

Bag with Needle-Felted Accents

Designed by Jane Patrick

Wool yarn, because it stretches, is very forgiving and therefore great for beginners. Because this bag will be heavily full and the edges will be sewn into the seams of the bags, it doesn't matter if the beat is a bit uneven or the selvages a little wavy. Because it is a fairly short warp, it weaves up quickly.

Description Plain weave, heavily full, with needle-felted accents.

Equipment Cricket Loom, warping peg, threading hook, 1 stick shuttle. Felting needle and foam cushion for felted accents, rope machine for making the handle, needle for sewing handle to bag.

Materials Brown Sheep Nature Spun Worsted Wool (245 yards per ball), 96 yards needed for warp and 72 yards needed for weft, or a total of 168 yards.

Felted accents: small bits of wool yarn or fleece.

Warping Use the direct peg warping method.

EPI: 8

Number of ends: 64

Width in reed: 8"

PPI: 8

Warp length: 1-1/2 yards

Weaving Weave a balanced weave (same number of warps and wefts per inch). Weave as long as possible.

Finishing Remove the fabric from loom, leave enough warp length at either end to tie overhand knots to secure the weft. We used 4-end knots along both ends. Hand wash in as hot of water as possible using dish detergent. Squeeze and agitate the fabric until the fabric is thick and the spaces between the intersections of yarns are closed up. Rinse in cold water. Squeeze out excess moisture. Place in dryer on hot to further full, check often. Steam press.

Accents: Using either small bits of wool yarn or fleece, needle felt using a foam felting cushion and a felting needle. We just decorated one side.

Assembly Trim the fringe at either end of the bag to 1". Fold the fabric in half. Fold down the fringed edges about 1" to the inside of the bag. Machine stitch the sides. Turn the bag right side out and steam press the seams. Make a 42"-long, 12-strand rope handle. Tie knots on both ends of the rope, leaving 3" tassels at either end. Securely stitch the handle to the top of the bag beginning 1" from the top of the bag. Add a magnetic closure at the top if desired.

Finished size off loom: 8" wide by 28" long.

Finished size after washing : 7" x 27"

Finished bag: 6" x 9" with a 19" long handle



Wind a shuttle



Weave the same number of wefts and warps per inch



Tie warps into overhand knots, 4 warps at a time



Decorate the front with needle felting