

Ornament 6: Fruit Basket

by Nicole Spring



Symbol: Fruit Basket represents Abundance

“Apples are very dear to our family. Apples are a staple in our house and bring so much happiness to my little ones. They provide the nourishment our bodies need as well as nourishment for our souls from the comfort of their familiarity. Fruit baskets, for us, have always included an abundance of apples. I also added oranges to the baskets because they symbolize the warmth of the sun and pears which symbolize affection.

Materials:

Size 3 and 4 double pointed needles

Stitch marker

Tapestry needle

Wool roving

Yarn- Small amounts of DK weight yarn in light brown, dark brown, red, orange, yellow, and soft green. This ornament is a great way to use up some yarn ends from your wool stash!

Nicole used: Knit Picks merino style DK yarn in Cinnamon, Nutmeg, HollyBerry and Asparagus

Peace Fleece Firebird Orange

O-Wool Balance in Butterstone

Size:

Basket pre-felted about 2 1/2" tall and 3 1/2" wide

Felted basket about 2" tall (minus handle) and 3" wide

Apples and oranges a little less than 1" tall

Pears about 1 1/2" tall

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Basket:

Color A = light brown

Color B = dark brown

The basket is knit in a two color lattice stitch pattern. Slip the stitches purl wise with the yarn in back.

Using size 4 double pointed needles cast on 60 stitches with color A. Distribute evenly on 3 needles and join in a round. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round.

Purl 3 rows.

Begin lattice stitch pattern

Row 1: With color B, *knit 4, slip 2; rep from *

Row 2: With color B, *knit 4, slip 2; rep from *

Row 3: With color A, repeat Row 1

Row 4: With color A, *purl 4, slip 2; rep from *

Row 5: With color B, knit 1, slip 2, *knit 4, slip 2 rep from *, end with knit 3

Row 6: With color B, knit 1, slip 2, *knit 4, slip 2 rep from *, end with knit 3

Row 7: With color A, repeat Row 5

Row 8: With color A, purl 1, slip 2, *purl 4, slip 2; rep from * end with purl 3

Do this set of 8 rows 3 times total.

On the 3rd set, row 8 - just purl entire row.

Break thread of color B. The rest of the pattern will be done with color A.

Knit 2 rounds

Start decrease:

Row 1: k1, k2 together

Row 2: knit

Repeat these 2 rows 3 times (18 stitches remain)

Knit two together entire row (9 stitches remain)

Break yarn and pull tight through remaining stitches.

Weave in ends.

Basket handle:

Using 2 size 4 double pointed needles cast on 5 stitches in color A.
Knit I-cord for about 5 1/2" and cast off.

Attach basket handle to the inside side of the basket evenly spaced apart. Weave in ends.

Felt basket by washing in hot water. Every washing machine and water temperature varies so you may need to wash it more than once. Once it is the desired size, flatten bottom and shape. Let it air dry this way.

Apples:

Knit 2 of each in red and soft green. You will have 4 apples total.

Using size 3 double pointed needles, cast on 6 stitches. Distribute evenly on 3 needles and join in a round. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Increase by knitting into the front and then the back (KFB) of every stitch (12 stitches total)

Rows 3-10: Knit



Take a small amount of wool roving and roll into a ball with your hand. Stuff into the apple.



Row 11: *Knit 2 together, repeat from * to end.(6 stitches total)

Break yarn,thread onto a tapestry and pull tight through remaining 6 stitches.

Push needle through the center of the top of the apples down to the center bottom of the apple. This will make the center of the top of the apple sink in a bit to be more apple shaped. Knot this thread tightly with the cast on thread. Weave in ends.

Stem:

Cut about a 6" piece of dark brown yarn. Make a double knot about 1/2" from the bottom of the yarn. Thread the other end onto the tapestry needle and push needle through the center of the top of the apple until the knot catches on the top. Double knot the thread on the bottom and weave in ends.



Orange:

Knit 2, using orange yarn.

Using size 3 double pointed needles, cast on 6 stitches. Distribute evenly on 3 needles and join in a round. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: KFB every stitch (12 stitches total)

Rows 3-8: Knit

Take a small amount of wool roving and roll into a ball with your hand. Stuff into the orange.

Row 9: *Knit 2 together, repeat from * to end.(6 stitches total)

Break yarn and pull tight through remaining 6 stitches.

Weave in ends.

Pear:

Knit 2, using yellow yarn.

Using size 3 double pointed needles, cast on 6 stitches. Distribute evenly on 3 needles and join in a round. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: KFB every stitch (12 stitches total)

Rows 3-8: Knit

Take a small amount of wool roving and roll into a ball with your hand. Stuff into the pear.

Row 9: *Knit 1, Knit 2 together, repeat from * to end. (8 stitches remain)

Row 10: Knit

Row 11: Knit

Stuff, again with a tiny piece of wool roving into the 2 knitted rows. This is the top half of the pear.

Row 12: *Knit 2 together, repeat from * to end.

Row 13: Knit

Break yarn and pull tight through remaining 4 stitches.

Weave in ends.



Stem:

Follow instructions for Apple stem.

You will end up with 8 pieces of fruit total to fill your basket. Arrange the fruit as you desire in the basket and hang on your tree. Enjoy!!

