

Mini tote with fur trim

Use a colorful, textured yarn for this simple, fur-trimmed tote.

Before starting the pattern, make swatches to check your gauge. For the bag body, work in stockinette stitch; 12 stitches should measure 3½ in. (8.8cm). For the trim, work in garter stitch (knit every row) with the yarn held double; seven stitches should measure 2 in. (5cm). Switch needle sizes if needed.

Support the bag bottom with a piece of heavy cardboard. Cut a piece to 2½ x 8½ in. (6.3 x 22cm). When the bag is finished, trim the cardboard to fit and place it in the bag bottom.

bag

- [1] Using size 10½ (6.5mm) needles and the heavy worsted yarn, CO 30 stitches.
- [2] Work 1 in. (2.5cm) in St st. End with a WS row.
- [3] Purl the next RS row to create a turning ridge.
- [4] Continue working in St st until the

piece measures 7 in. (17.8cm). End with a WS row.

- [5] Begin decreases: At the beginning and end of the next four rows, k2tog (22 stitches remain on the needle after the four decrease rows).
- [6] Work two rows even. Center the bottom of the bag.
- [7] Begin increases: At the beginning and end of the next four rows, inc1 (30 stitches remain on the needle after the increase rows).
- [8] Work even in St st until the piece measures 14 in. (35.5cm) or matches the first side from the center bottom.
- [9] Work a purl turning ridge as in step 3.
- [10] Work 1 in. more in St st.
- [11] BO and weave in ends.
- [12] Fold the bag in half and seam the sides. Fold 1 in. of the top edge over to the inside of the bag at each turning ridge, and stitch to secure.

I-cord handles

- [1] CO 4 stitches with size 8 (5mm) double-pointed needles and heavy worsted yarn.
- Row 1: K. Slide stitches to the other end of the needle.
- Row 2: K, making sure to keep the yarn taut across the back of the stitches.
- [2] Repeat rows 1 and 2 until the cord measures 21 in. (53cm). BO and weave in ends.
- [3] Repeat steps 1–2 to make another I-cord.
- [4] Use your fingers to gently create an opening 2 in. from each end of the bag

(photo a). Insert one cord end through an opening from the inside to the outside of the bag, and knot the end (photo b). Repeat with the remaining cord ends.

[5] Stitch the handle securely to the inside of the bag.

fur trim

- [1] Using size 10½ (6.5mm) needles and the fur novelty yarn held double, CO seven stitches.
- [2] Work in garter stitch until the piece fits around the top of the bag.
- [3] BO and weave in ends.
- [4] Sew the completed trim to the top of the bag, covering the purl turning ridges. ●

– Monette Satterfield

MATERIALS

- skein (150 yds./137m) heavy worsted yarn (Sirdar Stampata, Plum Marbles #789)
- skein (75 yds./68.5m) fur novelty yarn (Marks & Kattens Peluche, #275 Fuchsia)
- straight knitting needles, size 10½ (6.5mm) or size needed to obtain gauge
- double-pointed knitting needles, size 8 (5mm)
- heavy cardboard for bag bottom



