing:

For the purse, fold the cast on edge upwards until it reaches the two markers. Sew the created side seams using slipstitch.

Finish off all ends of yarn on your bag and purse by weaving into the work, along the cords where possible, before felting.



**Felting:**

Felt your bag and purse in the washing machine by placing the knitted bag in a zippered mesh bag or pillowcase in your machine, with a couple of towels or pairs of jeans to give the necessary agitation. Add a small amount of washing powder, but no fabric conditioner. For the photographed bag and purse, I used 2 washes on a 60° cycle with the time saving option and 500 spin cycle. A low level spin, if an available option on your machine, reduces the risk of crumpling your bag. When felted to the desired level, remove from your washing machine and place a plastic bag inside your felt bag. Stuff the plastic bag with a couple of paperback books or videos to give a good rectangular shape and leave somewhere warm, with the purse, to dry out completely.

**Fastenings:**

Sew the large button to the side of the bag, aligning with the buttonhole in the flap. Sew the two smaller buttons to the side of the purse, aligning with the buttonholes in the flap.

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to purchase pure wool to make this bag or wonderful knit and felt kits visit [www.sheepfold.co.uk](http://www.sheepfold.co.uk)