

# Something Fishy!

©2006 Terry Ross Designs

## Materials:

*Bag* – 1 ball KnitPicks Wool of the Andes in Blue Bonnet

1 ball KnitPicks Palette in Pool

1 ball Crystal Palace Yarns Merino Frappe in Caribbean

*Fish* – 1 ball Crystal Palace Yarns Fjord Vine Green

1 ball Crystal Palace Yarns Fjord in Aloe

1 US size #17 circular needle, 26"

1 pair US size #11 needles, straight or circular

4 stitch markers, one of which is a unique color to mark the beginning of the round

Tapestry needle for weaving in ends

Clear-drying flexible fabric glue

Flat, round spangles in 2 colors for fish scales

Assorted small beads for encrusting tail, fins, and mouth

Pearl beads for bubbles and eye

Coordinating sewing thread

Sewing needle

Crystal Palace Yarns purse handle #HD-09CL (see [www.straw.com](http://www.straw.com) for more details)

Snap closure



## Dimensions:

Before felting – 12" wide, 1½" deep, 13" tall

After felting – 10" wide, 1" deep, 8" tall

## Gauge:

2¼" stitches per inch and 3 rows per inch in stockinette in the round with #17 needles

## Abbreviations:

CO Cast on

PM Place marker

K Knit

BO Bind off

SSK Slip, slip, knit

K2tog Knit two together

## Begin the Bag:

Work the bag from the top down. A long tail cast on is preferable. This particular bag was cast on with the Twisted German Cast On. Use one strand each of the Blue Bonnet, Pool, and Caribbean yarns and the #17 needle and CO24, PM, CO6, PM, CO24, PM, CO6, place the uniquely colored marker (60 stitches cast on). Without twisting the yarn, join and begin knitting in the round. Knit two rounds.

## Work the Buttonhole:

K1, \*BO4, K2\* to the last 5 stitches before the end of the round and then BO4, K1. The K2 at each corner will straddle your markers, but don't let that throw you. The markers are there to assist in the bag's bottom

construction.

Next round, K1, \*CO4, K2\* to the last stitch before the end of the round and then CO4, K1. A cable cast on is preferable for the buttonholes to add stability to them during felting.

Continue knitting in the round in stockinette stitch (knit all stitches on every round) until you have worked a total of 40 rounds from the cast on edge.

### **Work the Bottom of the Bag:**

Work a mitered bottom as follows –

- 1) \*SSK, K to 2 stitches before the marker, K2tog\* around (52 stitches)
- 2) K
- 3) \*SSK, K to 2 stitches before the marker, K2tog\* around (44 stitches total, with only 2 left on each of the side ends of the bag)
- 4) K

Divide the 44 stitches so that all of the front stitches plus one from each of the ends is on one needle, with all the rest on the other needle. There will be 22 stitches on each needle.

Turn the bag wrong side out and do a 3-needle bind off. Cut yarn and weave in ends.

### **Knit a Swatch for the Fish:**

CO 30 stitches using the size #11 needle and one strand each of the Vine Green and Aloe. Knit in stockinette stitch (knit every right side row, purl every wrong side row) until the swatch is a rectangle that is at least 12" long. BO.

### **Finishing:**

Felt both the bag and the swatch to a dense fabric. Shape and let the pieces dry fully.

Use the fish template below to trace and cut out a fish shape from the green rectangle, reducing or enlarging the image to suit your own bag's dimensions.

On what will be the right side of the fish, apply fabric glue to the fins, tail, and where you want the fish's mouth to be. A small crafter's paint brush is good for spreading the glue onto the areas you want covered, if you don't like to get your finger gluey. Use enough glue so that the beads will adhere well.

Put the small assorted beads into a paper plate and dip the glue covered portions into the beads until you have covered the fins, tail, and mouth to suit your taste. Set the fish aside to allow the glue to dry completely.

When the fish is dry, apply the spangles one at a time in layers, beginning at the tail and working toward the head. Put a drop of fabric glue on the back of each spangle and apply in rows, overlapping the spangles so they look like fish scales.

Use one light colored spangle for the fish's eye, and then embed one pearl bead on that spangle to create the iris of the eye.

When the fish has completely dried, you may want to coat the tail, fins, and mouth in 1 or 2 light coats of polyurethane gloss to set the beads a bit more securely.

Place the fish on the front of the bag, and then mark the locations where you will apply the pearl bead bubbles. Remove the fish, sew on the bubbles with coordinating sewing thread.

Glue the fish to the front of the bag and let it dry completely before installing the purse handles and a snap closure.

