



Corsage to Knit-and-Felt

by Alice Underwood of Sheepfold



This corsage is knitted loosely, sewn together, then felted in your washing machine. During the felting process the flower and petals will shrink considerably and become much sturdier. Any decorations and clasp must be added after this felting stage.

The corsage was designed for Woolfest 2012 and first appeared in the programme for that hugely successful event. Thanks are given to The Wool Clip for giving us permission to distribute this pattern to a wider circle of knitters!

The photographed example is made using oddments of Herdwick and Herdwick/Bluefaced Leicester wool, available from Sheepfold's online shop:

<http://www.sheepfold.co.uk/online-shop/natural-wools-type/index.html>

You will need:

- Few grams of aran weight pure wool in each of 2 colours (not superwash or machine washable varieties). The photographed example was made with dyed Herdwick for the petals and undyed Herdwick/Bluefaced Leicester for the leaves.
- one pair of 5.5 mm straight needles (US 7, UK 7)
- wool needle to finish off ends of yarn
- button or additional wool to decorate your flower
- optional brooch clasp

Abbreviations:

kfb knit into the front and back of the stitch
pfb purl into the front and back of the stitch
sl1 slip 1 stitch
pssso pass the slipped stitch over

Instructions:

Petals (make 5):

With the 5.5 mm straight needles and the aran wool in your main colour, cast on 3 sts.

- Row 1: kfb, k1, kfb (5 sts)
 - Row 2: pfb, p3, pfb (7 sts)
 - Row 3: knit all stitches
 - Row 4: pfb, p5, pfb (9 sts)
 - Row 5: knit all stitches
 - Row 6: purl all stitches
 - Row 7: sl1, k1, pssso, k5, k2tog (7 sts)
 - Row 8: purl all stitches
 - Row 9: sl1, k1, pssso, k3, k2tog (5 sts)
 - Row 10: purl all stitches
 - Row 11: sl1, k1, pssso, k1, k2tog (3 sts)
 - Row 12: sl1, p2tog, pssso
- Bind off remaining stitch.

Leaves (make 2):

With the 5.5 mm straight needles and the aran wool in your main colour, cast on 5 sts.

- Row 1: kfb, k3, kfb (7 sts)
 - Row 2: purl all stitches
 - Row 3: kfb, k5, kfb (9 sts)
 - Row 4: purl all stitches
 - Row 5: kfb, k7, kfb (11 sts)
 - Row 6: purl all stitches
 - Row 7: knit all stitches
 - Row 8: purl all stitches
 - Row 9: sl1, k1, pssso, k7, k2tog (9 sts)
 - Row 10: purl all stitches
- Work rows 7 to 12 from petals (given above)
- Bind off remaining stitch.

Finish off all ends of yarn in the petals and leaves by weaving into the work before felting.

Felting:

Felt your pieces in the washing machine by placing them in zippered mesh bags or pillowcases in your machine, with a couple of towels or pairs of jeans to give the necessary agitation. If possible, only put one or two in each bag. Add a small amount of washing powder, but no fabric conditioner. For the photographed corsage, I used two washes on a 70° cycle with a 400 spin cycle. A low level spin, if an available option on your machine, reduces the risk of crumpling. Check after the first cycle and pull back into shape if necessary. When felted to the desired level, remove from your washing machine, again pull into shape, and leave somewhere warm to dry.

Finishing:

Place the pointed ends of the 5 petals together in the centre of a circle, overlapping the petals, and sew together at the centre and part way up the overlapping edges. Attach the two leaves to the back of the flower by placing the curved edges at the centre of the flower so that the pointed ends extend beyond the flower.

Decorate the centre of the flower either by attaching a pretty button, or embroider using complementary wool.

This corsage can be worn as a brooch if a brooch clasp is attached to the back. Alternatively, sew to a fabulous knit-and-felt bag – a wide range of bag kits are available from www.sheepfold.co.uk

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

Corsage to Knit-and-Felt – free pattern from Sheepfold