



Karst Knit-and-Felt Bag

by Alice Underwood of Sheepfold



This bag is knitted loosely, in the round, then felted in your washing machine. During the felting process the bag will shrink considerably and become much sturdier. Any fastenings and embellishments must be added after this felting stage.

The tucks in this bag gives a wonderful textured effect. It may all look a bit loose when knitted, but fab when felted!

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 Badgerface Welsh Mountain (Torddu) wool, available from Sheepfold's online shop: <http://www.sheepfold.co.uk/online-shop/natural-wools-type/rapidcart-29/index.html>.

You will need:

- Approx 200g light aran (worsted) weight pure wool (not machine washable or superwash varieties). The photographed example was made using Sheepfold's Badgerface Welsh Mountain (Torddu) wool.
- 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
- 3 safety pins or stitch holders
- Wool needle to graft handles to bag

Approx finished size:

Before felting: Bag: width 20 cm, height 30 cm, depth 11 cm
After felting: Bag: width 17 cm, height 20 cm, depth 8 cm

Abbreviations:

m1: make 1 stitch by picking up the loop before the next stitch and knitting into the back of it.

Wave 6 (7 or 8): form the 'wave' by picking up the corresponding stitch lying vertically below the stitch you are working, 6 (7 or 8) rows below the stitch you are working. Knit the two stitches (working stitch and picked up stitch) together to create a fold.

Instructions:

Base of bag:

Using the 5.5 mm straight needles and the light aran weight wool, cast on 28 st. Work the oval base as follows:

- Knit 1 row.
- Increase 1 st at each end of next row (30 st).
- Knit 1 row.
- Increase 1 st at each end of next row (32 st).
- Knit 2 rows.
- Increase 1 st at each end of next row (34 st).
- Knit 3 rows.
- Increase 1 st at each end of next row (36 st).
- Knit 6 rows.
- Decrease 1 st at each end of the next row (34 st).
- Knit 3 rows.
- Decrease 1 st at each end of the next row (32 st).
- Knit 2 rows.
- Decrease 1 st at each end of the next row (30 st).
- Knit 1 row.
- Decrease 1 st at each end of the next row (28 st).
- Knit 1 row.

You will now have worked 28 rows, with a maximum width of 36 stitches, and this oval section has been knitted in garter stitch.

Body of bag:

Turn, k 28 st onto your circular needle, place a marker on your needle, pick up 18 st along the first curved side, place a second marker, pick up 28 st from the cast on edge, place a third marker, then pick up 18 st from the second curved side (92 st), place a fourth marker. We recommend that this last marker is a different colour to the other three so you can easily identify the start of each round. Knitting in the round on these stitches, and slipping the stitch markers across to the working needle each time they are reached increase the number of stitches and form the waves as instructed. Each round starts after the fourth stitch marker. The 'waves' are positioned so that they gradually become further apart as you work up the sides of the bag.

- Knit 10 rounds
- K30 [△]m1, k5, m1, k4, m1, k5, m1^{△△}, k32, repeat [△] to ^{△△}, k2 (100 st)
- Knit 1 round

- K7, *Wave 6, k1, wave 7, k1, wave 8, k1, wave 8, k2, wave 8, k1, wave 7, k1, wave 6 ** , k11, * to **, k11, * to **, k11, * to **, k4
- Knit 8 rounds
- K30 Δ m1, k6, m1, k6, m1, k6, m1 $\Delta\Delta$, k32, repeat Δ to $\Delta\Delta$, k2 (108 st)
- Knit 1 round
- K1, wave 8, k1, wave 7, k1, wave 6, k13, * to **, k13, * to **, k13, * to **, k13, wave 6, k1, wave 7, k1, wave 8, k1, wave 8, k1
- Knit 8 rounds
- K30 Δ m1, k7, m1, k8, m1, k7, m1 $\Delta\Delta$, k32, repeat Δ to $\Delta\Delta$, k2 (116 st)
- Knit 1 round
- K7, * to **, k15, * to **, k15, * to **, k15, * to **, k8
- Knit 8 rounds
- K30 Δ m1, k9, m1, k8, m1, k9, m1 $\Delta\Delta$, k32, repeat Δ to $\Delta\Delta$, k2 (124 st)
- Knit 1 round
- Wave 8, k1, wave 7, k1, wave 6, k18, * to **, k16, * to **, k18, * to **, k16, wave 6, k1, wave 7, k1, wave 8, k1, wave 8, k2
- Knit 8 rounds
- K30 Δ m1, k10, m1, k10, m1, k10, m1 $\Delta\Delta$, k32, repeat Δ to $\Delta\Delta$, k2 (132 st)
- Knit 1 round
- K7, * to **, k19, * to **, k19, * to **, k19, * to **, k12
- Knit 8 rounds
- K30 Δ m1, k11, m1, k12, m1, k11, m1 $\Delta\Delta$, k32, repeat Δ to $\Delta\Delta$, k2 (140 st)
- Knit 1 round
- Wave 7, k1, wave 6, k22, * to **, k20, * to **, k22, * to **, k20, wave 6, k1, wave 7, k1, wave 8, k1, wave 8, k2, wave 8, k1
- Knit 8 rounds
- K30 Δ m1, k13, m1, k12, m1, k13, m1 $\Delta\Delta$, k32, repeat Δ to $\Delta\Delta$, k2 (148 st)
- Knit 1 round
- K7, * to **, k23, * to **, k23, * to **, k23, * to **, k16
- Knit 3 rounds
- Purl 1 round
- Knit 1 round
- Purl 1 round.

From the marker cast off as follows, removing each stitch marker as they are reached: Cast off 28 st leaving last worked stitch on needle. K4 and place these 5 st on a safety pin. Cast off 36 st, leaving last worked stitch on needle. K4 and place these 5 st on a safety pin. Cast off 28 st. K4 and place these 5 st on a safety pin. Cast off 36 sts. Knit to the end. There will now be 5 st remaining on your needle and 3 sets of 5 sts on safety pins.

Transfer the 5 st on your needle to a double ended needle and work in I-cord on these for 85 cm (knit, do not turn work and slide stitches to opposite end of needle. Repeat until you reach the desired length). Graft these stitches to the remaining 5 st on the same long side of the bag. Rejoin the yarn and repeat for the handle on the other side of the bag.

Finishing:

Finish off all ends of yarn by weaving into the work, before felting.

Felting:

Felt your bag 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, I used one wash 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 one or more plastic bags inside your felt bag. Stuff the plastic bag(s) with scrumpled newspaper or similar items, to give a good curved shape and leave somewhere warm to dry out completely.

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to purchase pure wool to make this bag or wonderful knit-and-felt kits visit www.sheepfold.co.uk

Karst Bag – free pattern from Sheepfold