

Felted Soap Savers (Knitted Version) –

Designed by Heather Boyd



Materials:

Six 12-yard samples of Blue Sky Fibers Woolstok yarn (100% wool, 72 yards total). You should have enough to make more than one soap saver, depending on the size of your soap. Colors shown in pattern:

- A – Cast Iron (dark grey)
- B – Golden Meadow (light green)
- C – Storm Cloud (medium grey)
- D – Earth Ivy (dark green)
- E – Grey Harbor (light gray)
- F – Pressed Grapes (burgundy)

Or: at least 35 yards DK-weight, non-superwash wool per soap saver.

Size US 5 circular needle, at least 40" (or length you require for Magic Loop method), or one set of five US 5 double-pointed needles

Tape measure

Tapestry needle

Gauge: 5.5 sts/in. on size US 5 needles, in the round, without blocking.

Finished Measurements: You'll be making your soap saver to fit your chosen bar of soap.

Abbreviations:

k2tog: knit two together, knitwise

ssk (slip slip knit): slip two stitches, one at a time, knitwise onto right needle; insert left needle through the fronts of both slipped stitches, then use right needle tip to knit them together through the back loops

kfb (knit front and back): knit into the front, then into the back of the same stitch (1 stitch increased).

Notes: After knitting your soap saver pouch, you'll place your soap inside and graft the top stitches together to completely enclose it. Don't worry if your knitting isn't perfect or the pouch doesn't fit the soap exactly – felting it will hide any imperfections, and as a bonus, there are no ends to weave because they'll be felted inside the pouch! When breaking yarn colors, leave a 2" tail.

Instructions for Rectangular Soap Saver:

Measure the circumference of your bar of soap, then multiply this measurement by gauge (5.5) to get the number of cast on stitches. The rectangular bar pictured (Black Rock Mud Soap) was slightly over 7 inches around on the long end, and I wanted the stripes to rise widthwise, so the cast-on was 40 stitches.

With A, cast on required number of stitches with Judy's Magic Cast On for your type of needle. Knit one round in A (note that the second half of the stitches of this first round must be knitted through the back loop to twist them).

Join B and knit one round, then knit one round of A. Break A (no need to leave a long tail – about 2" is fine – as you'll be felting ends inside the pouch). Continue color sequence as follows (or work your chosen color sequence), breaking each color as you finish with it and tucking ends inside of pouch, until your pouch is as long as your bar of soap:

B, B, C, B, C, C, D, C, D, D, E, D, E, E, F, E, F, F, A, F, A, A

Last row: Still with A, knit across half the stitches (getting them all on one needle if using double points). Make sure second half of stitches are all on one needle. Cut A, leaving a tail of about 16", and place soap inside pouch. Graft stitches together using Kitchener stitch. Trim remaining yarn tail to 2" and push to inside of pouch.

[Judy's Magic Cast On](http://www.knitty.com/ISSUESpring06/FEATmagiccaston.html)

Instructions for Oval Soap Saver:

Measure the circumference of your bar of soap at its widest point, then multiply this measurement by gauge (5.5) and then subtract 12 to get the number of cast on stitches. The oval bar pictured (Dove soap) was slightly less than 6 inches around the middle, so the cast on was $32 - 12 = 20$ stitches, 10 on each needle for Magic Loop Method.

With D, cast on required number of stitches with Judy's Magic Cast On for your type of needle, dividing evenly across needles (pattern assumes 4 needles for DPNs, with 5th needle as working needle). Knit one round in D (note that the second half of the stitches of this first round must be knitted through the back loop to twist them).

Round 2 (increase) – First needle: Still with D, k1, kfb, knit to last 2 sts on first needle (second needle for DPNs), kfb, k1. Repeat for second needle (third and fourth for DPNs). (4 stitches increased.)

Round 3: Still with D, knit across all stitches.

Rounds 5 and 6: With B, repeat rounds 2 and 3. (4 stitches increased.)

Rounds 7 and 8: With D, repeat rounds 2 and 3. (4 stitches increased.)

Round 9: With B, knit across all stitches.

Knitting all rounds (no increases), continue color sequence as follows (or work your chosen color sequence), breaking each color as you finish with it and leaving a 2" tail on inside of pouch, until your pouch is 1" shorter than your bar of soap:

F, F, B, B, F, C, C, F, F, C, E, E, C, C, E

Decrease Round 1 – First needle: With A, k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts of first needle (second needle for DPNs), k2tog, k1. Repeat for second needle (third and fourth for DPNs). (4 stitches decreased.)

Round 2 – Still with A, knit across all stitches.

Decrease rounds 3 and 4: With E, repeat rounds 1 and 2. (4 stitches decreased.)

Decrease rounds 5 and 6: With A, repeat rounds 1 and 2. (4 stitches decreased.)

Round 7: With A, knit across all stitches.

Last row: Still with A, knit across half the stitches (getting them all on one needle if using double points). Make sure second half of stitches are all on one needle. Cut A, leaving a tail of about 10", and place soap inside pouch. Graft stitches together using Kitchener stitch. Trim remaining yarn tail to 2" and push to inside of pouch.

Hand-Felting Your Soap Saver: In a bowl of hot water, dip your soap saver pouch to wet it thoroughly, then lightly rub the surface with your hands until the yarn begins to felt (it may take a few minutes). Continue dipping and rubbing the bar until it's felted to your desired look, paying extra attention to corners – the more you rub, the more the knitted fabric will felt and shrink to fit the bar. The soap saver will continue to felt as you use the soap, shrinking to fit the bar as it gets smaller. Store on a soap dish to let it dry between uses. When the soap is gone, you can snip open the end and insert another bar, or use the soap saver as a scrubby! Enjoy!