

# The Best Potholders — Ever

Potholders made from felted wool are the bees' knees! Two layers of recycled, felted wool blankets or wool sweaters make it impossible to burn yourself. Wool potholders can be machine-washed when they get gunky, because the felted fabric has been pre-shrunk. And, wool is naturally flame resistant. I like to cut out a bunch of potholders, then tuck the pieces along with yarn and needles into a little bag so I have an easy project on hand when talking on the phone or visiting with friends.



You can stitch a pair of these in less than an hour. Stitch on a saying ("hot, hot, hot" or "If you can't take the heat. . .") or just work Blanket Stitch edging and leave the middle plain; they'll still be cute.

**FINISHED SIZE:** 7½" circles and 7½" and 8½" squares

#### FABRIC

Various small pieces of wool blankets or wool sweaters, felted and dyed in fun colors

#### THREAD

One 8-yard, 3-ply skein of dark brown Persian wool; or odds and ends of worsted-weight wool knitting yarn

I used Paternayan, Coffee Brown/420.

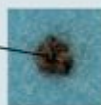
#### NOTIONS

Size 20 chenille needle

One 7½" salad plate, as a template for the circular potholder

#### STITCHES

French Knot  
(page 29)



Lazy Daisy  
(page 27)



Straight Stitch  
(page 24)



Blanket Stitch  
(page 26)



#### PREPARING THE FABRIC

1. Cut two pieces (see sizes at left) for each potholder: one color for back and one for front. (Trace a salad plate for circle.)
2. Cut a hanging loop ⅝" by 4" in a third color.

#### STITCHING THE DESIGN

3. Decorate front or both sides with any of the following motifs:
  - Four or five Lazy Daisy flowers, randomly spaced
  - Straight Stitch around a point to form a five-pointed star
  - French Knots, randomly spaced
4. Pin pieces together, wrong sides facing. Fold loop in half and pin it between the two layers at a corner or anywhere along circle. Allow ends of loop to extend about ½" into potholder.
5. Use Blanket Stitch to attach the two pieces. When you get to the loop, stitch through all three layers (see below). Work three stitches at each corner to turn (see page 26).

#### FINISHING THE POTHOLDERS

6. Neaten the thread ends by trimming to ¼", and remove all marking lines. Block (see page 21).

### blanket stitch, interrupted

To work Blanket Stitch in two steps, poke the needle through all three layers of fabric, and pull the thread to the back of the work, keeping a loop at the front. Now return the needle to the front of the work by poking the needle through the middle layer only, neatly enclosing all three layers. Make sure you finish the Blanket Stitch on the front by catching the needle in the loop you left loose.

