

Fiber Trends®

FT-207

Felt Alpacas & Llamas



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While these soft friends are agreeable to being made in any yarn that will felt, they are extra special made in alpaca or llama fiber.

Size:

Finished size varies with yarn choice and amount of felting. Animals are shown in worsted and bulky wt yarns and measure from 9" to 14" (23 to 36 cm).

Yarn Requirements:

Choose a yarn that will felt easily and firmly.

Any weight of yarn may be used, or use 2 or 3 strands together for larger animals.

Caution: Even different colors of the same yarn can felt differently. It is very important to test felt a sample of your yarn or yarns before starting a project.

Yardage:

Worsted wt: 165 yds (151m) main color (MC) and 15 yds (14m) black.

Bulky wt: 185 yds (169m) main color (MC) and 20 yds (18m) black. (Note: If using multiple strands of a lighter yarn you will need this amount of each.)

Needles:

Light worsted or DK: US size 10 (6mm).

Heavy worsted: US size 10½ (6.5mm).

Bulky: US size 11 (8mm).

Gauge:

It is not necessary to get an exact gauge, but knitting must be loose to felt properly.

Other Supplies:

Pins or colored thread for marking sts; tapestry needle; small amount of colorfast waste cotton for basting; pearl cotton for eyes and nose (optional); stuffing (fleece or synthetic).

Stitches and Abbreviations Used:

RS or WS: Right side or wrong side. **x:** times.

k2tog: Knit two stitches together as one.

Garter Stitch In Rows: Knit all rows. 2 rows = 1 ridge.

Slip 1: Move a stitch from left to right needle without working it.

psso: Pass slipped stitch over the stitch just worked.

ssk (slip, slip, knit): Slip 2 sts, one at a time, as if to knit.

Slide left needle through front loops of these sts, from left to right, and knit them together from this position.

m1 (make one): Insert the left needle, from front to back, under the horizontal strand between the stitch on left needle and the stitch just worked, forming a loop on left needle. Knit this loop through the back.

Inc in a stitch: Knit into front, then into back of the same stitch.

w&t (wrap & turn): Slip the next stitch to the right needle as if to purl. Bring the yarn between the needles to the front. Put the stitch back on the left needle. Turn and work in the other direction.

Instructions: Begin with body.

Note: Instructions are written for the alpaca with changes for a llama in parentheses. If only one number is given, it is for both.

With MC, cast on 21 (23) sts.

Row 1: (WS) Knit.

Row 2: k8 (9), [m1, k1] 5x, m1, w&t, k11, w&t, k2, m1, k2, m1, k3, m1, k2, m1, k10 (11). (31, 33 sts)

Mark row 2 as RS.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: k11 (12), [m1, k2] 2x, m1, k1, m1, [k2, m1] 2x, k5, w&t, k25, w&t, k5, [m1, k3] 5x, m1, k11 (12). (43, 45 sts)

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: k17 (18), [m1, k2] 2x, m1, k1, m1, [k2, m1] 2x, k13, w&t, k41, w&t, k16, [m1, k3] 3x, m1, k14, w&t, k41, w&t, k19, m1, k3, m1, k17, w&t, k39, w&t, k19, m1, k1, m1, k27 (28). (57, 59 sts)

Row 7: (WS) Knit.

Mark center st on RS for tail placement.

Row 8: k47 (48), w&t, k37, w&t, k34, w&t, k31, w&t, k28, w&t, k25, w&t, k22, w&t, k19, w&t, k16, w&t, k13, w&t, k10, w&t, k7, w&t, k32.

Row 9: (WS) Knit.

Rows 10 & 11: Cast off 9 (10) sts at the beginning of each row, knit to end.

Knit 11 (13) rows even on these 39 sts.

Next Row: (WS) k17, cast off 5 sts (neck), k17.

Work each side separately, beginning where yarn is attached.

First Side:

Row 1: Cast on 8 (9) sts at beginning of row, knit to within 3 sts of neck opening, k2tog, k1.

Row 2: (WS) Knit. (24, 25 sts)

Row 3: Knit to within 3 sts of neck opening, k2tog, k1. (23, 24 sts)

Row 4: k19, w&t, k19.

Rows 5 & 6: Knit.

Row 7: k20, w&t, k20.

Rows 8, 9 & 10: Knit.

Row 11: (RS) Cast off 7 (8) sts at beginning of row, knit to end. (16 sts)

Row 12: Knit.

Row 13: Cast off 2 sts at beginning of row, knit to end. (14 sts)

Row 14: Knit to last 2 sts, ssk.

Mark the last stitch of this row.

Row 15: Cast off remaining 13 sts.

Second Side:

With RS facing, rejoin yarn at neck edge.

Row 1: k1, ssk, knit to end of row. (16 sts)

Row 2: (WS) Cast on 8 (9) sts at beginning of row, knit to end. (24, 25 sts)

Row 3: k1, ssk, k17, w&t, k19.

Rows 4 & 5: Knit. (23, 24 sts)

Row 6: k20, w&t, k20.

Rows 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11: Knit.

Row 12: (WS) Cast off 7 (8) sts at beginning of row, knit to end. (16 sts)

Row 13: Knit.

Row 14: Cast off 2 sts at beginning of row, knit to end. (14 sts)

Row 15: Knit to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Mark the last stitch of this row.

Row 16: Cast off remaining 13 sts. Cut yarn.

Neck:

With RS facing, join yarn at corner of neck opening.

Pick up and knit 25 sts around edge of opening.

Row 1: (WS) Knit.

Row 2: k8, w&t, k8.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: k8, w&t, k8.

Row 5: (WS) k10, k2tog, k1, ssk, k10. (23 sts)

Row 6: k6, w&t, k6.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: k6, w&t, k6.

Row 9: (WS) k9, k2tog, k1, ssk, k9. (21 sts)

Row 10: k4, w&t, k4.

Row 11: Knit.

Row 12: k4, w&t, k4.

Rows 13 & 14: Knit.

Row 15: (WS) k8, k2tog, k1, ssk, k8. (19 sts)

Rows 16, 17, 18 & 19: Knit.

For alpaca only, cut yarn.

Rows 20 & 21: (for llama only) Knit.

Cut yarn.

Head:

With RS facing, slip first 5 sts from left to right needle without knitting them. Mark the next st on left needle as the corner of head.

Row 1: Join yarn at this point and k9, turn *without* wrapping.

Rows 2 - 6: Working only on the center 9 sts, knit 5 more rows.

Row 7: (RS) k1, ssk, k3, k2tog, k1.

Rows 8 & 10: Knit.

Row 9: k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1.

Row 11: k1, slip 1, k2tog, pssso, k1.

Row 12: Knit. Cut yarn.

Mark center stitch as top of head.

With RS facing, join yarn at marked corner of head.

Pick up and knit 6 sts along side of head, k3 from needle, pick up and knit 6 sts along second side of head, turn.

Row 1: Slip 1, k13, k2tog, turn. (This will decrease one of the neck sts.)

Rows 2 & 3: Repeat row 1.

Row 4: Slip 1, k4, k2tog, k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, turn.

Row 5: Slip 1, k11, k2tog, turn.

Row 6: Slip 1, k3, k2tog, k1, ssk, k3, k2tog, turn.

Row 7: Slip 1, k9, k2tog, turn.

Row 8: Slip 1, k2, k2tog, k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, turn.

Rows 9 & 10: Slip 1, k7, k2tog, turn.

(All neck sts have been decreased.)

Rows 11, 12 & 13: Knit.

Row 14: k2, k2tog, k1, ssk, k2.

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Using tapestry needle thread yarn through remaining sts. Pull together tightly, then sew seam from end of nose down neck to marked sts.

Note: Always use the same yarn for sewing as was used for knitting. Sew flat seams, just catching the edges together and keep tension loose. Seams sewn this way will not be visible after felting.

Inner Legs and Tummy:

With MC, loosely cast on 21 (23) sts.

Row 1: (WS) Knit.

Row 2: k9 (10), w&t, k9 (10).

Row 3: (RS) Knit.

Row 4: k9 (10), w&t, k9 (10).

Row 5: (WS) k10 (11), m1, k1, m1, k10 (11).

Rows 6, 7 & 8: Repeat rows 2, 3 & 4.

Row 9: (WS) k11 (12), m1, k1, m1, k11 (12).

Rows 10 & 11: Cast off 9 (10) sts at the beginning of each row. (7 sts)

Knit 12 (14) rows even on these 7 sts.

Rows 1 & 2: Cast on 8 (9) sts at the beginning of each row, knit to end.

Row 3: k9 (10), w&t, k9 (10).

Row 4: (RS) Knit. (23, 25 sts)

Row 5: k9 (10), w&t, k9 (10).

Rows 6, 7 & 8: Knit.

Rows 9 & 10: Cast off 7 (8) sts at the beginning of each row, knit to end.

Rows 11 & 12: Cast off 2 sts at the beginning of each row, knit to end.

Row 13: ssk, k1, k2tog.

Row 14: Knit.

Row 15: Slip 1, k2tog, psso. Cut yarn and fasten off. Position point (row 15) at the marked sts of lower neck. Sew down each side of chest then down fronts of legs. Do not sew across bottom of legs.

Front Hooves:

Open front legs flat. With RS facing, use black to knit up 11 sts along bottom edge of leg.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: k1, ssk, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k1.

Row 3: Cast off while working the following; k2tog, k3, k2tog. Cut yarn and fasten off.

Repeat for other front leg.

With black, sew seams in hooves.

With MC, sew seams up back of front legs, across tummy and down fronts of back legs, but not across the bottom of leg.

Back Hooves:

Open back legs flat. With RS facing, use black to knit up 13 sts along bottom edge of leg.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: k1, ssk, k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k1.

Row 3: Cast off while working the following; k1, k2tog, k3, k2tog, k1.

Cut yarn and fasten off.

Repeat for other back leg.

With black, sew seams in hooves, then use MC to sew about 1" (2.5cm) at each end of the inner back leg seam, leaving center open for stuffing.

Ears:

With double pointed needles and MC cast on 3 sts.

*Slide sts to other end of needle. Take yarn firmly across back of work and knit 3.

Repeat from * 2 more times for an alpaca or 3 more times for a llama. Cut yarn.

Thread yarn through remaining sts and pull together tightly, fasten off.

Sew to top of head on either side of marked st.

Tail:

With double pointed needles and MC cast on 3 sts. Work the same as for an alpaca's ear. Position tail just below the marked stitch for an alpaca and on the marked stitch for a llama and sew to body.

Prepare for felting:

Work in all yarn ends on WS. Check your animal for any holes and stitch them loosely together if necessary.

With colorfast *cotton* waste yarn, baste the opening closed on inner back legs.

Felting Instructions:

To protect your washer from excess fiber, place animal in a zippered pillow protector.

Set washer for hot wash, low water level and maximum agitation. Add a small amount of wool wash such as Sweater Soap* or use a mild detergent. Extremely hot water is not needed or desired. You must be able to handle your project during the process.

Adding an old pair of jeans to the wash will increase agitation and help speed the felting.

Using the spin cycle is not recommended as it may set permanent creases in the felt.

While agitating, check on the progress every 5 minutes, removing it from the bag each time for a closer look. Set washer back to agitate longer if needed. When your animal has felted to a firm fabric and a nice size, remove and rinse by hand in cool water.

Note: If felting with Sweater Soap, only a light rinsing is needed. If detergent was used, rinse thoroughly by hand to remove all traces of detergent.

Roll in a towel to remove as much water as possible.

Shaping:

For the best shape, stuff firmly while wet and mold into the desired shape. Shape the ears to the look you want. Llama ears can be bent inwards slightly to give them a banana shape. Alpaca ears are usually straight. When you are happy with your animal's shape, leave it to dry.

Finishing:

When completely dry, re-stuff to desired firmness.

Use matching wool and lace the opening together as invisibly as possible. To make the seam less visible, brush over it with a stiff brush. Pearl cotton or wool may be used to add a mouth and eyes, if desired.

*Sweater Soap, by Friendly Products, is a low-rinse woolwash available in yarn and craft stores in the U.S. Other brands of woolwash may be used, but check rinsing requirements.