

Daisy's Bag

Felted Bag

by Turit

YARN: 2 skeins Lamb's Pride Worsted in main color + half a skein or less in second color.

NEEDLES: circular needle #13 or #11, 24 inches long

GAUGE: not needed, because for felting it does not matter much; but the knitting should be very loose, so if you're a loose knitter, use 11, if you knit tight, use 13

KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS:

First, knit the bottom of the bag in garter stitch:

Cast on 30 stitches in main color. Knit 12 rows, increasing 1 stitch at the beginning of each row = 42 stitches.

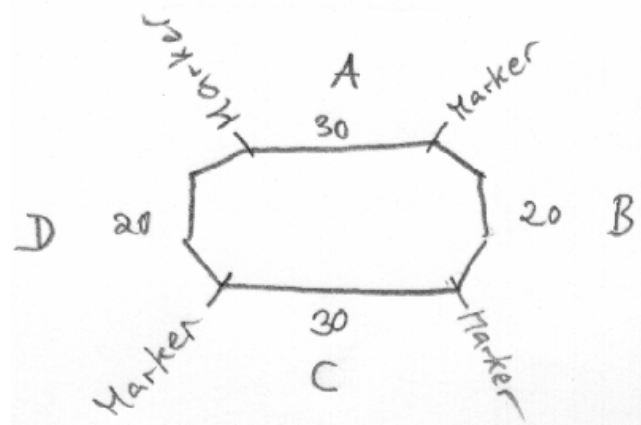
Knit 20 rows straight (garter stitch).

Knit 12 rows, decreasing one stitch at the beginning of each row = 30 stitches

You now have an octagon which will form the bottom of your bag. Please look at the drawing below.

The live 30 stitches will be one side of the bag (A on drawing)

Place marker, pick up 20 stitches (section D), place marker, pick up 30 stitches (section C), place marker, pick up 20 stitches (section B), place marker. You now have 100 stitches on your circular needle. Close to form a round and knit up in rounds from now on. The following rounds are all knitted (=stockinette).



Knit 70 rounds in main color.

In the next round, knit section D, but knit every 4th and 5th stitch together, which will give you 16 stitches in this section. In section C, knit every 5th and 6th stitch together, which will give you 25 stitches. In section B, knit every 4th and 5th together again, and in section A, just knit without decreases.

Next round: bind off the last 5 stitches of section D, all of section C, and the first 5 stitches of section B. Put the six stitches of section D that are next to the bound-off edge on a stitch holder or safety pin; do the same with the six stitches closest to the edge in section B.

Now knit the flap (section A plus 5 stitches each from sections D and B). You can remove the section markers.

Knit 10 rows in stockinette in main color. K 2 rows in second color, after that 2 rows in main color. Continue like this: 2 rows in main color, 2 rows in second color (stripes). When you have 2 stripes in the second color done, start decreasing: Work 10 rows binding off 1 stitch at the beginning of each row (=30 stitches), 4 rows binding off 2 stitches each at the beginning (=22 stitches), 4 rows binding off 3 stitches each at the beginning (=10 stitches), bind off remaining 10 stitches.

Put the six stitches from one stitchholder on the needle again, do 80 rows in stockinette, always alternating 2 rows in main color and 2 rows in second color.

Bind off. Knit other side up 80 rows the same way. Sew bound off ends together to form one long strap.

Weave in loose ends.

Fabric for flowers:

Cast on 30 stitches and knit about 8 inches in plain stockinette in second color. Pick up main color and continue in stripes (one row per color makes nice narrow ones), about 8 more inches. Bind off.

Felting

Put the bag and the rectangular piece in a pillow case and place in washing machine with a few pairs of old jeans (do NOT use towels! They shed, and the lint would cling to your bag). Add a few drops of shampoo or Eucalan and run the hottest cycle with the lowest water level possible. Try to stop spinning after a few seconds, so the bag won't get bad creases. Look at bag and repeat if you want it smaller and firmer. I usually use at least two cycles for my bags, sometimes up to four or even five. You have to keep checking.

See if you like the shape of the flap. If not, take a pair of good sharp scissors and cut the flap in the shape you like. Of course you have to be sure that the fabric is sufficiently felted to do that. After cutting, felt a little longer so the edge smooths out a bit.

When the size of the bag is good, take it out and pull it into shape. Crease the delineation between bottom and body of bag (where you picked up the stitches) so that it will stand. Pull the straps nice and long. The bag is quite malleable at this point. Dry it overnight over something that will help it keep the shape: an oval tin, a flattened roll of kitchen paper, a small pillow, or even some crumpled plastic bags.

Dry the rectangular piece overnight, too.

When it's dry, sew a big snap button on the front of the bag and the inside of the flap so you can close your bag.

Draw a simple flower on a piece of paper (a star shaped daisy with 5 petals is easy), cut out and use as a pattern for your

flowers: pin the paper flower to the felted rectangle and cut out a flower. Do this 5 times. Sew the flowers on the front of the flap. When you sew through the middle of the flower, grab a small bead with each stitch to create a seeded middle.



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