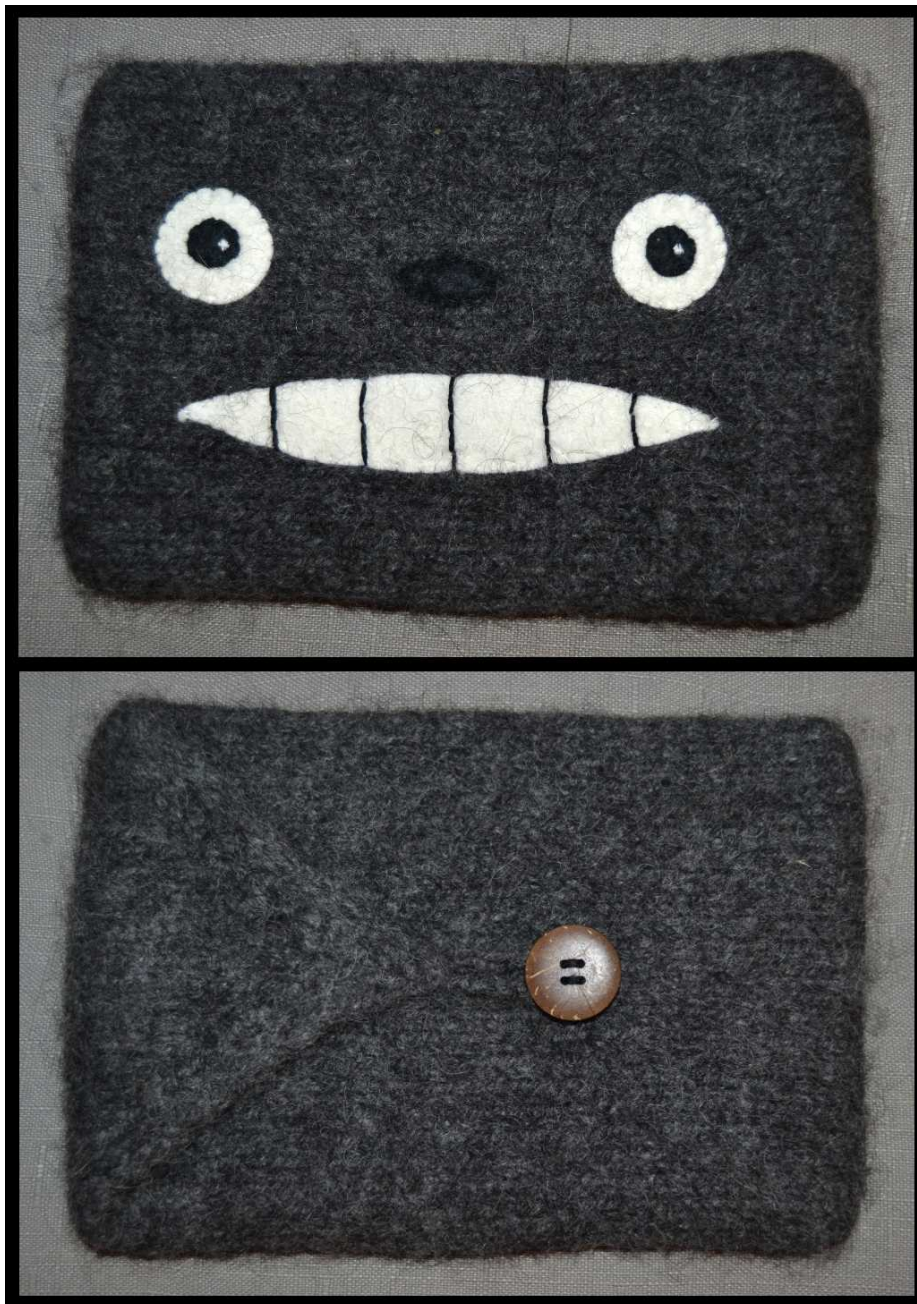


Maisha
99% homemade :-)



Totoro tablet cover

A felted wool bag for your tablet



When my youngest son wished for a tablet for Christmas, I decided to felt a cover for it. *My Neighbor Totoro* is his favourite movie, and it seemed ideal as well as easy to make him a cute Totoro cover :-). His tablet is a 7" Google Nexus, but you can adapt the pattern to your exact tablet measurements – I'll explain how and give an example. The advantages of using felt for tablet covers etc include some water resistance and protection from scratches as well as damage when they are dropped on the floor – not to mention that they are so easy to personalize :-)

Size:

According to your measurements :-)

Materials:

- Yarn – I used about 70 grams of Hjelholdt Håndværksgarn (a bulky wool great for felting). No superwash! And remember it takes more yarn to felt than to knit regularly.
- Black and white felt (for Totoro's face)
- Black and white thread
- Circular needles, 1 or 2 sizes smaller than recommended for the yarn
- Extra circular for turkish cast-on (see below – you can also just use long tail cast on and sew up the bottom)
- Wool needle and sewing needle
- Button
- 2 stitch markers, not identical

Gauge:

Do a swatch in stockinette and measure it before and after felting – stretch after felting when you measure. Then do the calculations below.

Ordforklaringer og teknikker:

- st – stitch

- k – knit
- K2tog – knit 2 together; **decrease** – knit two stitches together as if they were a single stitch. Slants to right. Video [here](#).
- SSK – slip slip knit; **decrease** – slip one stitch, then slip the next. Insert left needle into the front loops of the slipped stitches and knit them together from this position (through the back loops). Slants to left. Video [here](#).
- [Turkish cast-on](#). When I use this cast-on, I use the circular needle I'm going to knit with and also a smaller one. If you don't want to use this (I highly recommend it!) you can use long tail cast-on and sew up the bottom.

Calculations:

You'll need your tablet's measurements as well as the measurements of your gauge swatch before and after felting.

First you need to divide the measurement of your swatch before felting with the one after – insert your own numbers on the lines:

Width before felting ___ / width after felting ___ = ___ A

Height before felting ___ / height after felting ___ = ___ B

Then you calculate the dimensions of the cover before felting by multiplying the measurements of your tablet with the numbers A and B:

Tablet width ___ x A ___ = ___ C

Tablet height ___ x B ___ = ___ D

Now you need to figure out how many stitches to cast on. This is done first by working with the measurements of the gauge swatch and the number of sts:

Stitch count ___ / width of swatch before felting ___ = ___ E

The number E states the number of sts per inch. You're now ready to figure out how many stitches to cast on:

___ C x ___ E = ___ x 2 = ___ stitches total (you need to multiply by 2 because we're only measuring one side of the tablet above :-))

The number D is used to measure how tall the work should be before you need to start preparing to cast of some stitches as described in the pattern below.

If you find the calculations above difficult, perhaps my example can clarify some – please note that I use European measurements (in centimeter) instead of inches, but the

calculations are exactly the same :-)

Width before felting 10 cm / width after felting 9 cm = 1,11 A

Height before felting 10,5 cm / height after felting 8,5 cm = 1,24 B

Tablet width 12 cm x A 1,11 cm = 13,33 cm C

Tablet height 19,5 cm x B 1,24 = 24,18 cm D

Stitch count 24 / swatch width before felting 10 cm = 2,4 m E

13,33 cm C x 2,4 m E = 31,9 m x 2 = 61,8 stitches total, meaning 62 sts.

This means I should cast on 62 stitches and work in the round until the work measures 24 cm from top to bottom before starting the set up for bind off etc, according to the pattern.

If you still think this is incomprehensible, don't hesitate to write me :-)

Pattern:

Cast on the chosen number of sts, using turkish cast on. Mark the beginning of the round as well as the center, then knit all sts until your work measures D inches from bottom.

Then:

Round 1: k2, p all sts until 2 sts before center marker, k rest of round.

Round 2: k all sts.

Repeat these rounds 1-2 times, 1 if you're using bulky yarn and more with thinner yarn.

Now bind off all the garter stitched sts and work the rest of the sts back and forth.

Row 1: k1, slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front, k to 2 sts left, slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front, k1.

Row 2: Slip 1 purlwise, k1, slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front, purl all sts to 3 sts left, slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front, k1, slip 1 purlwise.

Row 3: k1, slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front, k1, SSK, k all sts to 5 sts left, k2tog, k1, slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front, k1.

Row 4: Repeat row 2.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until you have 3-4 sts left on the needle (when you get to the last decreases you will gradually have to disregard the 3 edge sts described above). Now knit 3 inches of i-cord, break the yarn and pass it through the sts and sew it to the base to form a loop. If you prefer not to knit i-cord, you can crochet a string and sew it on.

Weave all ends. If you used long tail cast on, sew up the bottom of the bag.



Now you're ready for felting! This may be done by hand with warm water, a tad of wool detergent and a lot of agitation (warm water + agitation = felting) or in your washing machine with a few towels or some jeans. Keep the temperature setting at warm, not hot – it's better to wash it twice if it doesn't felt enough the first time than to risk too much shrinkage.

When you dry it, you can use a few pieces of cardboard cut to the dimensions of your tablet to insert in it so it takes the shape of the tablet. Stretch the edges of the flap well while it's wet, it has a tendency to be a little tight. If you'd like, you can fold it down and pin it to the bag as it dries.

Final touches:

When the bag is dry it's ready for ornamentation. I used the template for [this wonderful pattern](#) for a Totoro plushie to make the eyes, nose and mouth. I cut it in felt and sewed it on using whip stitch and sewing thread. The black lines in the mouth forming the teeth I made with thin black yarn using backstitch.

All that remains is to add a button in the back – fold down the flap and mark the bottom of the loop, then sew on your button at this point. Now you're finished :-)

2013, Sisse Holmstrup, *Maisha*

This pattern may be published anywhere, as long as it's free ;-) It may be used to make stuff for resale. It may also be altered and published, as long as it's still free and there's a link to the original pattern :-)