

Embellishing Options and Techniques

OK – you’ve done a beautiful job knitting and felting your bag and are ready to decorate it and make it uniquely yours. NOW WHAT???

There are many options for bag decoration, and no limit to the different looks you can achieve. Here are a few of the different techniques that are simple and fun to get you started.

Button stacking – if one button is good, are two or three great? Find buttons in complimentary colors and graduated sizes that match your bag and “stack” them on top of each other before you sew them on. They add an almost sculptural quality to your work and a lot of visual interest.

Ribbon – sometimes nothing more than a beautiful bow is all you need tied to the handle of your bag to make it beautiful. Double up your ribbon for a fuller more feminine effect.

Lace – a lace strip sewn across the front of your bag says “girl” and “formal”. A half yard will do it, so splurge on something great!

Fabric flowers – find silk flowers or leaves you love and simply sew them on your bag.

Beading – beads can create a number of great effects – sparkle, ethnic, funky, elegant or handmade. Many of the large chain craft stores have a great selection in every color and texture. Sew them on with clear fishing line for an embellishment that can easily stand up to everyday use.

Jewelry findings – look around a chain craft store in the jewelry department. There are beautiful medallions, closures, chains, and all sorts of fun items you could use on a bag.

Fabulous handles – a special handle can be a great foundation for your overall look! Google “bag handles” or look around your favorite craft or sewing store.

Want to try your hand at something more challenging? Here are a few more ideas...

Needle felting – there is no end to the options you have when you “paint with fleece.” It takes a little practice, but needle felting allows you to work 2-D or 3-D, combine colors, and do abstract or very literal art on your bag. All it takes is some fleece, a single felting needle and your imagination. There are many tutorials on YouTube.

Knitted and felted flowers and leaves – there are many websites and patterns for flowers and leaves you can knit, felt, and then apply to your bag. Check on line for ideas. This is a good way to use up some of your worsted wool stash!

Most importantly...just have fun with this! There is no right or wrong. You are a designer in your own right!