**Small Felted Crochet Bowl**



**by Sue Parker, of Sheepfold**

This bowl is crocheted loosely then felted in your washing machine. During the felting process the bowl will shrink considerably and become much sturdier. Any decorations must be added after this felting stage.

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**Materials required:**

* Approx 60g/2oz aran weight pure feltable wool. The wool you use must NOT be machine washable. If in doubt, test a small sample first!
* 5.5 mm /size I crochet hook
* Wool needle to sew in ends
* Optional: materials for decorating your bowl after felting

**Approx finished size (before felting):**

Diameter: 17 cm/ 63/4 inches, height: 8-9 cm/ 31/4-31/2 inches

**Instructions:**

**Base of bowl:** Work 4 chain (ch), then join in a ring with slip stitch (ss).

*Round 1*: 3 ch to stand as first treble (tr). Work 15 more tr into circle.

1 ss into 3rd of 3 ch (total of 16 st)

*Round 2:* 3 ch, 2 tr into each tr of *round 1*, 1 tr into base of 3 ch, 1 ss into 3rd of 3 ch to complete round (total of 32 st)

*Round 3:* 3 ch, \*1 tr into next st, then 2 tr into next st\*\*. Repeat \* to \*\* to last st. 1 tr into last st then 1 tr into base of 3 ch, 1 ss into 3rd of 3 ch to complete round (total of 48 st)

*Round 4:* 3 ch, 1 tr into each tr of *round 3*. 1 ss into 3rd of 3 ch to complete round (total of 48 st)

*Round 5:* 3 ch, \*1 tr into each of next 2 st, 2 tr into next st\*\*. Repeat \* to \*\* to last 2 st. 1 tr into each of these last 2 st. 1 tr into base of 3 ch, 1 ss into 3rd of 3 ch to complete round (total of 64 st). Fasten off and break yarn.

*Rounds 6-10:* Continue by crocheting 5 more rounds with no increases, ie

1 tr into each stitch in the previous round and 1 ss into 3rd of 3 ch to complete each round.

Round 11: 1 double crochet (dc) into each stitch in the previous round.

1 ss into 3rd of 3 ch to complete round. Fasten off and break yarn.

**Finishing:** Finish off all ends of yarn by weaving into the work, before felting.

**Felting:**

Felt your bowl in the washing machine by placing the bowl in a zippered mesh bag or pillowcase in your machine, with a couple of towels or pairs of jeans to give the necessary agitation. Add a small amount of washing powder, but no fabric conditioner. For the photographed bowl, I used 2 washes on a 60° cycle with the time saving option and 500 spin cycle. A low level spin, if an available option on your machine, reduces the risk of crumpling your bowl. Check and reshape the bowl between each wash. When felted to the desired level, remove from your washing machine and leave somewhere warm to dry out completely. To give a lovely round shape we suggest that you place the bowl over a cylindrical object, such as a small ice-cream container or margarine pot, while drying.

**Decoration:**

If you wish, the bowl can be decorated once dry. Eg sewing on buttons or other pretty objects, needle felting or embroidery. The possibilities are endless.

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