

Bevy of Bangles

by Mags Kandis

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Joe Hancock

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FINISHED SIZE

About 7½" (19 cm) inside circumference.

YARN

Bulky (#5 Bulky) and sportweight (#2 Fine).

Shown here: FELTED BASES: Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Bulky (85% wool, 15% mohair; 125 yd [114 m]/100 g): #m04 charcoal heather, #m162 mulberry, #m145 spice, #m173 wild violet, #m18 khaki, small amounts of each.

WRAPPING YARN: Brown Sheep Cotton Fine (80% cotton, 20% merino; 222 yd [203 m]/50 g): #cf930 candy apple, #cf005 cavern, #cf375 rue, #cf770 wisteria, #cf455 willow leaf, #cf450 oriental jade, and #cf860 Sedona red, small amounts of each.

NEEDLES

Size U.S. 11 (8 mm): straight *plus* 1 extra needle for three-needle bind-off.

NOTIONS

Size L/11 (8 mm) crochet hook and smooth waste yarn for provisional caston; tapestry needle.

GAUGE

About 10 stitches and 13 rows = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch, before felting. Exact gauge is not crucial for this project.

NOTES

- *The bangles are shown in two sizes based on the number of stitches cast-on. The pattern is written for the thinner size with the thicker size in parentheses.
- *Some of the bangle bases are knitted in a single color, others are worked in two colors. Try different combinations, have fun, and savor your time playing with color.
- *For thicker bands of color, double the yarn when wrapping the bangle; for thinner bands, use a single strand. Experiment to get the look you want.
- *One skein of Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Bulky is enough for at least a dozen bangle bases.



Bevy of Bangles

These silent bangles came to be because of my love of big, bold bracelets and my loathing of the clang, clang, clunk that almost always accompanies them. The first time I wore an armful to "girl's night," all my girlfriends wanted their own. I spent one evening knitting up a basket full of bases, then on the following afternoon, I tossed them all into the wash to felt them. I spent the next available evening surrounded by colorful cotton yarn, wrapping and playing to make each bangle unique.

FELTED BASE

With bulky yarn and using the crochet provisional method (see Glossary), CO 5 (7) sts. Work even in St st for 40 rows—piece measures about 12¼" (31 cm) from CO. Carefully remove the waste yarn from the provisional CO and place the live sts on a needle. Hold the needles parallel with RS of work facing tog to form a ring and use the three-needle method (see Glossary) to BO the sts tog. Weave in loose ends.

FELTING

See page 118 for felting instructions.

FINISHING

Thread a length of wrapping yarn on a tapestry needle. Secure the yarn on the inside of the bangle, then wrap the yarn around the base ring, using even tension to ensure that the base ring doesn't compress too tightly or that the wraps aren't too loose and appear sloppy.

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FELTING

When it comes to felting, you don't have to limit yourself to pure wool. Alpaca, camel, yak, cashmere, mohair, and angora all have great felting potential. But because every yarn felts differently, it is important that you knit and felt a generous swatch to understand how a particular yarn will behave. Try felting blends of these fibers with nonfelting fibers—silk, tencel, rayon, or soy—for an inspiring adventure. Swatch and wash to discover the possibilities. There is no magical formula when it comes to the shrinking factor of a felted project. Therefore, it's always a good idea to take the time to knit and wash a swatch. Every yarn felts differently—even different colors of the same yarn can have very different results. Small projects are best handfelted. Be careful not to let the inside of a project fuse together. I had to gently pry apart the sides of my first felted egg cozy and the crease never went away. Check the progress periodically and never underestimate how quickly an item can go from floppy to felted. When felting in the washing machine, place the project in a lingerie bag or pillowcase to reduce the amount of fiber that can escape and clog the machine or attach to the next load of laundry. Keep in mind that what appears to be a felting disaster may in fact be a wonderful opportunity. I have had more than my share of mishaps when felting. The boo-boos that I've collected over the years have become inspiring materials for other projects.

Crochet Chain Provisional Cast-On

With waste yarn and crochet hook, make a loose crochet chain about four stitches more than you need to cast on. With knitting needle, working yarn, and beginning two stitches from end of chain, pick up and knit one stitch through the back loop of each crochet chain (**figure 1**) for desired number of stitches. When you're ready to work in the opposite direction, pull out the crochet chain to expose live stitches (**figure 2**).

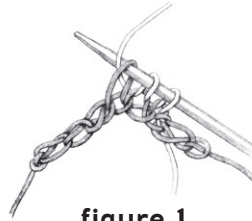


figure 1

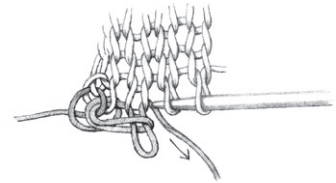


figure 2

Three-Needle Bind-Off

Place the stitches to be joined onto two separate needles and hold the needles parallel so that the right sides of the knitting face together. Insert a third needle into the first stitch on each of the two needles (**figure 1**) and knit them together as a single stitch (**figure 2**). *Knit the next stitch on each needle the same way, then use the left needle tip to lift the first stitch over the second and off the needle (**figure 3**). Repeat from * until no stitches remain on the first two needles. Cut the yarn and pull the tail through the last stitch to secure it.

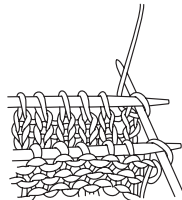


figure 1

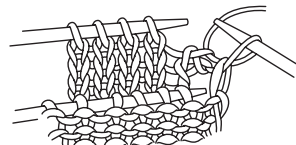


figure 2

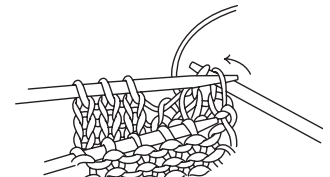



figure 3



bookEXCERPT

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