

# Felted Colorblock Vase (updated on April 28, 2012)

By [MakerKnit.com](http://MakerKnit.com)

I have a wall vase that I just love and buy flowers for it regularly. My favorite filler for this vase is Alstroemeria and I usually buy one large bunch or two small bunches in the same color. A couple of weeks ago my daughter wanted to get two small bunches in different colors—one a deep pink, the other a lovely orange—and I thought, “Why not?”

Combining the flowers at home, they made a beautiful bouquet, and I so liked the colors together that I was inspired to try making a small felted vase. The pink and orange together seemed so spring-like and cheerful and a similarly-colored vase would make such a happy addition to our dining table. I put a small glass in the bottom to hold the water, and also to help weight the vase so it wouldn't tip over.

Although I intended this to be a vase, it could be used as a pen or pencil cup or as a holder for knitting needles. Try adding some pennies or marbles to the bottom for weight if needed.

## YARN

Cascade 220 (100% wool; 220 yds/100 g), 1 hank each in colors #7802 Cerise (dark pink) and #7826 California Poppy (orange).

## NEEDLES & NOTIONS

US 10.5 (6.5mm), set of 4 dpns.  
Darning needle to finish.

## GAUGE

Not critical, but pre-felted approx 4 sts and 5 rows = 1" in St st.

## FINISHED SIZE

Approx 4.25" across top, 5" tall, and 11.5" in circumference. (Pre-felting size: approx. 4.75" across top from edge to edge, 6" tall with edge rolled, and 13" in circumference.)



Vase after and before felting (photos not to scale).



Felted vase with light pink Alstroemeria.



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## NOTES

This vase is knitted from the top down, with yarns held double throughout. It begins with 10 rounds in orange, followed by 2 rounds where you alternate between orange and pink, and then 20 rounds in pink before beginning the 6-round bottom decrease sequence.

On the 2 rounds where you alternate between orange and pink, knit as you would for Fair Isle: carry the yarn not in use loosely across the back of your work. Because you are only knitting 4 or 5 sts before switching colors and the vase will be felted in the end, it is not necessary to secure those small floats between color changes. Just make sure your floats are loose so your vase doesn't pucker along those 2 rounds.

## INSTRUCTIONS

**\*Note. Yarn is held double throughout the entire pattern.**

With orange yarn, CO 45 sts and spread over 3 dpns—15 sts each. PM and join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts.

Rnds 1 through 10 (orange only): k.

Rnds 11 & 12 (alternating orange and pink): \*with orange k4, with pink k5; rep from \* to end of rnd. Cut orange yarn after Rnd 12.

Rnds 13 through 32 (pink only): k.

## Decrease Rnds

\*Note. In order to execute the decrease pattern, on two of the rnds you will have to slip sts (slip them pwise) from one dpn to another dpn. Before beginning Rnd 5, slip the last st from dpn #1 to dpn #2, and slip the first st from dpn #3 to dpn #2, then proceed with Rnd 5. Before starting Rnd 6, slip the first st from dpn #2 to dpn #1, then proceed with Rnd 6.

Rnd 1: \*ssk, k5, k2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (35 sts).

Rnds 2 & 4: k.

Rnd 3: \*ssk, k3, k2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (25 sts).

Rnd 5 (remember to move sts before begin): \*ssk, k1, k2tog; rep from \* to end of rnd (15 sts).

Rnd 6 (remember to move st before begin): \*ssk, k2tog; rep from \* to last 3 sts, end ssk, k1 (8 sts).

## FINISHING & FELTING

DO NOT BIND OFF. Cut yarn leaving a 10" tail. Thread tail onto darning needle and gather remaining 8 sts, pull tight and secure. Weave in and secure loose ends.

Felt to desired size in washing machine using hot water cycle and a few drops of laundry detergent. I felted my vase using my "whites" cycle (washes in hot water, rinses in cold), which runs for 1 hour and



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25 minutes. If you have a front-loading washing machine, you'll need to add something to provide agitation; I have found that 3 tennis balls work for small projects such as this vase. If you're not familiar with how your washing machine will felt something, check on your vase throughout the cycle and remove it from the machine when it has shrunk to the size you desire. If your vase reaches the size you prefer before going through the spin cycle, remove as much water as you can from the vase by rolling it in a clean towel and squeezing gently.

Find an object that is hard and similar in shape and size to what you want your finished vase to look like to use as your "drying object." I used a 12-ounce beverage glass. You might also use another vase or a canning jar. Place the damp vase over the object and manipulate the vase to your desired shape—you can pull it down over the object and shape it so it's taller and thinner (as I did by inverting my glass and vase) or you can place something wider inside your vase to make it shorter and stouter, whichever is most useful to you or suits your taste. Let the vase dry over the object, periodically checking on how it's drying and reshape as desired. When your vase is fully dry, place a small, weighted glass in the bottom, fill with water and flowers, and enjoy!

## ABBREVIATIONS

approx	approximately
CO	cast on
dpn(s)	double-pointed needle(s)
g	gram(s)
k	knit
kwise	knitwise, as if to knit
k2tog	knit 2 sts together
mm	millimeter(s)
PM	place marker
pwise	purlwise, as if to purl
rep	repeat
rnd(s)	round(s)
ssk	slip 1 st kwise, slip 1 st kwise, k these 2 sts together through their back loops
st(s)	stitch(es)
St st	Stockinette stitch
yd(s)	yard(s)



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