

Trendy Felted Handbag

This gorgeous tote uses subtle grey tones and is felted in the washing machine

Teens will love this casual handbag knited in organic chunky yarn. It features a handy front pocket and funky stripes and is felted in the washing machine to create a firm, sturdy fabric. It's knitted in Rico Organic Pure Colour Chunky which costs £ 3.50 per 50g (80m) ball from Phase Patch, www.phasepatch.co.uk

Front

Using 7mm needles and yarn A cast on 71 sts

- Rows 1-2: working in st st cast on three sts at beg of row
- Rows 3-6: working in st st cast on two sts at beg of row
- Rows 7-10: working in st st cast on one st at beg of row. 89 sts

Shape sides

Dec as folls on next 12 alt RS rows:

- K3, sl 1, k1, pssso, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 65 sts
- Cont until work meas 34cm

Beg working points in yarn B as folls:

- Work across first 13 sts and leave rem sts on a holder or length of yarn, cont on these 13 sts only
- On every alt RS row cast off one st at each end of row
- Work five dec rows. Three sts
- When work meas 12 cm cast off rem sts
- Rejoin yarn to next 13 sts and rep to match
- Work across row in this way until all sts have been worked

Back

Work as given for Front

Bag gusset and handle

Using yarn B cast on 18 sts

- Work in st st until work meas 38 cm
- Inc one st at each end of next RS row and foll three sixth rows. 26 sts
- When work meas 182 cm dec one st at each end of next RS row and on foll three sixth rows. 18 sts
- When work meas 236cm cast off rem sts

Pocket

Using yarn B cast on 23 sts

- Rows 1-2: working in st st cast on two sts at start of row
- Rows 3-6: working in st st cast on one st at start of row. 31 sts

Shape sides

Working decs the same as for Shape sides, dec one st at each end of next five alt RS rows. 21 sts

When work meas 15cm work points as folls:

- Work across seven sts and leave rest of sts to one side
- * Work five rows
- Next row: dec one st at each end of row
- Rep from * once. Three sts
- Cont until work meas 7.5cm
- Cast off
- Work on next seven sts in same way and rep until all sts across row have been worked to points

To make up

Block, dampen and leave to dry. Sew up handle edge to edge, then join side and bottom gussets to Front and Back pieces. Join pocket onto outside. Wash bag in a washing machine at 60°C with some old towels or jeans. Shape to size and leave to dry, taking care with points. Sew on press-studs to inside of bag.