

Frankie's Knitted Stuff

Pat's Bag

The main part of this bag is knitted in one piece and then sewn together across the bottom and up one side. It is lined and there is a little knitted pocket inside the bag. The strap is adjustable.

Tension

12 sts and 17 rows = 5cm / 2"², worked in stocking stitch on 3.25mm / US size 3 needles using double knitting weight yarn.



How Much Yarn?

My two bags were knitted with yarns with a length of 125m in 50g and they each took one 50g ball – just! If using thicker yarn (with less than 125m in 50g) you will probably need more than 50g. You will also need about 15-20g of double knitting yarn in a contrasting colour for the strap and a selection of buttons.

The Bag



Begin by casting on 40 sts, half will be for the front and half for the back of the bag. This will make sense as you go along and, if not, you'll just have to take my word for it!

The bottom of the bag is worked in garter stitch.

Row 1: Kf&b, K19, place marker, kf&b, K19.

Row 2: Kf&b, K20, kf&b, K20.

Row 3: Kf&b, K21, kf&b, K21.

Continue like this, increasing in the first stitch and in the stitch after the marker on every row until you have 80 sts on your needle. Remove the marker and work the stocking stitch section of the bag.

Beginning with a purl row work 44 rows in stocking stitch (the knitting should now measure about 18cm / 7" from the start).

Now knit 10 rows for the top band.

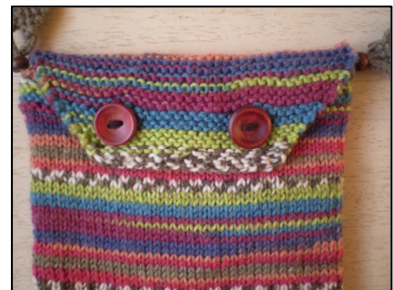
Next row: Cast off 40 sts, knit to end (40 sts).

These remaining 40 sts are for the bag flap.

Beginning with a purl row work 5 rows in stocking stitch for the fold.

Knit 4 rows.

Next row: SSK, knit to end.



Repeat this row until you have 30 sts on your needle.

Now work the buttonholes. Note that after casting off for the buttonholes, the number of stitches worked includes the stitch already on the right hand needle.

Next row: SSK, K5, cast off 2 sts, K12, cast off 2 sts, K7.

Next row: SSK, K5, cast on 3 sts, K12, cast on 3 sts, K6.

Next row: SSK, K6, K2tog, K13, K2tog, K5 (27 sts).

Go back to SSKing at the start of each row until you are down to 20 sts.

Cast off, slipping the first stitch knitwise.

Sew the bag together across the bottom and up the side.

Lining the Bag

I often find it's easier to line the two sides of a knitted bag separately and that's what I've done for this bag.

First use the bag as a pattern to cut two pieces of material a bit bigger than the finished bag, excluding the flap.

Then turn the bag inside out and pin one of the lining pieces to one side, turning under the edges all round. Stitch in place by hand.

Repeat for the other side of the bag to finish the lining.

The Pocket

Using double knitting weight yarn and 3.25mm needles cast on 20sts.

Knit 3 rows.

Work 24 rows in the following two row pattern:

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: K2, P16, K2.

Knit 2 rows.

Cast off.

Line the pocket and, using sewing thread, sew it to the inside of the back of the bag.

The Strap

This is worked in moss stitch.

Using double knitting weight yarn and 3.25mm needles cast on 4 sts.

- Row 1: Kf&b, K1, P1, K1.
Row 2: Kf&b, (P1, K1) twice (6 sts).
Row 3: (K1, P1) three times.
Row 4: (P1, K1) three times.
Row 5: K1, P1, cast off 2 sts, P1.
Row 6: P1, K1, cast on 3 sts, P1, K1.
Row 7: (K1, P1) twice, K2tog, P1.

Continue working in moss stitch, following the two row pattern below until the strap is about 94cm / 37" long or until you get bored.

Moss stitch

- Row 1: (P1, K1) three times.
Row 2: (K1, P1) three times.

When you get to the end of the strap cast off one stitch at the start of the next two rows and then cast off the remaining 4 sts.

The strap is joined to the bag by two loops made of I cord. Using 3mm double pointed needles (or thereabouts) work 20 rows in I cord for each loop.

Attach to the sides of the bag with beads.



Thread the strap through the loops and sew down the end without the buttonhole. If you sew buttons to the other end of the strap in various positions you will be able to adjust its length so that the bag can be worn across the body or as a shoulder bag.



If you add another button to the end without the buttonhole you can also make the strap short enough to carry the bag in your hand.



All that's left to do is to sew on two buttons to close the bag and it's finished.

Bits and Bobs

The yarn I used for my two bags was:

Regia Mosaik Colour 6ply (125m / 50g), shade 05568 (above) and Adriafile Knitcol Trends (125m / 50g), shade 049 (at the top of the pattern).

The bag measures about 16cm wide and 20cm tall (6½" × 8").

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Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
P	purl
kf&b	knit into the front and back of the stitch
K2tog	knit two stitches together
SSK	slip, slip, knit (see below)

slip, slip, knit slip 2 sts knitwise (or knitwise followed by purlwise) one at a time, insert tip of left needle into sts from above, put yarn round right needle and knit both sts together.

I cord Knit every row but don't turn the work at the end of rows, just pull the yarn round from behind the sts and carry on.



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