

Elegant Velvet Clutch

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For Jimmy Beans Wool (<http://jimmybeanswool.com>)

With the holidays approaching, I wanted a cute little clutch to take with me to all of the upcoming festivities! So, I grabbed some timeless Touch Me yarn (celebrating its 20th anniversary this year!) from Muench in a gorgeous chocolate color, a lovely complementary print to line it with (Amy Butler—my personal fave!) and designed one! I added a charming button and a magnetic closure to keep all of my items safely inside. This clutch is a fun and classic addition to your holiday party wardrobe, and also makes a great gift! This would be gorgeous done in cream for a bridal gift or as a gift to your wedding party. Either way, the soft and shimmery velvet yarn paired with gorgeous fabric makes for an elegant combo!

Materials:

- 2 balls of Muench Touch Me or Touch Me Lux (Color shown is Touch Me #3628- Wine Chocolate)
- US size 6 needles (straight or circular will work)
- 1/2 a yard of a complementary fabric for lining (Fabric shown is Amy Butler Gypsy Caravan-Gypsy Mum-Wine)
- A large darning needle for sewing the knitted portion of the clutch.
- 1 Decorative Button
- 1 Magnet Tote Bag Closure
- 1/4 yd of Medium or Heavy-weight fusible interfacing.
- Fabric Scissors
- An Iron with a steam setting
- A sewing machine (optional)
- A needle and matching thread (For sewing in the lining. Hand stitching is recommended.)

Gauge:

15 sts to 4" in Stockinette Stitch

Finished Measurements:

Unfolded- for blocking:

16.5" in height and 13" wide

Folded and finished:

5.75" tall and 12.5" wide

*You don't have to get exactly these measurements. If your clutch is a bit smaller or larger than this, that's ok as long as it's even and can be folded and sewn with ease. You will cut your fabric to match your unfolded measurement so don't worry if your bag doesn't quite match this.

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Abbreviations:

-k- knit

-p- purl

-k2tog- knit the next two stitches together knitwise

-ssk- slip 1st stitch knitwise and the 2nd stitch purlwise, then insert the left needle into the front of both stitches and knit the two together.

-p2tog- purl the next two stitches together

-ssp- holding yarn in front, slip two stitches knitwise one at a time onto right needle, then slip them back onto the left needle and purl the two stitches together through the back loops.

-sk2p- slip one stitch, knit the next two stitches together, pass the slipped stitch over. (2 sts decreased.)

Directions:

Knitting:

-Cast on 50 sts.

-Rows 1-3- Knit

-Begin working in Stockinette Stitch (Knit 1 row, Purl 1 row) and continue for 12.5" ending with a purl row.

Decreases:

-Row 1 (RS)- k1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, ssk, k1.

-Row 2 (WS)- k1, p2tog, p to last 3 sts, ssp, k1.

*Repeat rows 1 and 2 until there are 4 sts left on the needle.

-Next row- k1, k2tog, k1 (3sts)

-Last row- skp

Finishing and Sewing the Clutch Together:

-Cut yarn and pull through last stitch to tie off.

-Weave in ends and wet block to above measurements before sewing.

-Wash and iron fabric. Then, cut a piece of fabric to the size of the blocked knitted piece leaving an extra 1/2" on the edges for seam allowance. When you cut, be sure to match the wrong side of the knitted piece to the back side of the fabric so that it is exactly the shape of the unsewn clutch when it is flat.

-Fold knitted piece with right side facing in to create the pocket portion of the clutch. The pocket should measure approximately 5.75" deep and there should be approximately 1" of space at the top before the decrease section begins. This leaves enough room at the top for the envelope edge to fold down.

-With right sides together and using a whip stitch, sew sides of knitted clutch.

TURN INSIDE OUT.

-Cut a piece of fusible interfacing that is 1/2" smaller than the fabric lining.

-Fuse the interfacing to the back side of the fabric using your iron on a hot setting without steam.

-Fold the 1/2" seam allowance on the short, straight edge (the side opposite the pointed edge) over to the interfacing side and press in place.

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- Using the velvet outer piece as a guide, fold the lining fabric with the right side facing in to create the pocket lining. The pocket lining should measure slightly under 5.75" high, just a tiny bit shorter than the outer clutch so that it can be sewn in invisibly.
- Press the fold to make a crease. Make sure that the now folded fabric will fit snugly inside the knitted clutch.
- With the right sides of the fabric together, sew the sides of this folded section closed using a 1/2" seam allowance. (If you can, use the sewing machine for this part, it goes much quicker.)
- Press all other lining edges that will be sewn into the clutch by folding back over to the interfacing side to hide the seam allowances.
- Attach the bottom piece of the magnetic clasp to the knitted clutch where the tip of the envelope tip meets the body when folded over. Sew the button onto the outside of the knitted portion of the envelope tip and attach the top of the magnetic clasp to the fabric at the envelope tip before you sew in the lining. The magnetic clasp should be just on the opposite side of the button once you sew the lining in.
- Insert the lining into the knitted portion of the clutch and hand stitch the front of the lining into the bag using either a very small running stitch or a backstitch.
- Starting at the side, stitch the back portion of the lining to the top of the envelope fold all the way around. (You may have to ease the velvet a bit to meet the fabric all the way around.)
- With your iron on the steam setting, steam the purse to make all of the seams lie flat and help the yarn to relax a bit more. This will stretch the velvet a bit to the final shape of the bag. Be very careful not to touch the hot iron to the velvet, the steam is just enough. Use a pressing cloth over the bag if needed.

Optional Add-Ons:

- Sew in a zipper at the inside top of the lining to keep items more secure inside.
- Sew extra pockets into the lining of the clutch.
- Embroider a cute design onto the outside of the clutch.
- Add a wrist or arm strap for easier carrying.