Detlef-13 *by Wendi Dunlap*

A fun, felted laptop sleeve to keep your 13-inch laptop scratch-free when carrying it around in a backpack or totebag. It's knitted with double-stranded yarn, so it knits up quickly. "Detlef"? Read it backwards…

Size: Fits 13-inch or 13.3-inch laptop such as a Macbook.

Note on yarn selection: Don't use white yarn for this. (The yarn that looks white here is actually "Natural", a cream color.) White yarn has typically been bleached, and won't felt properly. Other colors should be fine.

Getting started:

Cast on 100 stitches, double-stranded, in the main color (MC) onto the US#13 circular needle. Join and place marker.

K all in MC until you have knitted a tube that is 4.5 inches tall.

The chart:

Switch to US #15 needles. Join the contrast color (CC), double-stranded. Follow the chart pictured here. Be very careful to keep the strands loose, as they will tighten a *lot* in felting.

The top:

Switch back to US #13 needles. Return to MC. K all in MC until the tube is 14 inches tall. Bind off loosely.
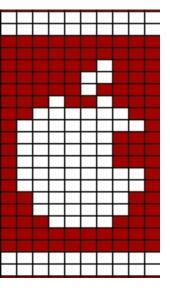
Felting:

Stitch the bottom of the tube closed. This will be the base of your bag.

Felt the bag. (Never felted before? Read this: http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEwinter03/FEATfelthis.html)

Hint: Check your work partway through the felting process. If the stranded part is pulling in too far and distorting the shape, don't panic—you can fix this! Just snip the strands on the back, then finish felting. Since it's felted, the cut strands won't slip out.

Block your bag to the size of your laptop. *Hint: Don't use your laptop to do this! You don't want to get the laptop damp! I used a pair of books that were the right size, wrapped in a plastic garbage bag so they wouldn't get ruined.* Let it dry for several days.

What you need

Assembling:

With a pair of scissors, cut down each side of the bag. You will then have something that looks like the photograph to the left—a long piece of felt. Optionally, you can leave the sides intact and put a shorter zipper along the top. If you are going to sew on a fabric lining, do it now. (I didn't line mine.)

Sew on the zipper. It will go around the three open sides of the bag. This can be a little tricky, so you might try basting it on first to make sure you get the position right. (I admit, mine is off-center!)

Voila! Now your laptop will be safe and stylish. And cats will love it, too—maybe you should make a spare for the cat. ;-)