

Wool Dryer Balls

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Knit your own wool dryer balls. These make nice gifts and you can use up your (non superwash) wool scraps. Enjoy!



Knitting in Progress



Before Felting



After First Felting

Materials

3.50mm / US 4 / UK 9.50 double pointed needles (set of 5) or circular needles for magic loop
1 stitch marker

For each ball: 35 yards / 33 meters Non-Superwash, lanolin-free worsted weight wool

For each ball: 25 yards / 23 meters lanolin-free super bulky roving or felting wool for filling

Sample knit with Cascade 220 Heather Yarns and filled with Briggs and Little Country Roving

Gauge

26 stitches and 32 rows = 4 inches in Stockinette stitch

Measurements (Approximate)

Before felting: 8.75 inches around

After felting: varies depending on wool used and length of washing/drying

Abbreviations

K = Knit

KFB = knit into the front and back of next stitch

ST(S) = stitch(es)

K2Tog = knit next two stitches together

Notes

- Wind ball of roving into a firm ball.
- You may use any non-superwash wool yarn for inner ball.
- Do not add any oils to dryer balls.
- Don't worry if ball is misshapen before felting, it will sort itself out in the dryer.

Wind a ball of roving to a circumference of 8.75 inches. Cut roving and tuck end into ball with crochet hook or darning needle. Set aside.

Using backward loop method, cast on 20 stitches evenly distributed on four double pointed needles or circular needle. Leave a 7 inch yarn tail to sew up stitches.

Set up: Place stitch marker to mark beginning of round. Knit 4 rounds.

Round 1: (KFB, K4), repeat () 3 times (24 sts)
Round 2: (KFB, K5), repeat () 3 times (28 sts)
Round 3: (KFB, K6), repeat () 3 times (32 sts)
Round 4: (KFB, K7), repeat () 3 times (36 sts)
Round 5: (KFB, K8), repeat () 3 times (40 sts)
Round 6: (KFB, K9), repeat () 3 times (44 sts)
Round 7: (KFB, K10), repeat () 3 times (48 sts)
Round 8: (KFB, K11), repeat () 3 times (52 sts)
Round 9: (KFB, K12), repeat () 3 times (56 sts)
Round 10: (KFB, K13), repeat () 3 times (60 sts)

Rounds 11 to 20: Knit

Round 21: (K2Tog, K13), repeat () 3 times (56 sts)
Round 22: (K2Tog, K12), repeat () 3 times (52 sts)
Round 23: (K2Tog, K11), repeat () 3 times (48 sts)
Round 24: (K2Tog, K10), repeat () 3 times (44 sts)
Round 25: (K2Tog, K9), repeat () 3 times (40 sts)
Round 26: (K2Tog, K8), repeat () 3 times (36 sts)
Round 27: (K2Tog, K7), repeat () 3 times (32 sts)
Stuff ball of roving into knitting. Continue knitting as follows:
Round 28: (K2Tog, K6), repeat () 3 times (28 sts)
Round 29: (K2Tog, K5), repeat () 3 times (24 sts)
Round 30: (K2Tog, K4), repeat () 3 times (20 sts)

Knit 4 rounds. Cut 7 inch yarn tail and thread through stitches. Pull yarn tight and weave into knitting. Thread bottom yarn tail through cast on stitches. Pull yarn tight and weave into knitting.

Felting: include dryer balls with a load of towels and wash with detergent and hot water. Dry on high heat. You may need to repeat the wash and dry process once or twice more to get desired felting. After that, just use in dryer.