

GOURD BAG

8mm circular needle

(you could also use a set of 4 8mm needles for the base but I used the circular needle. When the needle became too long I made a loop of the plastic centre part of the needle stick out from my knitting.

Then I knit up to the loop and moved the loop along a bit. I hope this makes sense!!!)

3 discs of Lopi Roving in 3 different colours

(you will always be knitting 2 strands of Lopi together)

Body of bag

With 2 strands of yarn A held together, cast on 100 stitches.

Make sure your stitches are not twisted on the needle. Join to knit in the round as follows:

Knit 4 rounds with yarn A

Purl 4 rounds with yarn B

I broke the yarn after each set of 4 rounds but then had to sew in all the ends which was time consuming!

You could try carrying the extra yarn up, just leave it loose enough so that it does not pull!

Continue with these 8 rounds until you have a total of 9 stripes of colour A on the right side. End with a right side round.

Break yarn and join colour C.

Knit 9 rounds with 2 strands of colour C.

- *K8 stitches, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round.
- Knit 2 rounds
- *K7 stitches, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round.
- Knit 2 rounds.
- *K6 stitches, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round.

Knit straight until Colour C measures 15cm, break yarn.

Join yarn A and purl 8 rows then cast off loosely. Turn over this top edge and carefully stitch in place.

Bottom of the bag

Using colour C, pick up 100 stitches around the bottom edge of the bag.

Knit 1 row.

*K8, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 3 rounds.

*K7, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 3 rounds.

*K6, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 2 rounds

*K5, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 1 round.

*K4, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 1 round.

*K3, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 1 round.

*K2, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 1 round.

*K1, K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round. Knit 1 round.

*K2 tog, repeat from * to end of round.

Continue K2 tog until you have 4 stitches left. Run yarn through 4 remaining stitches and sew in end.

Handles

(knit 2 of these)

With yarn A, cast on 10 stitches and work in stocking stitch.

Work 2 rows colour, 2 rows colour B and continue this until you have a total of 55 rows. Cast off.

Stitch on the handles at evenly spaced intervals using 1 strand on Lopi Roving. Do this with fairly short pieces because it does break easily!

Felting the bag

Put the bag into your washing machine add about a half measure of washing powder. Put in a pair of old jeans as the bag will need something to help it tumble around against during the washing cycle.

I put my bag through 2 30°/ 30 min washes, as I thought it needed to be felted more after the first cycle.

Every washing machine is different so use what I did as a guide.

Drying

Once you are happy with the texture and size of the bag, pull it into a bucket shape (you can be very forceful with it at this point!!!) Let the bag dry. It can be stitched on and /or a button and loop may be added.

My bag was very fuzzy so I shaved it with a disposable razor!!!! Weird but it works.

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