

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Yarn: 400 yards hand dyed yarn from Lisa Souza (www.lisaknit.com)

Needles: 16"-24" US 15 needles and US 13 double pointed needles.

Gauge to Achieve Similar Size: 2½ stitches/inch, 3½ rows/inch (Final size will vary depending on felting process and hot water temperature.)

Approximate Final Size: Height – 8 1/2 inches, width at widest point – 9 inches. Knitting and felting a swatch for your selected yarn is recommended.

Abbreviations:

sk2Tpo	slip one stitch purlwise, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over
pssso	pass slipped stitch over
k2T	knit 2 stitches together



Bag Body: The star shaped bottom of the bag is knit in 2 pieces and then sewn together forming the bottom front and back. (From bottom up) Using size 15 circular needles and 2 strands of yarn, cast on 69 stitches for side 1.

Row 1 and all odd numbered rows: (right side), k across
 Row 2: k10, sk2Tpo, k20, sk2Tpo, k20, sk2Tpo, k10 (63 stitches)
 Row 4: k9, sk2Tpo, k18, sk2Tpo, k18, sk2Tpo, k9 (57 stitches)
 Row 6: k8, sk2Tpo, k16, sk2Tpo, k16, sk2Tpo, k8 (51 stitches)
 Row 8: k7, sk2Tpo, k14, sk2Tpo, k14, sk2Tpo, k7 (45 stitches)
 Row 10: k6, sk2Tpo, k12, sk2Tpo, k12, sk2Tpo, k6 (39 stitches)
 Row 12: k5, sk2Tpo, k10, sk2Tpo, k10, sk2Tpo, k5 (33 stitches)
 Row 14: k4, sk2Tpo, k8, sk2Tpo, k8, sk2Tpo, k4 (27 stitches)
 Row 16: k3, sk2Tpo, k6, sk2Tpo, k6, sk2Tpo, k3 (21 stitches)
 Row 18: k2, sk2Tpo, k4, sk2Tpo, k4, sk2Tpo, k2 (15 stitches)
 Row 20: k1, sk2Tpo, k2, sk2Tpo, k2, sk2Tpo, k1 (9 stitches)

Row 22: sk2Tpo, sk2Tpo, sk2Tpo, (3 stitches)

Row 23: bind off remaining three stitches

Side 2: Cast on 69 stitches and repeat instructions for side 1.

Join the two sides: With right sides facing each other, whip stitch the edges of the bag together. (See photos 1 and 2.) Turn right side out and starting on the right hand side, place a marker and begin to pick up 48 stitches around the top edge (place another marker after stitch 24 to mark the left hand side). You are now knitting in the round. Knit 18 rounds (rnds) – about 6 ½” -7”. Rnd 19, purl; Rnd, 20, knit; Rnd 21, purl; Rnd 22, bind off.

Bag Flap: Mark center top of bag. With right side facing, pick up 20 stitches from the last purl row (10 on each side of center marker). Use two strands of yarn. If using a solid and variegated yarn combination, we suggest using the two strands of solid color for flap.

Row 1 - 2: Knit across.

Row 3: Purl across

Row 4: K1, slip 1, knit 1, pssso, knit to last 3 stitches, k2T, k1 (18 stitches)

Row 5: Purl across

Row 6: K1, slip 1, knit 1, pssso, knit to last 3 stitches, k2T, k1 (16 stitches)

Row 7: Purl across

Row 8: K1, slip 1, knit 1, pssso, knit to last 3 stitches, k2T, k1 (14 stitches)

Row 9: Purl across

Row 10: K1, slip 1, knit 1, pssso, knit to last 3 stitches, k2T, k1 (12 stitches)

Row 11: Purl across

Row 12: K1, slip 1, knit 1, pssso, knit to last 3 stitches, k2T, k1 (10 stitches)

Row 13: Purl across

Row 14: K1, sk2Tpo, k2, sk2Tpo, k1 (6 stitches)

Row 15: Purl across

Row 16: K1, slip 1, knit 1, pssso, k2T, k1 (4 stitches)

Row 17: K2T, k2T (2 stitches)

Row 18: K2t, break yarn, pull through stitch and weave in ends. Remove all place markers. Weave in all other ends. Check for any large holes along pick-up row and weave in yarn to close any holes.

I-Cord Strap: For the strap: Use size 13 double pointed needles, cast on 5 stitches with 2-strands MC. Knit. DO NOT turn work, slide stitches to the other end of the needle and knit the stitches, carrying the yarn across the back to create a tube. Continue until 50 inches long and bind off.

Attaching Strap: Sew each end of strap to top at side edges using 2 stands of yarn. Take care not to twist the strap when sewing it on the bag. (You can also sew strap onto bag after the bag and strap have been felted separately as the strap may felt faster than the bag.)

Felting: Place bag in a zippered pillowcase, toss a Shout Colorcatcher** into the pillowcase. Place pillowcase in washing machine with heavy items. Add ¼ c. vinegar to each wash cycle, along with some soap. Wash on hot wash cold rinse cycle. Check after each wash to determine size and change Colorcatcher sheet. May take 3-4 trips through wash to achieve desired felting. Shape bag each time it is removed from the washer and straighten the handle.

Finishing: When the bag comes out of the washer the final time, do whatever stretching and pulling needed to achieved the desired star shape. On this bag, a ruler was used to stretch the star points into their final shape. The bag flap may need to be pulled and stretched into desired shape. Dry bag flat, with flap pinned into place with a straight pin. (When drying a bag flat, we use long quilting pins and pin it to a piece of Styrofoam to help maintain the desired shape as it dries.)

Buttons: A button can be added to the outside of the flap and a magnetic snap can be used on the inside flap, if desired. Sew magnetic snap parts to a piece of ribbon and then sew the ribbon to the bag flap and bag body. We use buttons from www.glasspens.com.

Size: Un-felted -- height: 13-14 inches; width at widest part of star: 13 inches. Finished: height: 8 1/2" inches; width at widest part of star 9 inches. Sizes will vary depending upon yarn, number of cycles through washing machine and water temperature. Our bag models are washed in hot water which is 130 degrees.

***Yarn Used:** Brown Model: Hand dyed yarn from Lisa Souza (www.lisaknit.com)

** Shout ColorCatchers are only available in the US. Overseas clients should contact us for information on sources of this product.



Inside View of Bag Bottom Seam



Right side View of Bag Bottom Seam



Green and teal are the larger Starfish Felted Bag Pattern.