Chapter Four

WOOL-FELT BAGS

Wool felt may be used for making bags too. The material will drape in attractive folds and it has enough body so that it requires very little, if any, lining.

Overarm Pouch Bag: Here is an overarm pouch bag that can be made up in a very short time. Make it to match one of the easy-to-make hats.

The material required is 15 inches of 36-inch felt.

Cutting: Cut a 2-inch band lengthwise from your piece of felt, leaving a section 13 inches x 36 inches.

Sewing: Fold the large section in the middle and sew 10½-inch side seams as indicated in the illustration. Sew these seams twice on the machine, so that they will not rip out.

Press the seams open by using a warm iron and damp cloth. Press them open all the way to the top and finish the ends (beyond the seams) by hand overcasting.

Turn the bag right side out. Arrange both sides of the top into tight pleats, and then sew the top together, stitching securely by hand.

Band: Cut two 7-inch strips from the 2-inch band that you cut off the felt originally.

Lay one strip over the other (½-inch lap), and sew on the sewing machine. Turn sides under ½ inch and continue to sew rows of stitching up and down this pieced band. Press.

Wrap this band over the joined, pleated top of the bag and bring the ends together on the underside. Lap and sew.

Collar-Box Pouch Bag: A drawstring collar-box pouch bag takes a little more
After cutting off 2" band of felt, fold large section and sew up side seams, 10½" from bottom.

Press seams open and turn right side out.

Arrange pleats in top and secure.

Cut two 7" strips from extra band. Sew together as shown.

Wrap band over pleated top of bag and sew in place.

This bag may be decorated with a design of colored felt or your initials.

Collar Box Pouch Bag (requires 15" of 36" felt).
BASE PATTERN — rectangle 7½" x 8½". Round off corners as shown.

Using this pattern, cut buckram and wire edge of buckram. (left) Sew strip of buckram (4" x 27") to same wire used in base. (right) When box is completed, sew ends and sew another piece of wire around to

Line buckram box with taffeta lining, using same measurements except make seam allowance and make long strip 2" wider (6 x 28").

After seams are sewn in lining, fit into buckram base, turning taffeta over edge of wire. Tack lining in place.

Use same base pattern for cutting felt, except make ¼" seam allowance all around. (Follow layout in cutting felt.)

Piece band sections.

Lay band lengthwise on your large piece of felt, 3" from top edge. Sew (machine) both edges of strip to bag.
Fold felt (band inside) and make side seam. Press seam open.

Turn bag right side out.

Sew felt base to bottom of bag.

Make slits in band and run a cord through banding.

Insert taffeta lined base into bottom of bag.

Fit the taffeta lining into the base, bring top edge of taffeta over edge of box and tack in place.

The base pattern is used again when you cut your felt, and again ¼-inch seam allowance is made all around the edge.

After your felt is cut, start to assemble by piecing the band sections. Lay one end 1/3 inch over another end and sew twice on the sewing machine.

Lay this pieced band lengthwise on your 28 inches of felt, about 3 inches from the top edge. Sew the band along both edges. Do not turn under.

Inner Section: After making base pattern cut buckram base, wire edge.

Cutting: Take a strip of buckram 4 inches x 28 inches and sew this piece to the same wire used in the base of the bag.

Lap the buckram, sew up the lap, and wire the top of the collar box.

Line this box with taffeta. Use the base of the pattern (allow ¼-inch seam all around) and then sew the base to a strip of taffeta 6 inches x 28 inches.

time to make because there is an inner section that must be made first.
Fold this section of felt (band inside) and make the side seam.
Press the seam open with a warm iron and a damp cloth.
Fit the oval bottom section into the main section. Baste and then sew on the sewing machine.
Turn the bag and make two slits in the banding (at each side of the side seam). Overcast the edges of the slit so that they will not tear out.

Run one yard of cord (or “Tubing,” see Chapter V) through the binding. Finish the cord with a knot at each end. Stitch the ends together.
Overcast the top edge of bag, folding the felt inside.
Insert the taffeta-lined collar box into the bottom of the felt bag. Tack it to the sides of the bag so that it will stay in place.

PROFILE “CUT-OUT” HATS

For this “profile” hat, use a crown that has been decorated by means of cutouts all around the edge.

Take strip of some stiff material (bengaline, faille, taffeta) that measures 12” x 39”. Sew ends together and gather each long side of the material. Draw gathering strings tight and secure. This gives you a “tam” or “pouf” effect. Sew to one side of the crown. Top the outside of “tam” with a large button, or piece of felt cut to size. This center trim motif should “match” the cut-outs you have made in crown. (Use circles, squares, half-moons, triangles, etc.)

Run a basic crown that fits your head and cut away all the top part, leaving a fitted band about 2½” wide all around your head. Now cut out circles of felt which measure 2¾” in diameter. You will need 15 or 20 of these. Place felt circles all around band overlapping the circles. Sew with hidden stitches. Hat may be used with or without trimming.

For a good “remake” a pastel felt was first steampressed and the brim of the hat was made into a long strip of felt. This strip of felt was used to make a large bow and then a lovely harmonizing flower trim is added to one side as illustrated.

An interesting side trim

The felt circles outlining the band gives a crown-like effect