

# Knit, Embroider, and Felt a “Scribble” Pillow

LEIGH RADFORD



Leigh Radford's knitted,  
embroidered, and felted  
pillows in sage and pink.  
*Photograph by Joe Coca.*

## MATERIALS

Nashua Creative Focus Worsted, 75% wool/25% alpaca yarn, 220 yards (200 m)/100 g ball, 3 balls of #1256 Soft Sage and 1 ball of #3729 Rust  
 Nashua Creative Focus Chunky, 75% wool/25% alpaca yarn, 110 yards (100 m)/100 g ball, 1 ball each of #2124 Cordovan and #0066 Carnation  
 Needles, size 9 (5.5 mm) or size needed to obtain gauge  
 Removable markers  
 Tapestry needle  
 Buttons, ⅞ inch (2.2 cm) in diameter, 3  
 Pillow form, 12-inch (30.5-cm) knife-edge, 1

*Materials are available at yarn and needlework stores or from mail-order or online resources.*

Finished size: Before felting, about 19 inches (48 cm) wide and 21 inches (53 cm) high; after felting, about 12 inches (30 cm) wide and 10½ inches (27 cm) high  
 Gauge: 8½ sts and 10 rnds = 2 inches (5.1 cm) in St st worked in the round using Creative Focus Worsted, before felting

## ABBREVIATIONS

BO—bind off	k—knit	St st—stockinette stitch
CO—cast on	RS—right side	WS—wrong side
dec—decrease	st(s)—stitches	

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Upper Back Panel

With Rust, CO 70 sts. Work 5 rows of garter st. Change to St st and Soft Sage, increasing 12 sts evenly across the first row—82 sts. Continue working in St st until work measures 9 inches (22.9 cm) from CO edge. Place marker at edge of work to mark the fold line for the upper back panel.

### Pillow Front

Continue working in St st until piece measures 21 inches (53.3 cm) from first marker. Place a second marker in edge of work to mark the fold line for the lower back panel.

### Lower Back Panel

Continue working in St st until piece measure 12 inches (30.5 cm) from second marker, ending with a WS row.

*Dec Row (RS):* K, dec 12 sts evenly across—70 sts. Work 4 more rows in garter st. BO all sts.

Follow the pattern for the embroidery on the front and upper back panel of the pillow. Work curving lines in stem stitch using 4 strands of Cordovan Chunky held together; work French knots using 2 strands of Rust Worsted held together; work dotted lines in running stitch using 2 strands of Carnation Chunky held together.

I always have enjoyed experimenting with felting. After adding embroidered embellishment to my felted projects (see *Knit, Felt, and Embroider a Backpack*, *PieceWork*, January/February 2005), I began to wonder what would happen if I added the embroidery to the design *before* I felted the project.

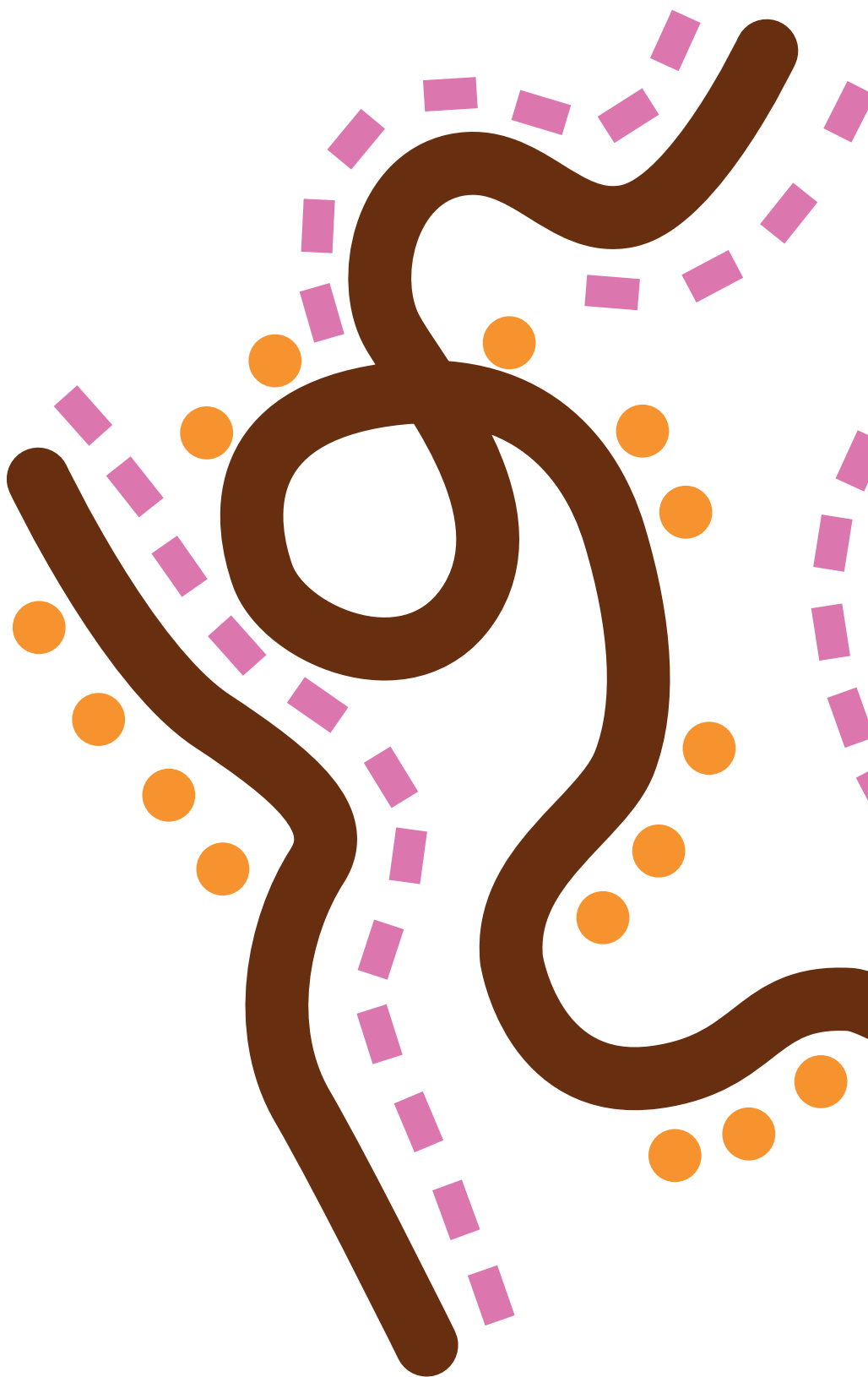
I really like the fact that embroidery allows for more control over the design. It's much easier to create a nice curve with embroidery rather than having to adjust to the square grid of the knitted stitch. The embroidery also adds texture and dimension. Using several strands of wool for the embroidery results in stitching that remains somewhat raised after the felting process, and after experimenting with different weights of yarn and placement of the embroidery design, I have found that adding an embroidery pattern over the entire face of a project definitely reduces the amount of shrinkage when felting. These "scribble" pillows are the results of my early experimentations with knitting and embroidering and *then* felting fabric.

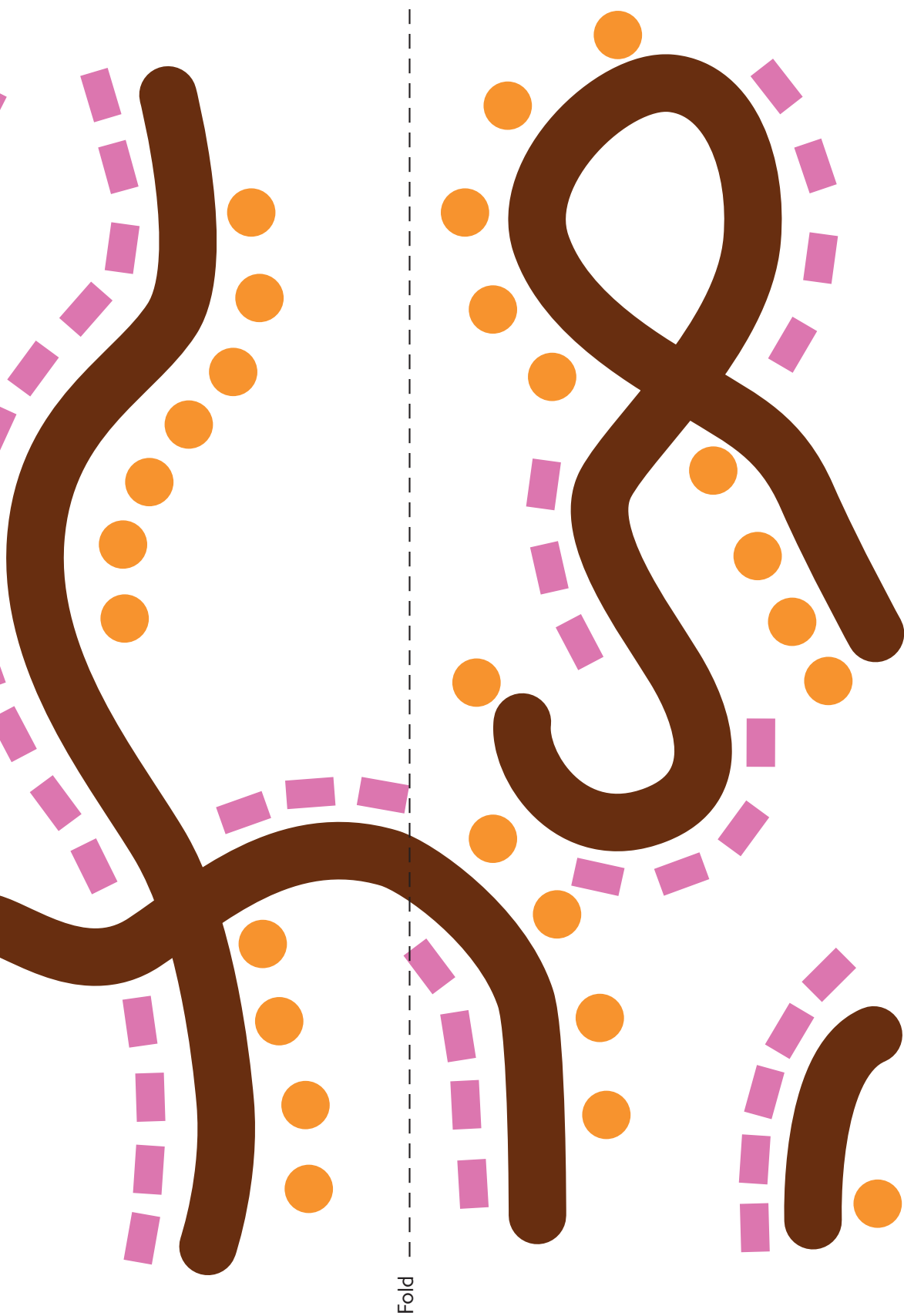


The back of Leigh Radford's knitted, embroidered, and felted pillow in sage.  
*Photograph by Joe Coca.*

Enlarge pattern by 125%.  
*Pattern may be photocopied for personal use.*

Fold









Leigh Radford's sample showing the knitting and embroidery before the felting.

*Photograph by Joe Coca.*

## Assembly

Fold the pillow along the marked fold lines, overlapping the upper back panel over the top of the lower back panel so that the folded pillow measures about 21 inches (53 cm) high. With Soft Sage Worsted threaded on a tapestry needle, sew the side seams closed.

## Felting

Set the washing machine for hot-water wash and low-water level. Add about 2 tablespoons (30 ml) detergent. Place the pillow in the washing machine and set the machine to agitate. Repeat the agitation cycle until the pillow reaches desired size. Do not run the pillow through the rinse or spin cycle. Remove the felted pillow from the washer and handrinse in the sink under cold water, rinsing until the water runs clear. Roll the pillow in a bath towel to remove excess water. Block to measurements. Lay the pillow flat to air-dry.

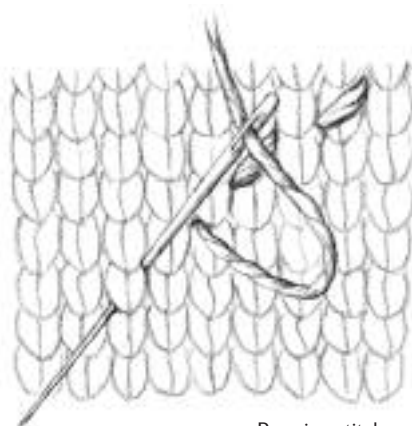
## Finishing

Once the pillow is completely dry, sew the buttons evenly spaced to the top edge of the lower back panel. With sharp scissors, carefully cut buttonholes into the upper back panel to match the button positions. Insert the pillow form and button closed.

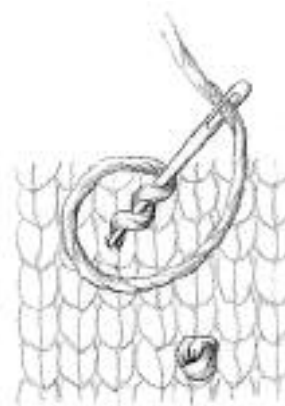
**ABOUT THE DESIGNER.** Leigh Radford is the author of *AlterKnits* (New York: Stewart, Tabori, and Chang, 2005) and *One Skein* (Loveland, Colorado: Interweave Press, 2006). Visit her website, [www.leighradford.com](http://www.leighradford.com).



Stem stitch



Running stitch



French knot

## Additional Colorway

**T**o make a pillow in the pink colorway, you will need: 2 balls of #0066 Carnation, 2 balls of #3150 Pumpkin, and 1 ball of #3729 Rust Nashua Creative Focus Worsted (75% wool/25% alpaca yarn, 220 yards [200 m]/100 g ball); and 1 ball each of #2124 Cordovan and #1256 Soft Sage Nashua Creative Focus Chunky (75% wool/25% alpaca yarn, 110 yards [100 m]/100 g ball).

CO using Carnation and work 5 rows garter st. Change to St st and work upper back panel using Pumpkin. Change to Carnation and work pillow front. Change to Pumpkin and work lower back panel. Embroider the curving lines in stem stitch using Cordovan, French knots using Rust, and running stitch lines using Soft Sage. Follow Assembly, Felting, and Finishing as above.