

# Ella's Felted Christmas Stocking



When we celebrated Ella's first Christmas, I had only been knitting for a couple of weeks. I made her a stocking from felt purchased at the fabric store. (Yes, I *felt* like a failure as a grandmother.) This year, it's all about felting the knitted stocking! I had a picture in my mind, and when I couldn't find a pattern to fit the picture, I just went for it.

First, let's keep it real. As with any felting project, your mileage may vary. The counts and measurements in this pattern are what I used that gave me the results noted. Hope you have fun creating your own!

## Size (lying flat)

Before felting - 8" wide, 19" from the top of the cuff to the turn of the heel, 12.5" from the turn of the heel to the tip of the toe

After felting - 6" wide, 11.5" from the top of the cuff to the turn of the heel, 8" from the turn of the heel to the tip of the toe.

## Yarn

Patons Classic Wool Merino – for the colors pictured, I used one skein each Bright Red (contrasting color), Bottle Green (main color), and Leaf Green. Any worsted weight wool yarn will work for felting, just be sure it isn't superwash wool..

## Needles

I would have used a US size 10 if I'd had them, but I used a US size 9 instead, and everything came out just fine. This is basically a large sock, I used 32" circulars, using the magic loop method when the circumference required it. I really think DPNs will be too short/awkward to use on this large project.

## Etc.

You will need two stitch markers when you work the toe.

**Cuff** – Cast on 64 stitches in contrasting color, join without twisting. Knit 15 rows.

Note: Since this will be felted, there is no need to knit the cuff in a rib. Don't let the curling edge worry you, it will straighten out in the felting process.

**Leg** – Change to main color, knit 76 rows.

Note: If you decide to knit stripes as I did, I recommend they be no fewer than two rows wide – one row stripes almost disappear completely when felted. It's also helpful to "carry" the unused color up along the inside by twisting it around the color being used every time you begin a new round. This will all disappear once felted, and avoids a lot of yarn cutting.

**Heel** – I prefer the look of a short-row heel for the traditional stocking, rather than a heel flap and gusset. Up to this point, the rounds have always begun at the back of the stocking, but to work the heel, we need to start from the side. To get there and “set up” for the heel, **knit 48 stitches (3/4’s of this round.) Redistribute the stitches, 32 stitches each (half of the stitches) on either side of the “magic loop”**. You will be knitting back and forth on the next 32 stitches while the other 32 are simply held (don’t worry, we’ll get back to them.) These instructions do not include “wrapping” the stitches to prevent the small holes where the work is turned, because those holes will disappear in the felting process. You can Google “short row heel” and find a number of good tutorials on doing short rows with the different wrapping methods if you want to learn more.

Change to the contrasting color and begin the heel:

Row 1: Knit 31 stitches, turn your work.

Row 2: Purl 30 stitches, turn your work.

Row 3: K 29, turn

Row 4: P 28, turn

Row 5: K 27, turn

Row 6: P 26, turn

Row 7: K 25, turn

Row 8: P 24, turn

Row 9: K 23, turn

Row 10: P 22, turn

Row 11: K 21, turn

Row 12: P 20, turn

Row 13: K 19, turn

Row 14: P 18, turn

Row 15: K 17, turn

Row 16: P 16, turn

Row 17: K 15, turn

Row 18: P 14, turn

You’re half-way, done, hang in there!

Row 19: K 15, turn

Row 20: P 16, turn

Row 21: K 17, turn

Row 22: P 18, turn

Row 23: K 19, turn

Row 24: P 20, turn

Row 25: K 21, turn

Row 26: P 22, turn

Row 27: K 23, turn

Row 28: P 24, turn

Row 29: K 25, turn

Row 30: P 26, turn

Row 31: K 27, turn

Row 32: P 28, turn

Row 33: K 29, turn

Row 34: P 30, turn

Row 35: K 31, turn

Row 36: P 32, turn

**Foot** – Change to the main color, knit 16, and redistribute the stitches again, so the rounds begin at the back of the work.

Knit 44 rows.

**Toe** – To set up for knitting the toe, knit 48 stitches (3/4's of this round.) Redistribute the stitches, 32 stitches each (half of the stitches) on either side of the “magic loop”. Change to the contrasting color, knit 16, place marker (PM), knit 32, PM, knit 16.

Round 1: Knit to 3 stitches before the first marker, k2tog, k 1, slip marker, k 1, ssk, knit to 3 stitches before the second marker, k2tog, k 1, slip marker, k 1, ssk, knit to the end of the round.

Round 2: Knit.

Repeat these two rounds until 16 stitches remain, 8 on each side of the loop. Cut yarn leaving a long end, and graft the stitches together. Weave in ends.

**Hanging tab** – Knit approximately 8” of I-cord, using either 3 or 5 stitches (I used 5). Sew both ends of the I-cord to the inside at the back seam, about 2” below the top of the cuff. It helps to reduce bulk if you stagger the ends, sewing one just below the other.

**Felt** – You can find a number of explanations for felting by machine (top loader), or other methods, on the internet. It's always a good idea to place your item in a zippered mesh bag or something that will catch any lint that results from felting. Keep in mind that for a few short minutes after felting, you can make some minor changes to the shape of the stocking, so it's a good time to be sure that the stocking is folded along the back seam, the toe is nice and rounded, the heel is the shape you want, and the cuff is nice and straight (and maybe even a little flared if you want.)

Don't hesitate to email me (happybuela AT gmail Dot com) or send me a message on Ravelry (happybuela) if you have any questions. I hope you have as much fun with this as I did!