

Lizard Ridge Bag (adapted by AKS from a pattern by Laura Aylor)



I LOVE the Lizard Ridge Afghan pattern, but have been wary of knitting an afghan that's not machine washable.

I was also interested in using Paton's SWS, just because.

And so, here's a variant on it, a felted bag. For this, you need the Lizard Ridge Afghan pattern, available here: <http://knitty.com/ISSUEfall06/PATTlizardridge.html>

Materials:

Yarn: Paton's SWS (4 skeins) (I'd assume Noro Kureyon would also work well)

Needles: US size 9 circular or straight needles

Others: 2 buttons, thread that matches the yarn

Gauge: I... forgot to count before felting. It's a felted bag, so it probably doesn't matter in the end.

Instructions:

Front and back (i.e., do this two times). Cast on 43 stitches. Work the 12 row "short row pattern" from the Lizard Ridge Afghan pattern 4 times. Don't worry about picking up the wrapped stitches, since it'll all even out in the wash. Knit six rows back and forth (garter stitch).

Sides and bottom. Cast on 20 stitches. Knitting six rows of garter stitch at the beginning and end of the strip, knit a stockinette strip long enough to go around the sides and bottom of the bag. Figure this out either by carefully measuring along the sides and bottom of either the front or the back, or by sewing it on as you go.

Strap. Cast on 10 stitches. Knit a garter strip strap that's at least a yard long (I just used up the remaining yarn).

Finishing:

Assembly #1. Sew together front, back, and side strips, with seams on the outside of the bag. Sew in and trim ends.

Felting. Place bag and strap in a washing bag, or a pillowcase, and put in washing machine with laundry detergent and something else for friction. Wash on hot. CHECK YOUR PROGRESS often—this yarn felts very, very quickly, and very, very tight. I left it in for only about 4-5 minutes, but machines vary. Rinse out, and spin dry.

Blocking. Find a box that's more or less the size you want the bag to be, put it in a plastic bag, and place inside the bag. Let it dry.

Assembly #2. Sew the strap, trimmed to whatever length you like, into the bag sides, overlapping at least a couple of inches on the inside of the bag. Sew the two buttons on the inside of the bag, at the tops of the two top middle pattern swells. Cut button holes on the other side of the bag, again at the top of the two middle swells.