

Loom Knitted & Felted Flying Disc Dog Toy

These instructions are to make a knitted dog disc on a yellow 41 peg Knifty Knitter round loom. (*The pictures used as demonstrations are with a custom 65 peg loom from Cottage Looms (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/CottageLooms>). Cindwood Looms has a 15 inch "small afghan" loom which would probably also make a great flying disc (<https://www.cindwoodlooms.com/product/58-75-pegs-small-round-afghan-loom/>)*)

The Knifty Knitter loom makes a 7 inch disc that will fly, but honestly it's not an excellent flyer. The larger looms with the tighter knit gauge make 8 or 9 inch discs that fly much more like real frisbees. They also take 3-4 hours rather than the speedy 2 hours for a Knifty Knitter. When you consider how quickly a dog can shred a frisbee (any frisbee really) you might decide a 2 hour "good enough" disc is just fine.... (It should be noted that I feel confident you can also crochet or regular knit a comparable flying disc, but I haven't figured that part out yet....)

To the right is the 41 peg Knifty Knitter loom. All the mass produced looms have a similar size.

For this project consider the red peg at the bottom of the picture to be Peg #1 and then count counter clockwise, so the green one is Peg #4, etc.

You will be working with two strands of worsted weight yarn. You should start with about 15 feet of yarn with a needle threaded on the end opposite the end you start with.



To make a flying disc you must first basket weave the disc part. Put a slip knot around the side peg, go to the left of the red Peg#1 and then straight up and around red Peg #10. Then straight back to Peg #41 directly to the left of Peg #1. It doesn't have to be super tight, just tight enough to have it not fall off the pegs. Go back and forth until you get to the pair of red Pegs #21 & #22. These pegs are where you will stop going up and down the pegs and start weaving left and right.

Go around #21 and then start to "e wrap" Peg #22.

The picture above shows the turn in green yarn. Follow the red arrows. (There's a layer of blue yarn underneath in this picture but the green shows the turn.)

This turn is tricky because you need to keep tension on the already strung yarn while weaving the first row. You're heading for Peg #9. Weave over and under across the pairs of vertical yarns. Once your yarn is pulled tight by Peg #9 your weaving will be locked in place and you won't have to worry about it all falling off the loom.



Now you just go back and forth, over and under until you get back to the red Peg #1. If you run out of yarn just pull off some more and tie it on. Small knots will disappear in the felting. So will any mistakes as far as the over & under part so don't get fussed about mistakes. You are looking for something like the picture to the right. At the end you want every peg to have a loop of the two strands of yarn showing on the outside. If you haven't missed any pegs then tie the two ends of the yarn together at Peg #1.

Congratulations, you've finished the first layer. Now you get to do it again....

In the picture of the yellow loom you'll note there's a set of green pegs as well as the red ones we used as markers for the turns for the first layer. The green pegs are 45 degrees off from the red ones and are the markers for the second layer. You want to start at Peg #36, head for the green Peg #4, string yarn back and forth till you get to the green Pegs #15 & #16 and do the turn to start weaving there till you get back to Peg #36. If I have any left over yarn from this layer I go around once in a circle a cm or two inside the loom just weaving up and down between the two layers to remind them that they're supposed to felt together. I'm not sure this is strictly necessary but I've been doing it...

The picture to the right shows the two layers and the haphazard circle of leftover yarn.

Finally, we're ready to actually start knitting!

Again use two strands of worsted. Put a slip knot on the starting peg and "e wrap" Peg #1. Knit all 4 strands of the woven layers off over the "e wrap" stitch and then on to Peg #2. Do this all the way around the loom and then knit 11 more rows. More is fine, but you want at least 12 rows.

The picture below shows the loom with all 12 rows knitted on.

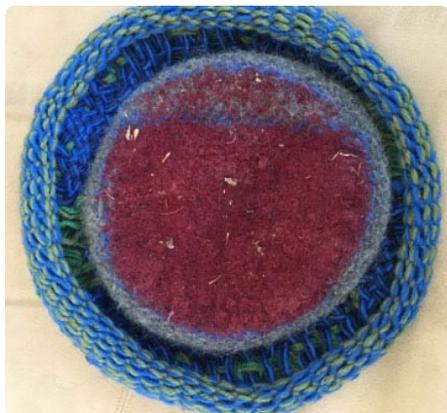


To "bind off" and remove the disc from the loom cut your yarn with about a yard and a half of a tail. "E wrap" Peg #1, knit the stitch, and then pull the whole tail of yarn through the just knitted stitch. Do the same all the way around the loom. Don't pull it tight. Once it's all off the loom make sure the binding is nice and loose before you knot it and catch up any other loose yarn left over anywhere else.

The finished unfelted disc (*to the right*) looks more like a sad floppy hat. You need to fold the 12 knitted rows in half and whip stitch the 12th row to the first, creating a rim for your frisbee. (If you are using a larger



custom loom this step isn't necessary since the 12 knitted rows will roll their own rim, but the gauge of the mass produced looms doesn't do this.)



Now all you need is a load of laundry in a hot water wash. You can't just wash the disc alone, it needs the friction of rubbing against other fabric to felt. Put it in a mesh bag (like an onion or orange sack from the grocery store or a lingerie bag if you're fancy like that) and toss it in with a hot water wash. When you take it out it won't necessarily look like a perfect frisbee but you can tug it into the shape you want (called "blocking") then set it aside to dry.

To the left is a finished felted (and much used) disc inside the unfelted one.

This is not a good chew toy. If it gets really dirty toss in a cold water wash, block it again, and let it dry. (Don't use hot water again and don't use the dryer...)

