



## *Knitspeak Slipcase, a Felted Book Cover* for Knitspeak: An A to Z Guide to the Language of Knitting Patterns by Andrea Price

Knitspeak should be in every knitting bag, at the ready in case of confusion. Here is a pattern for a protective felted case to keep the little pink book from getting dog-eared.

The pattern is written in Knitspeak, that is, with abbreviations, and then translated into English with notes and explanations on the side.

### **Skills Required:**

- Cast on (Knitspeak page 60)
- Knit (Knitspeak page 96)
- Purl (Knitspeak page 128)
- Pick up and knit (Knitspeak page 138)]
- Backwards loop cast on (Knitspeak page 40)
- Bind off (Knitspeak page 45)



The color combination shown is:

Manos del Uruguay, color 57 Raspberry  
Cascade 220, color 7802 Cerise  
Peace Fleece Saba Green 1 mini-skein



### Materials:

**Yarn:** 1 skein of each of the main colors and one mini-skein of the saba green will be plenty for a couple of bags.

**Needles:** Metric size American size 11

Directions are given for circular, magic loop knitting on one 28" needle. Double pointed needles will work just fine.

**Gauge:** Pre-Felting 16 stitches and 22 rows in 4 inches (not crucial, as the bag will be felted)

### Notes and Niceties

★ Before you start, make a largish test swatch (KS page 164, for more details, see Gauge on page 82) in stockinette stitch (Knitspeak page 161) and note down the size needles you used along with the number of stitches. Measure the width and length. Felt the sample (see the notes on felting at the end of this pattern) and measure it. Technically, you should knit your swatch in the round in order to see how the tension will work, but the gauge means less in this project because the felting process changes the fabric so drastically.

★ If you don't like making test swatches, keep close tabs on the felting process so you can control the finished size of the bag.

★ If you use Peace Fleece for the contrasting color, use thin stripes of the Peace Fleece because it does not felt as much as the Cascade 220. *Regarding yarn substitution:* Any worsted weight wool yarn that will felt. Examples are: Cascade 220, Brown Sheep by Nature Spun, Manos del Uruguay.

★ KS = Knitspeak: An A to Z Guide to the Language of Knitting Patterns by Andrea Price



## 1. Knit the bottom of the bag in Garter stitch

CO 12

K in G St until you have 27 ridges (56 rows)

<b>English Translation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Cast on 12 stitches (KS page 60).	Count each loop as one stitch.
Knit every row	That's Garter Stitch, KS page 80.
Stop when you have completed 27ridges, or 56 rows.	Two ridges make one row.

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## 2. Pick up stitches for the sides and knit around up to the handles

PU and K 27 st along side

PU and knit 12 st across short side

PU and knit 27 st on long side

PM (78 St)

K round in St st until piece meas 7" from bottom edge, changing colors as you wish to make stripes.

<b>English Translation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Pick up and knit.  If you are knitting with five double-pointed needles, put 12 stitches on the first, 27 on the second, 12 on the third, and 27 on the fourth needle (knit with the fifth).	<u>Note</u> : Bringing a loop up through the edge of the knitting and up onto the needle is "picking up and knitting" - you don't have to do anything further to "knit" this stitch (KS pg 138).
Pick up and knit 12 stitches across the short side.	
Pick up and knit 27 stitches along the side.	
Place marker (KS page 135 for Place Marker, 163 for Stitch Marker for more detail).	This way, you will know where one round ends and the next begins.
Reality check: You should have 78 stitches (KS page 9).	If you are using a 28 " circular needle, you will have to stretch the knitting a little bit to get around the first few times
Knit in the round.  Stop when the piece measures 7" from the edge where you picked up the stitches to just below the knitting needle.	Knitting every row in the round creates stockinette stitch (KS page 161).  To create stripes, drop one color at the end of a round and pick up a new one, continuing to knit with the new color. (see KS page 36 for Attach new ball of yarn)

3. Place markers for the handles  
 On next round, K 12 PM  
 K 27 PM  
 K 12 PM  
 K 27 PM

<i>English Translation</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Continue to knit around. Knit 12, then place a marker	On this round, you will be inserting markers into the knitting as you go. Nothing in the actual knitting changes.
Knit 27, place marker	
Knit 12, place marker	
Knit 27, place marker	

4. Create the handles

**Step A: Binding off for handles**

K12, SM  
 K9, BO 9, K9, SM  
 K12, SM  
 K9, BO 9, K9, SM



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## Step B: Casting on for handles

K12, SM

K9, CO 9 using backwards loop method, K9, SM

K12, SM

K9, CO 9 using backwards loop method, K9, SM

<i>English</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Knit 12, slip marker to the next needle	
Knit 9, bind off 9, knit 9, slip marker	Bind off (Knitspeak page 45)
Knit 12, slip marker	
Knit 9, bind off 9, knit 9, slip marker	
Knit 12, slip marker	
Knit 9, cast on 9 stitches using the backwards loop method, knit 9, slip marker	Backwards loop cast-on (Knitspeak page40)
Knit 12, slip marker	
Knit 9, cast on 9 stitches using the backwards loop method knit 9, slip marker	

## 5. Knit the top edge

K 1 round, dropping markers except for beg of rnd

K until piece meas 1½ to 2” from handle edge

BO

Weave in ends

<b>English Translation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Knit 1 round, letting the markers slip off, except for the one that marks the end/beginning of the round.	
Knit until the part above the handle is about 1½ to 2"	
Bind off	(KS page 45).
Weave in ends	(KS page 177)

## 4 Felting

There are extensive discussions elsewhere on the best way to felt; you may want to check these out before proceeding.

Here is a basic method:

Place the bag in a pillow case, and knot or pin the top closed so it won't come undone in the wash (this protects your washer from extra fuzz). Put it in the washer with a little mild dish detergent, on HOT setting.

Mid-way through the cycle, open the machine and check inside the pillow case. In my washing machine, Cascade 220 with a little Peace Fleece took 2 short wash cycles to shrink down to the size of the book cover.

Put a plastic bag over the top of the cereal box (a Grape Nuts box works well) (the bag prevents the cereal from getting soggy).

Stretch the felted bag, if necessary, so it fits over the top, and let it dry.

## 6 Variations

Play with the stripes, making them wider, random, or thick and thin.

Make a stripe of non-felting eyelash or fur yarn at the top (acrylic and other non-animal fibers will not felt).

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