

Fuzzy Firs by Katie Startzman

This pattern was inspired by the way some kids draw pine trees. The trees make a good seasonal decoration clustered on a mantle or tied onto a gift. Quick to knit!

SIZE

2 sizes: large and small

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Height: 5.5 [3.5] inches after felting
Width: 4.25[3.25] inches after felting



MATERIALS

[MC] KnitPicks [100% wool; 110 yd/m per 50g skein]; color: Grass; 1 skein
[MC] KnitPicks [100% wool; 110 yd/m per 50g skein]; color: Chestnut; 1 skein

1 set of 4 US #10/6mm double pointed needles

Notions required

1/8 inch dowel or bamboo skewers, three pieces 5.5 inches for large tree, two pieces 3.5 inches for small tree

Yarn needle

GAUGE

18 sts/20 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch before felting

PATTERN NOTES

The green parts of the trees are knit on dpns with regularly spaced decreases for shaping. The trunk worked in i-cord with a few thin dowels providing support. Instead of weaving in ends, I find it works to trim ends to an inch and pull apart the strands to fray.

PATTERN

Lowest section

CO 61 [41] stitches. Divide evenly on 3 dpns. Put the first cast on stitch on the needle next to the last cast on stitch. Join by pulling the first stitch over the last stitch 60[40] stitches. Place marker to mark beginning of the round.

K1 k2tog around 40[25] stitches

Knit 3 rows

K6 [3] k2tog around 35[20] stitches

Knit 2 rows

K5[2] k2 tog around 30[15] stitches

Knit 2 rows

K 4[1] k2tog around 25[10] stitches

Small only:

K2tog around

K 2 rows, bind off

Large size only:

Knit 2 rows

K3 k2tog around 20 stitches

Knit 2 rows

K2 tog around 10 stitches

Knit 3 rows, bind off.

Middle section

CO 46[31] stitches. Divide evenly on 3 dpns. Put the first cast on stitch on the needle, next to the last cast on stitch. Join by pulling the first stitch over the last stitch 45[30] stitches. Place marker to mark beginning of the round.

K1 k2tog around 30[20] stitches

Knit 3[2] rows

K4[2] k2tog around 25[15] stitches

Knit 2 rows

K3[1] k2 tog around 20[10] stitches

Small only:

K2tog around,

K 2 rows, bind off

Large size only:

Knit 2 rows

K 2 k2tog around 15 stitches

Knit 2 rows

K1 k2tog around 10 stitches

Knit 2 rows

Knit 3 rows, bind off.

Top section

CO 41[25] stitches. Divide evenly on 3 dpns. Divide evenly on 3 dpns. Put the first cast on stitch on the needle, next to the last cast on stitch. Join by pulling the first stitch over the last stitch 40[24] stitches. Place marker to mark beginning of the round.

K1 k2tog around 25[16] stitches

K3[2] k2tog around 20[12] stitches

Knit 2 rows

K2[1] k2tog around 15[8] stitches

Knit 2 rows

Small only:
K2tog around, bind off.

Large only:
K 1 k2tog around 10 stitches
K2tog around 5 stitches
Bind off.

Tree trunk

Cast on 7[5] stitches
Work I-cord for 32[20] rows
KFB in all stitches, 14[10] sts
KFB around in all stitches, 28[20] sts
Divide stitches evenly on three dpn's

Large only:
K1 kfb around 42 sts
Purl one row
K4 k2tog around 35 sts

Both sizes:
K3 k2tog around 28[16] sts
K2 k2tog around 21[12] sts
K1 k2tog around 14[8] sts
K2tog around 7[4] sts

Cut yarn and pull end through remaining stitches.

FINISHING

I find that small pieces like this felt better by hand, rather than using the washing machine. Felt pieces by applying a couple drops of dish soap and rubbing them between your hands and alternately dipping them into bowls of hot and cold water. I roll them between my hands then open them up, turn, roll, dip and squeeze. To speed the process along, I add another couple drops of soap now and then. How can you tell when it's done? I shoot for no stitch definition, it should look like a smooth piece of fuzzy fabric, dense and firm. After it is satisfactorily felted, rinse in cold water. Trim yarn ends closely. Insert a thin knitting needle in the trunk to clear the way for the dowel, then insert the dowel through the trunk. Push the dowels all the way through the bottom of the base, so they are visible, then stand the trunk upright to make them flush with the base. I found that the trees were more stable with three small dowels rather than one large one. Pull the tree pieces down the trunk, first the bottom, then the middle and last the top.