



PERFECTLY SIMPLE CLUTCH

a free pattern by
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materials

Cascade Yarns Cascade 220 Heathers [100% Peruvian highland wool; 220 yards (200 meters) / 100 grams]: 1 hank #8012 Doeskin Approximate yardage requirements: about 70 yards for one clutch

tools

One set of five double-pointed needles (dpm) size US 10 1/2 (6.5 mm). Change needle size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

Stitch marker, yarn needle, basin or sink with hot water, dish soap or shampoo, towel and disposable razor.

notions

One 6" zipper (or you can trim a longer one, details below), embroidery floss that matches yarn color, needle, cardboard that measures about 5x7"

For optional tassel and patch- piece of thin leather or suede that measures 10x10", leather punch, craft glue

the pattern

Cast on 54 stitches. Join for working in the round and knit 34 rounds.

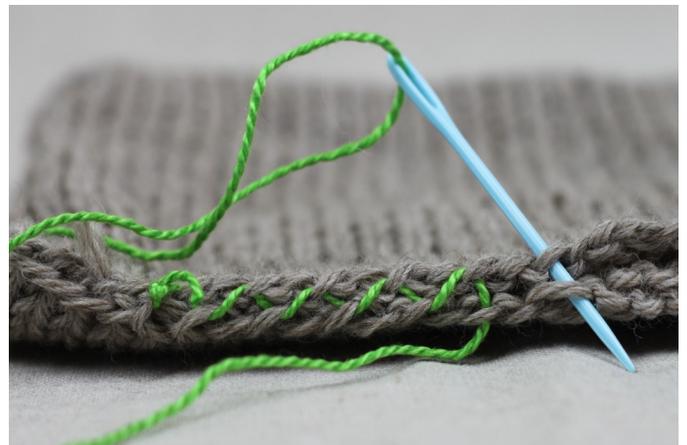
Use Kitchener stitch to join bottom edges.

gauge

Gauge before felting: 14 sts and 18 rows = 4"(10 cm) in Stockinette stitch.

finished measurements

7 1/4" wide and 7" tall before felting
6 1/4" wide and 5" tall after felting



To shape top edge, use whip stitches to sew the front and back together about 3/4-1" on each side. Weave in ends well.

Using waste yarn that will not felt- like cotton- sew zipper opening closed with whip stitches. Knot yarn and trim ends.

felting

To begin, add a squirt of dish soap to a dishpan or large bowl and fill it with really hot water. Put the piece in the water and let it soak for a few minutes. Now roll and squeeze it in your hands, swish it around or knead it like bread dough. At first the piece will grow and get larger, but soon the stitches start coming together and shrinking.

I spend a lot of time rolling and rubbing the piece together OUT of the water, then I dip it back in the soapy, hot water to keep things moving. Most of the time I firmly press the piece in my hand, and it looks like I'm trying to roll the piece into a ball. I stop and change the position of the piece in my hands so it felts evenly. Continue felting until the stitches begin to disappear, and then keep going! When the piece is nearly felted to desired size, trim any yarn ends close to the fabric.

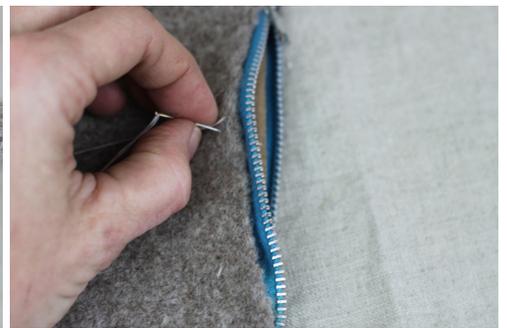
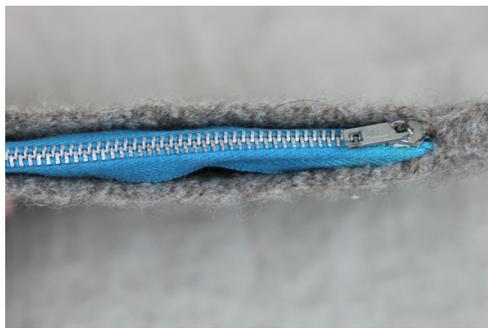
Keep felting until the piece is firm and feels like a different material entirely. You can add more hot water and a bit of soap if you like. Rinse in cold water to remove any soap and then roll in a towel to remove excess water. You can remove excess fuzz by "shaving" the piece with a disposable razor.



Cut cotton waste yarn and remove stitches.

Cut a piece of sturdy cardboard and fold it to insert in the clutch. Unfold the cardboard so it fits snugly in the clutch and the corners are all even and square. When the piece is totally dry it will maintain that shape.

zipper



Shorten the zipper if you need to by sewing several stitches around the teeth to secure. Using a pair of junky scissors, cut across zipper, leaving about a 1/2" excess on the end.

Insert zipper into clutch, using cardboard to center and straighten the zipper. Be sure the zipper ends extend into the corners of the clutch. Using two strands of embroidery floss that match your clutch color, sew zipper to clutch using running stitch.

tassel



For the tassel, cut a piece of leather that measures 5x7." Draw a horizontal line 1" from the top of the long side. Draw vertical lines 1/4" apart across the width of the leather. Cut the vertical lines, stopping at the horizontal line.



Smear glue on the top edge of the leather. Thread a thin piece of leather through the zipper pull. Roll the tassel up tightly. Firmly tie a scrap of fabric around tassel top and let dry.

patch



For leather patch, cut a shape from leather and draw a line 1/8" from edge on back. Mark holes 1/4" apart and punch holes. Sew patch to clutch using two strands of embroidery floss that match clutch color.