Frilly Bag Pattern

This bag is knitted loosely, in two pieces, then felted in your washing machine. During the felting process the bag will shrink considerably and become much sturdier. Any embellishments 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 Manx Loghtan wool, available from Sheepfold's online shop: www.sheepfold.co.uk/Wools_from_British_breeds.html

You will need:

- Approx 200g aran weight pure wool (not machine washable or superwash varieties)
- 1 zip (9 inch; 23 cm)
- thread to attach zip to felted bag
- 1 metal buckle (approx 20 to 25 mm wide)
- 1 pair of 5.5 mm straight needles
- 1 pair of 4.5 mm double ended needles
- Wool needle to sew seams and finish off ends of yarn
- Sewing needle to sew zip to bag

Approx finished size:

Before felting:	width 27 cm, height 35 cm
After felting:	width 25 cm, height 28 cm

Instructions:

Body of bag:

Using the 5.5 mm straight needles and the aran wool, cast on 153 st. Knit 1 row. On the next row, k1, *k2 and pass the second stitch over the first and off your needle. Repeat from * to the end (77 st on needle). On the next row, p1, *p2tog, rep from * to the end (39 st on needle). Work 32 cm in stocking stitch from the base of the frill (approx 60 rows). Cast off all stitches. Work a second identical piece.

With right sides facing, sew the two pieces together at the base (cast off edges). Turn, so that the wrong sides are now facing, and slipstitch along the two side seams.

Handle:

On the inside of the bag, pick up and knit 5 st at the left hand side of the base of the frill on one side of the bag. Work in garter stitch (every row knit) until the band is 40 cm long when slightly stretched. Cast off. Repeat on the second side of the bag, knitting a band that is 120 cm when slightly stretched. Cast off.

Finishing:

Finish off all ends of yarn by weaving into the work, along the cords where possible, before felting.

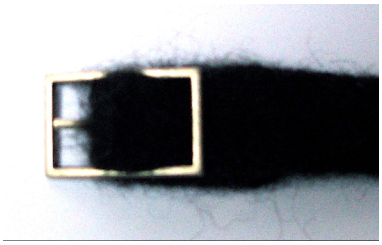
Felting:

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 2 washes on a 95° 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 stretch to give a good rectangular shape and leave somewhere warm to dry out completely.

Fastenings:

Sew the zip into your bag at the base of the frill (where the straight stocking stitch section begins).

Thread the shorter of the two straps up through the buckle and fold it over the middle part of the buckle, passing the metal prong through the felted strap. Sew the end to the main part of this strap. The long part of the handle strap should then be threaded through the attached buckle and adjusted to give an appropriate handle length. This length is, of course, adjustable.



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