



Plaid Felted Coasters

By Carol Petersen

I have embraced my one-eighth Scottish heritage, and I've become fascinated with plaid! I made a plaid felted messenger bag for the 2010 Ravelympics, and these were actually my test swatches.

Everyone at my yarn store thought they would make cute coasters, so here they are. You can make two sizes – regular size for everyday cups and mugs, or super-sized for overgrown cappuccino mugs.

Materials:

Yarn: Two contrasting colors of worsted weight wool. I used scraps of Cascade 220.

- Small coaster: Background (MC) 9537, plaid (CC) 2403
- Large coaster: Background (MC) 9406, plaid (CC) 8267

Needles: US Size 10 or size needed to achieve gauge

Gauge before felting: 17 stitches and 26 rows = 4"x4" in plaid pattern stitch

Finished Measurements:

- **Small:** 3"x3" after felting
- **Large:** 4.5"x4.5" after felting

Abbreviations and Stitches:

RS: Right side

WS: Wrong side

K: Knit

P: Purl

Sl1: Slip one stitch as if to purl

Wrap3: Wrap your yarn around your needle 3 times while knitting the stitch. As you knit the next row, drop the extra wraps to make one very loose stitch. This allows you to slip the stitch over 6 rows without puckering the fabric. **Make sure you do not knit this slipped stitch out of order while it is loose.**

Instructions:

***Note:** As you are carrying the contrasting color up the side of the work for rows 7-12, catch the yarn by twisting it with the main color before knitting the first stitch. It will blend in after felting.

Using background color (MC), cast on 26 (34) stitches. Knit 4 rows of garter stitch (every row knitted).

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Page 2

Pattern rows:

Row 1: (RS) With contrasting color (CC), knit.

Row 2: (WS) CC: Knit.

Row 3: With MC, k3, *sl1, k2, sl1, k4; repeat from * 1 (2) times; sl1, k2, sl1, k3.

Row 4: MC: P3, *sl1, p2, sl1, p4; repeat from * 1(2) times; sl1, p2, sl1, p3.

Row 5: With CC, knit.

Row 6: CC: K3, *wrap3, k2, wrap3, k4; repeat from * 1 (2) times; wrap3, k2, wrap3, k3.

Row 7: With MC, k3, *sl1 (dropping off extra loops), k2, sl1, k4; repeat from * 1 (2) times; sl1, k2, sl1, k3.

Row 8: MC: P3, *sl1, p2, sl1, p4; repeat from * 1(2) times; sl1, p2, sl1, p3.

Row 9: MC: K3, *sl1, k2, sl1, k4; repeat from * 1 (2) times; sl1, k2, sl1, k3.

Row 10: MC: P3, *sl1, p2, sl1, p4; repeat from * 1(2) times; sl1, p2, sl1, p3.

Row 11: MC: K3, *sl1, k2, sl1, k4; repeat from * 1 (2) times; sl1, k2, sl1, k3.

Row 12: MC: P3, *sl1, p2, sl1, p4; repeat from * 1(2) times; sl1, p2, sl1, p3

Rows 13-24 (36): Repeat rows 1-12 one (two) times more.

Finishing rows:

Row 1: With CC, knit.

Row 2: CC: Knit.

Row 3: With MC, k3, *sl1, k2, sl1, k4; repeat from * 1 (2) times; sl1, k2, sl1, k3.

Row 4: MC: P3, *sl1, p2, sl1, p4; repeat from * 1(2) times; sl1, p2, sl1, p3.

Row 5: With CC, knit.

Row 6: CC: Knit.

Rows 7-10: With MC, knit 4 rows of garter stitch.

Bind off and weave in ends.



One repeat of plaid stitch before felting. Notice how long the slipped stitches are in the 6 rows of background knitting. They look loose and just lay on top of the background stitches. This tightens up after felting.

Felting:

Place objects to be felted in a pillow case and place in your washing machine. (You can have several matching coasters, but do not mix colors or they will share lint.) You can add something else to the tub for agitation, such as tennis shoes, tennis balls or jeans. Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid laundry detergent and wash on the hottest setting. I set my washer for 15 minutes of agitation, but your machine may vary.

Check on your coaster a couple of times *before* the water spins out and starts the rinse cycle. You should not be able to see or feel any individual stitches if the coaster is fully felted. Remove the bag and allow the washer to drain. If all of the stitches are not felted, you may have to repeat until desired size. Don't add detergent after the first cycle.

After your coaster is the right size and all of the stitches are felted, rinse out the soap. Pull on the coaster until it is square and the lines in the plaid are straight. (I use my quilt cutting mat, but you can also draw a square the finished size on butcher, parchment or waxed paper.) Lay flat to dry completely.