



Fantasia Tote bag

You will need:

Tekapo solid colour x 2 100gm balls - yarn A
 Tekapo random x 2 100gm balls - yarn B
 (Or Tekapo solid colour x 4 100gm balls - work 2 balls of solid)
 1 x Circus yarn 75gm ball
 8mm x 60cm circular needle
 1 pair of double pointed 8mm needles.

Base of bag

Using circular needle, cast on 32sts using yarn A and yarn B.
 Work 42 rows in garter stitch, ending on a wrong side row.
 This is the base of the bag.

Pick up stitches around the bag base, knit 32 stitches, place marker, pick up 21 stitches, place marker, pick up 32 stitches, place marker, pick up 21 stitches, and place last marker.
 106 stitches.

Body of bag

Round 1 - knit

Round 2 - knit second stitch through back of stitch, then knit 1st stitch, move across to right hand needle together.

(This creates a twist, which forms the corners for the bag)

Knit 28 stitches, to the last two stitches before the marker, repeat, knit 2nd stitch through back of stitch, knit 1st stitch, move across to right hand needle.

Knit 2nd stitch through back of stitch, knit 1st st. Knit 17 sts, last two stitches before corner marker, knit 2nd stitch through back of st, knit 1st st, move both stitches across to right hand needle.

These 2 rows are repeated over the following 43 rows.

Circus band

Cut yarn A thread, join in the Circus, now working with yarn B and Circus together for the trim.

Work 2 rounds.

Eyelet holes for the handle

Knit 6 stitches, yarn over needle (yo) k2 stitches together knit to last 8 stitches before corner marker, knit 2 stitches together, yarn over needle, knit 6 stitches.

Slip marker, knit 4 stitches, yarn over needle, k2 stitches together, knit to last 6 stitches before marker, k2 together, yarn over needle, knit 4 stitches. Repeat from # once more.

Continue...

Knit 2 rounds.

Purl 2 rounds.

Cast off loosely, purl wise.



Handle

Using double pointed needles 8mm.

Cast on 4 stitches, using yarn A and B.

Knit 4 stitches, move the stitches back to the front of the left needle, wrap the yarn around the back of the stitches to the front and knit 4 stitches.

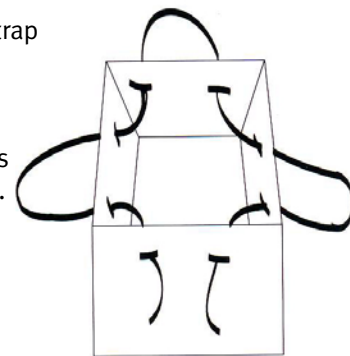
This will form a small tube, - 1 cord.

Continue knitting until the tube measures about 140cm or 55 inches in length.

For over the shoulder length of strap add 50cm/20inches.

Cast off.

Thread the cord through the holes in the bag, following the diagram. Sew ends of cord together.



Now your bag is now ready to felt!

Felt your Tote bag in a mesh delicate laundry bag or pillow case in the washing machine. Do not wash with a normal load of washing - wash separately. Set machine on highest water temperature, lowest water level and highest agitation settings, longest wash time.

Begin the washing cycle - once tub has filled with water, add 2-3 tablespoons (30-45ml) of mild liquid detergent.

Stop washing machine before drain-and-rinse cycle to check felting progress. Drain water once the bag is completely felted. Set machine for a final warm rinse-and-spin.

Remove from washing machine. Shape bag, removing any stray fibres and air dry to keep the shape.

To clean, hand wash with detergent, gently squeezing out excess water without wringing, and air dry.