

Embellished & Felted Pet Collar Tutorial

A quick, easy project to make an out-of-the-ordinary accessory for the four-legged friend in your life. Requires basic knitting or crochet as well as hand-sewing skills. Suitable, with adult supervision, for children 9 and up.

BY MY SAVANNAH COTTAGE

MATERIALS

- ~ Less than 1/4 skein worsted weight wool
- ~ U.S. F crochet hook or U.S. 6-7 straight or circular knitting needles
- ~ 1 parachute buckle
- ~ 1 D-ring (optional)
- ~ Buttons, beads and/or charms for decoration
- ~ 1/8 yard lining fabric
- ~ Sewing needle and thread to match



1. STITCH IT

Using pet's current collar as a guide, knit or crochet lengthwise approximately twice the length of the collar as it fits your pet comfortably. (If you knit or crochet the collar width-wise, the edges will zig and zag and be crooked when the item is felted.) After felting, the collar will shrink lengthwise but hardly at all width-wise, so make the collar close to the width you want. (For a small dog such as the Yorkie pictured above, 3/4" is a good width; my miniature schnauzer, on the right above, wears a 1" collar.)

To crochet: Chain appropriate number of chains for the length of your collar. Turn and single crochet into second chain, then each chain to end. Repeat for as many rows as you need for the width of the collar, fasten off.

To knit: Cast on appropriate number of stitches for the length of your collar. Knit in garter stitch for as many rows as you need for the width of the collar, bind off.

2. FELT IT

Place the collar in a lingerie bag and wash in your washing machine on the hottest temperature possible, along with at least two or three other items. You will probably want to wash the collar at least twice to get the most felting possible. Block lightly, straightening the collar and pinning it, until dry.



3. SEW IT

Re-measure the collar against your pet's old collar, subtracting up to an inch, as the collar will inevitably stretch somewhat once it is on your pet. Thread the ends through the parachute buckle loops and slip the D-ring for your pet's tag or a charm on one end, pictured below left. Stitch both ends down, pictured below right.



Spacing carefully, hand-stitch the beads or buttons to the collar, reinforcing enough to withstand plenty of wear and tear.



4. LINE IT

Lay collar over fabric and cut fabric leaving about ½" extra on each side and about 1" more than felt portion on each end. Press fabric, turning under so the lining will fit neatly inside the edges of the collar. Using matching thread, hand-stitch the lining all the way around, clip end and stray threads.



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