

## *Little Cotton Rabbits bags, baskets and backpacks*



*This is a pattern for a range of bags, baskets and a backpack.  
There are a couple of options given for each of the 5 designs and lots of  
further options for customising the surface designs using the basic shapes provided.  
Included are a backpack, a basket, a shoulder bag, a market bag and a tweed/textured bag.*

*More knitting patterns are available at  
<https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk>*

This is a pattern for a range of bags and baskets and a backpack. It is suitable for intermediate knitting skills and it's quite good for using up small amounts of yarn that you might not have another use for. All of the pieces are knitted flat and seamed afterwards although if you prefer you can work the basket and bags in the round (if you do so please eliminate the first and last stitch of each row as these are intended as seam selvages). You can choose to knit these in any weight of yarn, although here I've used 4ply yarns.

For more yarn ideas and suggestions, take a look on the [ravelry](https://www.ravelry.com/projects/juliewilliams) project page to see what others have used.

## *Abbreviations:*

These increase methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<https://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

**M1L : MAKE 1 LEFT.** A nice tight method of making an extra stitch. With the left hand needle pick up the connecting strand between the two needles and knit into the back of the loop to create an extra stitch. If you find this too tight for your liking you can substitute M1A (make one away) which will give a looser increase.

**M1R : MAKE 1 RIGHT.** A nice tight method of making an extra stitch. With the left hand needle pick up the connecting strand between the two needles from behind and knit into the front loop to create an extra stitch. If you find this too tight for your liking you can substitute M1T (make one towards) which will give a looser increase.

**M1A: MAKE 1 STITCH AWAY.** I use the thumb method (see link above) to make a backwards loop in the working yarn and place this loop onto the right needle, so the working yarn is pointing away from you.

**PF&B : PURL FRONT AND BACK.** Purl into both the front and the back loops of the stitch to make an extra stitch.

These decrease methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<https://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/decreases>

**SSK (SLIP, SLIP, KNIT) :** Slip a stitch (as if to knit it) to the right-hand needle, slip a second stitch in the same way, slip both stitches together back to the left-hand needle and knit together through the back loops.

**K2TOG :** Knit 2 stitches together

**P2TOG :** Purl 2 stitches together

**P2TOG TBL:** Purl 2 stitches together through the back loops

**SL1: SLIP 1 STITCH.** Please check individual pattern instructions to see whether the stitch should be slipped Purl-wise or Knit-wise.

And please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on.

## *The designs:*

<i>pattern name</i>	<i>level of difficulty</i>	<i>page</i>
Backpack/rucksack	moderate	<u>page 3</u>
Three styles of basket	easy	<u>page 6</u>
Shoulder bags	easy	<u>page 9</u>
Market bag	easy	<u>page 11</u>
Tweed/textured shoulder bag	easy	<u>page 13</u>

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## Backpack/Rucksack:

### Materials:

- 24m (26yds) of 4ply/5ply/DK weight yarn **Yarn A**
- 3m (4yds) of 4ply/5ply/DK weight yarn for the straps and fastenings **Yarn B**
- A button (optional)

### Notions:

- 2.75 mm (US 2) needles
- Tapestry needle

### Finished size:

approx 6.5cm (2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches) from base to top (closed)



This little rucksack has shaped sides, a flat base so it can be free-standing and a flap to keep any contents inside secure. There are 2 options for fastening the flap; either a knitted strap and loop or a button and buttonhole. If you prefer to use the buttonhole option (see the pink version) please read the section at the top of Page 4 for details of which rows to change. The main part of the rucksack is knitted in a single piece (*fig. 1*) with the straps added later.



## Rucksack with button-hole:

If you would prefer to make a buttonhole to fasten the rucksack with then please substitute the rows below for those in the main pattern:

**row 10:** K3, M1R, K14, M1L, K3 (22 stitches)

**row 11:** Purl

**row 64:** Button hole row: SSK, K3, SSK, (M1A) twice, K2tog, K3, K2tog (12 stitches)

Work the straps and finish seaming the rucksack exactly as detailed on Page 5 and sew a button to the front of the rucksack to correspond with the buttonhole.

## Rucksack body:

Note: The reverse stocking stitch section in the centre of **rows 10 & 11** marks where to attach the fastening loop.

Starting at the top of the front and finishing with the bottom of the front flap (fig 1). Use 2.75mm needles and Yarn A to cable cast on 18 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

**row 1:** (wrong side) Purl

**rows 2-5:** Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl work 4 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Knit and Purl rows)

**row 6:** K2, M1R, K14, M1L, K2 (20 stitches)

**rows 7-9:** Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 3 rows in stocking stitch

**row 10:** K3, M1R, K6, P2, K6, M1L, K3 (22 stitches)

**row 11:** P10, K2, P10

**row 12:** Knit

**row 13:** Purl

**row 14:** K4, M1R, K14, M1L, K4 (24 stitches)

**rows 15-17:** Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 3 rows in stocking stitch

**row 18:** K5, M1R, K14, M1L, K5 (26 stitches)

**rows 19-21:** Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 3 rows in stocking stitch

**row 22:** Cast off 5 Knit-wise, K15, Cast off remaining 5 stitches Knit-wise (16 stitches)

Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later.

**row 23:** Rejoin Yarn A leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later, and Purl

**rows 24-26:** Beginning and ending with Knit rows, work 3 rows in stocking stitch

**row 27:** Knit (although this is a wrong side row as this will create a ridge for the work to bend along, separating the bottom of the rucksack from the back side).

**row 28:** K2, M1L, K12, M1R, K2 (18 stitches)

**rows 29-48:** Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit work 20 rows in stocking stitch

**row 49:** Knit (again this will make a ridge for the work to bend along, separating the back side of the rucksack from the front flap)

**row 50:** K2, M1L, K14, M1R, K2 (20 stitches)

**rows 51-60:** Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch. Slip the first stitch of each row; Knit-wise on right side rows and Purl-wise on the wrong side rows

**row 61:** P2tog, P16, P2togtbl (18 stitches)

**row 62:** SSK, K14, K2tog (16 stitches)

**row 63:** P2tog, P12, P2togtbl (14 stitches)

**row 64:** SSK, K10, K2tog (12 stitches)

**row 65:** P2tog, P8, P2togtbl (10 stitches)

**row 66:** Cast off this row as you work across it: SSK, K6, K2tog (8 stitches)

That is the main part finished, (fig. 1). Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail and sew this along the edge of the flap to hide and secure it.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

Next make the straps and fastenings (*fig 2*):

### *Back straps (make 2 the same):*

Use 2.75mm needles and **Yarn B** to cable cast on 24 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

**row 1:** (right side) Knit

**row 2:** Cast off in Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

### *Fastening loop:*

Use 2.75mm needles and **Yarn B** to cable cast on 6 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

**row 1:** (right side) Knit

**row 2:** Cast off in Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

### *Fastening strap:*

Use 2.75mm needles and **Yarn A** to cable cast on 10 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

**row 1:** Cast off in Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

### *Finishing:*

Sew all of the straps in place like so:

Sew the back straps to the back section of the rucksack (*fig. 3*) using the two Purl ridges as a guideline and sewing the straps so that they sit inside these ridges.

Sew the Fastening loop to the front of the rucksack (*fig. 3*) using the 2 stitch section of reverse stocking stitch as a positioning marker. You want the loop to curve outwards from the front of the rucksack so that the fastening strap can slide through it and hold the front flap of the rucksack in place (*fig. 11*).

Sew the fastening strap to the back of the front flap so that it is centred and corresponds with the fastening loop.

Weave in all of the tail ends and trim excess.



*fig. 4*



*fig. 5*



*fig. 6*



*fig. 7*

Next it's time to seam the rucksack sides. Using the cast on tail from the top of the front, join the side seam using mattress stitch (*fig. 4*) At the bottom of the straight side seam the seam turns at a right angle (*fig. 5*), this will be the part that forms the flat bottom of the rucksack. Seam this short section by sewing alternately through a bar between stitches (exactly as in mattress stitch) on the main part of the rucksack (*fig. 6*) and then behind a whole  $\surd$  stitch on the flap side of the seam (*fig. 7*) Continue alternating in this way until the seam is closed (*fig. 8*). Repeat with the second side of the rucksack but this time working from the opposite direction and starting with the tail end at the beginning of the short seam section. Again sew through through a bar between stitches on the main part of the rucksack (*fig. 9*) and then behind a whole stitch on the flap side of the seam (*fig. 10*) and continue seaming the longer straight side seam using mattress stitch. Weave all tail ends inside the rucksack and trim excess. Thread the fastening strap through the loop (*fig. 11*) and your rucksack is finished.



*fig. 8*



*fig. 9*



*fig. 10*



*fig. 11*

## Basket in 3 styles:

### Materials:

- approx. 19m (20yds) of 4ply/5ply/DK weight yarn

You can use any yarn that you like for these baskets. The light Bolga style basket is knitted in Schachenmayr Catania Denim 102, the middle two handled basket is knitted in Drops Safran 22 and the darker market basket is knitted in 410 Paintbox DK

### Notions:

- 2.75 mm (US 2) straight needles
- 2 x 2.75 mm (US 2) double point needles (DPNS)
- Tapestry needle

### Finished size:

approx 4cm (1 ½ inches) from base to basket rim



The base and upper of the baskets are the same in all cases. It is the type and placement of the handle which creates different basket styles, including: a classic wicker shopping basket, a two handled basket and a Bolga style basket (which is a traditional basket from the Bolgatanga area in northern Ghana).

### Special Abbreviations:

**SL2 WYB: SLIP 2 WITH YARN AT THE BACK:** Take the yarn to the back of the work and Slip 2 stitches purl-wise, bring the yarn forward again in order to work the next stitch. This is worked on the wrong side (Purl rows) so that the strand travels across the right side of the work

**SL2 WYF: SLIP 2 WITH YARN AT FRONT:** Bring the yarn to the front of the work and Slip 2 stitches purl-wise, take the yarn to the back again in order to work the next stitch. This is worked on the right side rows (Knit rows) so that the strand travels across the right side of the work

For all other abbreviations, please see Page 2

### Basket base:

Starting at the centre of the base and finishing with the outer edge. Use 2.75mm needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 7 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for gathering in the centre seam with later.

<b>row 1:</b> (wrong side) Purl	<b>row 5:</b> Purl
<b>row 2:</b> K2, (M1A, K1) 5 times (12 stitches)	<b>row 6:</b> K2, (M1A, K1) 20 times (42 stitches)
<b>row 3:</b> Purl	<b>row 7:</b> Purl
<b>row 4:</b> K2, (M1A, K1) 10 times (22 stitches)	<b>row 8:</b> Cast off Knit-wise

Cut the work from the ball (*fig. 1A*), leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with. Thread a tapestry needle with this cast off tail and use it to close the side seam from the outer edge to the centre and so make a complete circle.

Next gather the cast on seam at the centre of the circle: Thread the tapestry needle with the cast on tail from the base and use this to sew through the purl loops from the cast on edge, pull tightly on this tail end in order to gather in the centre of the circle and then tie off both tail ends on the wrong side of the work and weave in before trimming excess. That is the base of the basket finished (*fig. 1B*).



fig. 1A

fig. 1B

fig. 2

fig. 3

## Upper part of basket:

Starting at the bottom edge and finishing with the top. Use 2.75mm needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 42 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for attaching the base of the basket with later. If you prefer to knit this part in the round then please ignore the first and last stitch of each row as these are intended as seam selvages. Note: When making the decorative basket weave pattern on the right-side of the work, please slip all slipped stitches **Purl-wise**.

**row 1:** (wrong side) P3, SL2 WYB, (P2, SL2 WYB) 9 times, P1

**row 2:** SL1, (K2, SL2 WYF) 10 times, K1

**row 3:** SL1, (P2, SL2 WYB) 10 times, P1

**rows 4 -21:** Repeat **rows 2 & 3** nine more times  
(or until the basket side is the required height)

**row 22:** SL1, (K2, SL2 WYF) 10 times, K1

**row 23:** SL1, (P2, SL2 WYB) 10 times, P1F&B  
(43 stitches)

**row 24:** Work an i-cord cast off, like so (fig. 2):

*Tip, try to keep your tension a little loose and as even as possible, which will make the row easier to work.*

K1, K2tog tbl, slip both stitches back to the left hand needle and continue to repeat these steps until only 2 stitches remain, K2tog tbl

Cut the yarn from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with and pull the end through the last loop to secure the cast off, that is the upper finished (fig. 3).

Thread a tapestry needle with the cast off tail from the basket upper and use it to close the side seam by sewing alternately through the stranded loops on the very edge of the work, (fig. 4). Pull on the tail end to slightly tighten the seam. Once the side seam is fully closed thread the tapestry needle with the cast on tail end and use this to attach the circular bottom of the basket to the upper part, like so:

Sew alternately through a Purl bump from the cast on edge of the upper (fig. 5), and then a purl bump from behind the cast off edge of the base (fig. 6). Work all the way around until the base is full joined to the upper (fig. 7), tie off the tail ends to secure the seam and weave in before trimming excess. Next make the handle/s.



fig. 4

fig. 5

fig. 6

fig. 7

## Handle:

There is a choice of handles (see Page 8). All are made using the i-cord technique: An i-cord is a tube knitted in the round with two double-pointed needles. It has to be worked on double pointed needles because you need to slide the work from one end of the needle to the other, taking the yarn tightly around the back. There is a good i-cord video tutorial here: <https://knittinghelp.com/videos/knitting-tips> (scroll to the bottom of the page)

**row 1:** Knit the stitches normally, from the left needle to the right. Now all stitches are on the right hand needle and the working yarn is coming from the left most stitch. Slide the stitches from one end of the needle to the other

**row 2:** Without turning the needle, transfer it to your left hand. Bring the working yarn across the back of the work and Knit the stitches again, you will need to keep a tight tension. The only difference from a normal knitted row is that the yarn is coming from the last stitch and across the back of the work instead of from the first stitch.

### *Handle (continued):*

Continue to Knit across the stitches in the same way until the handle is the required length. Once you're happy with the length, Cast off in the normal way and cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail.

Tip: After you have attached the handles to the basket you can sew the tail ends through the centre of the i-cord in order to hide them, before trimming excess, this removes the need for weaving the yarn in on the inside of the basket.



Cast on 3 stitches and work an i-cord of 20 rows. Make 2 the same. Sew them parallel across the basket, then bind the handles together by wrapping with leather coloured yarn.

Cast on 3 stitches and work an i-cord of 14 rows. Make 2 the same. Then sew the handles to opposite sides of the basket base.

Cast on 4 stitches work an i-cord of 25 rows. Sew the ends to opposite sides of the basket so that the handle spans the top opening.

## Shoulder bag:

### Materials:

The bags have been worked in Krea Deluke organic cotton yarn. You only need small amounts of any colour, to knit a bag in a single colour would take 23m (25yds)

### Notions:

- 2.75 mm (US 2) needles
- Tapestry needle

### Finished size:

approx 5 cm (2 inches) from base to top of bag



Here is a pattern for a shoulder bag with short handles. The bag is worked in 2 separate halves and then seamed at both sides and the bottom using mattress stitch.

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*Dotted pattern (shown above in pink and blue versions, on the top row):*

Make 2 sides the same. Starting at the base and finishing with the handle. Use 2.75mm needles and Yarn A to cable cast on 26 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the base of the bag with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Purl

row 3: Knit

row 4: P1, Join in Yarn B, (P1, P5) 3 times, P1, P6

row 5: Knit

row 6: Purl

row 7: Knit

row 8: Purl

row 9: K3, (K1, K5) 3 times, K1, K4

row 10: Purl

row 11: Knit

row 12: Purl

### *Dotted pattern (continued):*

- row 13:** Knit  
**row 14:** P1, (P1, P5) 3 times, P1, P6  
**row 15:** Knit  
**row 16:** Purl  
**row 17:** Knit  
**row 18:** Purl, cut Yarn A from the ball, leaving a short tail for weaving in  
**row 19:** Change to **Yarn B**, K2, (K2tog, K1) 8 times (18 stitches)  
**row 20:** Knit  
**row 21:** Knit  
**row 22:** Knit  
**row 23:** K5, \*Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left hand needle, Cast off 6, K5

\* Crossing the 2 stitches in this way at the start of the cast off section strengthens and neatens the cast off and ensures that there will not be an ugly gap at the base of the finished handle.

- row 24:** P5, PF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 20 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the final cast on stitch back to the left needle and P2tog, Purl the remaining 5 stitches

- row 25:** Cast off Knit-wise

Cut the work from the ball, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the side of the bag with. That is one side finished (*fig. 1*), now make the other side exactly the same.

### *Alternative textured pattern:*

Shown as a finished bag in 2 tones of pink on Page 9 (bottom right). Instead of working the stitch pattern detailed on rows 4, 9 & 14 in colour-work, use the same stitch placements to create a textured surface, like so: Work exactly as detailed for the dotted bag pattern, but on rows 4, 9 & 14 work as follows:

- row 4:** P1, (K1, P5) 3 times, K1, P6  
**row 9:** K3, (P1, K5) 3 times, P1, K4  
**row 14:** P1, (K1, P5) 3 times, K1, P6

### *Alternative stripe pattern:*

Shown as a finished bag in cream and yellow stripes on Page 9 (bottom right).

- row 1:** (right side) Knit in **Yarn A**  
**row 2:** Purl  
**row 3:** Knit  
**row 4:** Purl  
**row 5:** Change to Yarn B, Knit  
**row 6:** Purl  
**row 7:** Change to **Yarn A**, Knit  
**row 8:** Purl  
**row 9:** Change to Yarn B, Knit  
**row 10:** Purl  
**row 11:** Change to **Yarn A**, Knit  
**row 12:** Purl  
**row 13:** Change to Yarn B, Knit  
**row 14:** Purl  
**row 15:** Change to **Yarn A**, Knit  
**row 16:** Purl  
**row 17:** Change to Yarn B, Knit  
**row 18:** Purl

Cut Yarn B from the ball, leaving a short tail for weaving in and continue from **row 19** on the left, in **Yarn A** only



*fig. 1*



*fig. 2*



*fig. 3*



*fig. 4*

### *Finishing Instructions:*

To finish, thread the tapestry needle with the cast off tail from one side and use this to seam the side of the bag, working from the top edge to the bottom and using mattress stitch (*fig. 2*). Repeat with the second side of the bag.

Next it's time to close the seam at the base of the bag. Like so: Using the tapestry needle threaded with the cast on tail, sew alternately through the  $\setminus$  of a whole stitch on the upper side of the seam (*fig. 3*) and then a  $/$  of a whole stitch on the lower side on the seam (*fig. 4*). Continue closing the seam in this way, working alternate sides in turn until the whole of the seam is closed, and tightening the seam slightly as you work so it is neat. Thread the tail end to the inside of the work and weave in before trimming the excess. Weave in all other ends on the inside of the bag and trim. Your bag is now finished.

## Two styles of Market bag:

### Materials:

Here I have used a linen yarn, Quince and co. sparrow for the blue bag and Katia Lino for the oyster coloured bag. The yellow bag is knitted in 4ply organic cotton from Krea Deluxe.

The amount needed is approx 17m (18 yds)

### Notions:

- 2.75 mm (US 2) needles
- Tapestry needle
- A cable needle

### Finished size:

approx 5.5 cm (2 inches) from base to top of bag



Here are two versions of a market bag with openwork patterning. These openwork patterns work best when worked with a thin and smooth yarn. The bags are worked in 2 separate halves and then seamed at both sides and the bottom using mattress stitch.

### Special Abbreviations:

YO: YARN OVER: Bring the yarn to the front of the work between the needles and then over the top of the right needle, ready to work the next stitch, creating a loop that is worked on the next row.

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: Slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note:** it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time)

For all other abbreviations, please see page 2

### Diagonal openwork bag:

Pictured above in blue on the top row. Starting at the base and finishing with the handle. Use 2.75mm needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 21 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the base of the bag with later.

Please note all slipped stitches are slipped **Knit-wise**.

**row 1:** (right side) Knit

**row 2:** Purl

**row 3:** Knit

**row 4:** Purl

**row 5:** K3, (YO, SL1, K1, YO, Pass the slipped stitch over both the K1 AND the YO following it) 7 times, K4

*Diagonal openwork bag (continued):*

- row 6:** P4, (P2, drop the YO from needle) 8 times, P3
- row 7:** K4, (YO, SL1, K1, YO, Pass the slipped stitch over both the K1 AND the YO following it) 7 times, K3
- row 8:** P3, (P2, drop the YO from needle) 7 times, P4
- rows 9-16:** Repeat rows 5-8 twice more
- row 17:** Knit
- row 18:** Purl
- row 19:** Knit
- row 20:** Purl
- row 21:** K6, \*Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left hand needle, Cast off 7, K6

\* Crossing the 2 stitches in this way at the start of the cast off section strengthens and neatens the cast off so that there will not be an ugly gap at the base of the finished handle.

- row 22:** P6, PF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 11 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the final cast on stitch back to the left needle, P2tog, Purl the remaining 6 stitches (25 stitches)
- row 23:** Cast off Knit-wise Cut the work from the ball, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the side of the bag with.

Make a second side the same.

To finish, thread the tapestry needle with the cast off tail from one side and use this to seam the side of the bag, working from the top edge to the bottom and using mattress stitch. Repeat with the second side of the bag.

Next it's time to close the seam at the base of the bag. Like so (please see illustrations of method on Page 10) Using the tapestry needle and the cast on tail, sew alternately through the  $\vee$  of a whole stitch on the upper side of the seam (fig. 3 on Page 10) and then a  $\wedge$  of a whole stitch on the lower side on the seam (fig. 4 on Page 10). Continue closing the seam in this way, working alternate sides in turn until the whole of the seam is closed, and tightening the seam slightly as you work so it is neat. Thread the tail end to the inside of the work and weave in before trimming the excess. Weave in all other ends on the inside of the bag and trim and the bag is finished.

*Ridged openwork bag:*

Pictured on Page 11 in oyster and yellow on the bottom row. Starting at the base and finishing with the handle. Use 2.75mm needles and your chosen yarn to cable cast on 21 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the base of the bag with later. Please note all slipped stitches are slipped **Knit-wise**.

- row 1:** (right side) Knit
- row 2:** Purl
- row 3:** Knit
- row 4:** Purl
- row 5:** K3, (YO, CDD, YO, K1) 4 times, K2
- row 6:** Purl
- row 7:** K2, SSK, (YO, K1, YO, CDD) 3 times, YO, K1, YO, K2tog, K2
- row 8:** Purl
- rows 9-16:** Repeat rows 5-8 twice more
- row 17:** Knit
- row 18:** Purl

- row 19:** Knit
- row 20:** Purl
- row 21:** K6, \*Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left hand needle, Cast off 7, K6

\* Crossing the 2 stitches in this way at the start of the cast off section strengthens and neatens the cast off so that there will not be an ugly gap at the base of the finished handle.

- row 22:** P6, PF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 11 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the final cast on stitch back to the left needle, P2tog, Purl the remaining 6 stitches (25 stitches)
- row 23:** Cast off Knit-wise and cut the work from the ball, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the side of the bag with. Make a second side the same. See above for finishing instructions.



## *Tweed/textured shoulder bag:*

### *Materials:*

The tweed bags have been worked in Jamiesons Shetland Spindrift yarn; the blue textured bag is worked in 52 Schachenmayr Merino Extrafine, and the pink textured bag is in 08 Krea deluxe organic cotton

The amount needed is approx. 23m (25yds)

### *Notions:*

- 2.75 mm (US 2) needles
- Tapestry needle
- Crochet hook to chain a button loop

### *Finished size:*

approx 5 cm (2 inches) from base to top of bag



Here's a pattern for a little bag which is knitted flat and then seamed up the centre of the back and the base. It has an optional button loop crocheted from the cast off tail end, which is functional and also helps to hide any un-evenness in the centre back seam. There's a 2 or 3 colour tweed version that is actually worked in 2 row stripes, (but because of the slipped stitch patterning you'd never know) and also a textured version, worked by crossing stitches.

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*Textured version:*

Shown as finished in both plain blue (top left) and pink (bottom right) on Page 13.

*Special Abbreviations:*

C2R: CROSS 2 RIGHT: Knit into the front of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stitch on the left-hand needle, then knit into the first stitch and then slip both stitches from the needle together – so crossing the second stitch over the front of the first.  
Also known as 1/1 RC (1/1 RIGHT CROSS)

C2L: CROSS 2 LEFT: Knit into the back of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stitch on the left-hand needle, then knit into the first stitch and then slip both stitches from the needle together – so crossing the first stitch over the front of the second.  
Also known as 1/1 LC (1/1 LEFT CROSS)

Starting at the base and finishing at the top opening. Use 2.75mm needles and Yarn A to cable cast on 42 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the base of the bag with later.

**row 1:** (right side) Knit  
**row 2:** Purl  
**row 3:** K1, (C2R, C2L) 10 times, K1  
**row 4:** Purl  
**row 5:** K1, (C2L, C2R) 10 times, K1  
**row 6:** Purl  
**rows 7-22:** Repeat rows 3-6 three more times  
**row 23:** K1, (C2R, C2L) 10 times, K1

**row 24:** Purl  
**row 25:** K1, (C2L, C2R) 10 times, K1  
**row 26:** K4, (K2tog, K2) 9 times, K2 (33 stitches)  
**row 27:** Knit  
**row 28:** Knit  
**row 29:** Cast off Knit-wise (fig. 1)

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a 12 inch tail for creating a button loop and seaming the bag with.



fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3

fig. 4

fig. 5

.....

*Finishing (for all versions):*

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a 12 inch tail for creating a button loop and seaming the bag with. Using this cast off tail and a 2.5mm crochet hook make a chain of 12 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have) (fig. 2). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop (fig. 3). Thread the tapestry needle with this tail and sew the back seam of the bag working from the top edge to the bottom and using mattress stitch (fig. 4). Close the seam at the base of the bag, using both tail ends and working from the middle of the seam to the edges. You can either use whip stitch to close the seam or close it in the same way as the shoulder bag on Page 10. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side as a fastening for the bag, (see finished bags on Page 13).

The strap is an i-cord (fig. 5) which is a tube knitted in the round with two double-pointed needles (DPNS). It has to be worked on double pointed needles because you need to slide the work from one end of the needle to the other, taking the yarn tightly around the back. Here is a good i-cord video: <https://knittinghelp.com/videos/knitting-tips> (scroll to the bottom of the page). To make the i-cord strap:

Using 2 x 2.75mm DPNS, cast on 3 stitches

**row 1:** Knit the 3 stitches normally, from the left needle to the right. Now all stitches are on the right hand needle and the working yarn is coming from the left most stitch. Slide the stitches from one end of the needle to the other

**row 2:** Without turning the needle, transfer it to your left hand. Bring the working yarn across the back of the work and Knit the stitches again, you will need to keep a tight tension. The only difference from a normal knitted row is that the yarn is coming from the last stitch and across the back of the work instead of from the first stitch.

*Finishing (continued):*

Continue to Knit across the 3 stitches in the same way until the strap is the required length. Once you're happy with the length, cast off in the normal way and cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail. Use this to sew both ends of the strap to the inside of the bag so that the joining seams are hidden by the top edges of the bag.

Tip: After you have attached the strap to the bag you can sew the tail ends through the centre of the i-cord in order to hide them, before trimming excess, this removes the need for weaving the yarn in on the inside of the bag.

*Special Abbreviations:*

YB: Take the Yarn to the back of the work  
YF: Bring the Yarn to the front of the work

*Two colour tweed version:*

Shown in pink and blue on Page 13 (top right). Starting at the base and finishing at the top opening. Use 2.75mm needles and **Yarn A** to cable cast on 42 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the base of the bag with later. Please note all slipped stitches are slipped Purl-wise.

- row 1: (right side) Knit
- row 2: Purl
- row 3: In Yarn A, (SL1, K1) 21 times
- row 4: (K1, YF, SL1, YB) 21 times
- row 5: Change to **Yarn B**, (K1, SL1) 21 times
- row 6: (SL1, YB, K1, YF) 21 times

- rows 7-38: Repeat rows 3-6 eight more times
- row 39: Change to **Yarn A**, Knit
- row 40: (K3, K2tog) 8 times, K2 (34 stitches)
- row 41: Knit
- row 42: Knit
- row 43: Cast off Knit-wise

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a 12 inch tail for creating a button loop and seaming the bag with.

See finishing instructions on Page 14

*Three colour tweed version:*

Shown in **ginger**, **raspberry** and **pink** on Page 13 (bottom left). Starting at the base and finishing at the top opening. Use 2.75mm needles and **Yarn A** to cable cast on 42 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming the base of the bag with later. Please note all slipped stitches are slipped Purl-wise.

- row 1: (right side) Knit
- row 2: Purl
- row 3: Change to **Yarn B**, (SL1, K1) 21 times
- row 4: (K1, YF, SL1, YB) 21 times
- row 5: Change to **Yarn C**, (K1, SL1) 21 times
- row 6: (SL1, YB, K1, YF) 21 times
- row 7: Change to **Yarn A**, (SL1, K1) 21 times
- row 8: (K1, YF, SL1, YB) 21 times
- row 9: Change to **Yarn B**, (K1, SL1) 21 times
- row 10: (SL1, YB, K1, YF) 21 times
- row 11: Change to **Yarn C**, (SL1, K1) 21 times

- row 12: (K1, YF, SL1, YB) 21 times
- row 13: Change to **Yarn A**, (K1, SL1) 21 times
- row 14: (SL1, YB, K1, YF) 21 times
- rows 15-38 repeat rows 3-14 twice more

- row 39: Change to **Yarn B**, (SL1, K1) 21 times
- row 40: (K1, YF, SL1, YB) 21 times
- row 41: Change to **Yarn C**, (K1, SL1) 21 times
- row 42: (SL1, YB, K1, YF) 21 times
- row 43: Change to **Yarn A**, Knit
- row 44: (K3, K2tog) 8 times, K2 (34 stitches)
- row 45: Knit
- row 46: Knit
- row 47: Cast off Knit-wise

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a 12 inch tail for creating a button loop and seaming the bag with.

See finishing instructions on Page 14



*Three colour tweed version*



*Two colour tweed version*



*Seaming*