

Kelley Deal

ROADBAG

Introduction

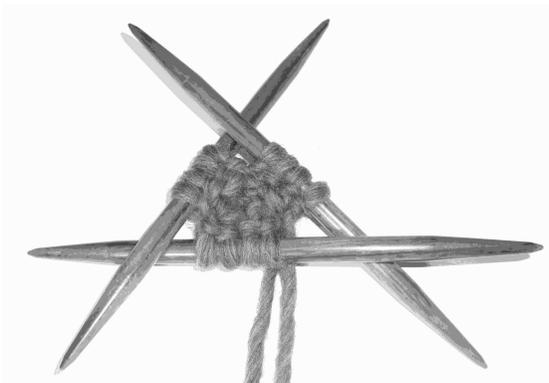
This project is for the knitter who already knows how to knit and purl. The bag is started on double pointed needles with a switch to a circular needle so some familiarity with those would be helpful - but it is not necessary. After knitting the bag, we will discuss the felting, blocking and finishing processes. I've also added links where I source my leather straps and sew-on magnetic snaps for the flap closure.

Materials

- 2 (two) skeins of Burly Spun by Brown Sheep
- Size 15 (US) double pointed needles
- Size 15 (US) circular needle, 16" long
- Stitch markers
- Stitch holder
- Tapestry needle with big eye
- 2 (two) 2" key rings, binder rings or O-rings *
- Leather shoulder strap *
- Sew-on or pronged magnetic snap *

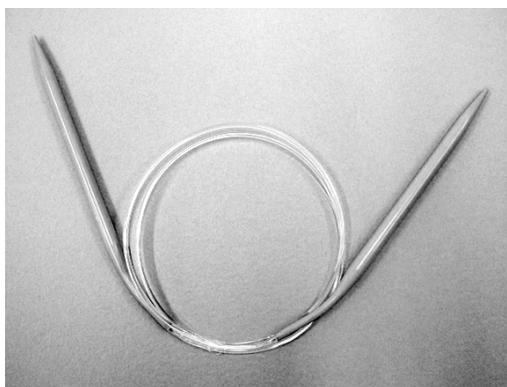


Overview



1. Getting Started

If you have never worked with double pointed needles then this is the perfect project on which to give them a try. The large sized needles and thick yarn make it easy to learn this technique.



2. Shaping the Bag

After switching to circular needles, continue to knit the body of the bag ending with the flap. Stitch increases and decreases give the bag it's unique shape. Use stitch markers and a row counter to keep you on track.



3. Finishing Up

A back pocket and strap tabs are all that's left to complete the knitting needed for this project. Attach the sides of the pocket and sew the strap rings onto the strap tabs. Weave in ends with large-eyed tapestry needle.

Overview

4. Felting the Bag

Felting (*or fulling*) occurs when a natural fiber is placed in hot water and agitated. Use a pillow case or zippered laundry bag to confine your knitting and add a squirt of liquid dish-washing soap and a pair of old jeans to help with the agitation. Set the washer to **'hot'** and run it on a normal cycle. Check your work. The goal is to have a bag that is smaller and denser with little or no stitch definition. Repeat the process until you achieve this result.



5. Blocking the Bag

Remove your bag from the washer and use plastic bags to create the desired shape. Push, pull, stuff and stand back with a critical eye. When you are satisfied with the shape allow the bag to dry for a day or so.



6. Finishing the Bag

All that's left is to sew on or attach a magnetic snap to the flap and to attach a strap of your choice.



*Accessories

Straps.



For strap rings that have no opening, 2" split-rings or binder rings, (as shown above), are great choices.

Some leather straps are designed be sewn onto tab rings. Many come complete with leather thread.

This strap has end rings that work like key rings. These 'split-rings' will attach easily to any tab ring option.

The inseam from a pair of jeans makes a strong, unique strap. Just fold it over any strap tab and knot securely.

Snaps.



Pronged Magnetic Snap.

Sew-on Magnetic Snap.

Pattern

Bag Bottom/Body

Using double-pointed needles, cast on 6 sts. Distribute the sts over 3 needles, placing 2 sts on each needle. Join to work in rounds, being careful not to twist stitches. Place stitch marker to denote beginning of round.

Row 1	Knit
Row 2	Kfb in each st (12 sts).
Row 3	Knit
Row 4	Kfb in each st (24 sts).
Row 5	Knit
Row 6	*K1, kfb in next st; repeat from * around (36 sts).
Row 7	Knit
Row 8	*K2, kfb in next st; repeat from * around (48 sts).
Note: You may wish to start using a fourth dpn, to accommodate all of the stitches.	
Row 9	Knit
Row 10	*K3, kfb in next st; repeat from * around (60 sts).
Note: You may wish to change to a circular needle here.	
Row 11	Knit
Row 12	*K4, kfb in next st; repeat from * around (72 sts).
Row 13	Knit
Row 14	*K5, kfb in next st; repeat from * around (84 sts).
Rows 15 - 35	Knit
Row 36	K19, k2tog, k14, ssk, k24, k2tog, k14, ssk, k5 (80 sts).
Row 37	Knit
Row 38	K18, k2tog, k14, ssk, k22, k2tog, k14, ssk, k4 (76 sts).
Row 39	Knit
Row 40	K17, k2tog, k14, ssk, k20, k2tog, k14, ssk, k3 (72 sts).
Row 41	Knit
Row 42	K16, k2tog, k14, ssk, k18, k2tog, k14, ssk, k2 (68 sts).
Row 43	Knit
Row 44	K15, k2tog, k14, ssk, k16, k2tog, k14, ssk, k1 (64 sts).
Rows 45 - 52	Knit

Pattern

Shaping Front Opening

Set-up: K4, place next 6 sts on st holder (for beginning of front opening), turn work.

Note: **Work back and forth in rows. Turn at the end of each row.**

Row 53	P2tog, p2tog, p54 (56 sts).
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Row 54	Ssk, ssk, k48, k2tog, k2tog (52 sts).
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Row 55	P2tog, p2tog, p44, p2tog tbl, p2tog tbl (48 sts).
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Row 56	Ssk, ssk, k42, k2tog (45 sts).
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Row 57	P43, p2tog tbl (44 sts).
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Note: **Bind off Sides and Shape Flap**

Row 58	K11 (side of bag), k22 (flap), BO 11 sts (other side of bag), cut yarn (33 sts).
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Row 59	Reattach yarn knitwise in first st of other side, BO 11 sts (side of bag), k22 (flap) (22 sts).
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Row 60 - 75	Beginning with a purl row, work in Stockinette Stitch (knit on RS, purl on WS) for 16 rows.
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Row 76	P2tog, p18, p2tog tbl (20 sts).
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Row 77	Knit
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Row 78	P2tog, p16, p2tog tbl (18 sts).
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Row 79	Knit
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Row 80	P2tog, p14, p2tog tbl (16 sts).
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Row 81	Knit
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Row 82	P2tog, p12, p2tog tbl (14 sts).
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Row 83	Knit
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Row 84	P2tog, p10, p2tog tbl (12 sts).
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Row 85	Ssk, k8, k2tog (10 sts).
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Row 86	P2tog, p6, p2tog tbl (8 sts).
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Row 87	Ssk, k4, k2tog (6 sts).
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Row 88	P2tog, p2, p2tog tbl (4 sts).
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Bind Off	
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Pattern

Finishing Front Opening

- Bind off the 6 sts on stitch holder at beginning of front opening and secure ends.

Making the Strap Tabs

- Row 1: Pick up 6 sts from side leaving 1 st between flap edge and tab edge.
- Work in Garter Stitch (knit every row) for 11 rows. Bind off.
- Slip on Strap Ring here (if needed) and sew tab down. Repeat on other side.

Making the Back Pocket

- Pick up and knit 16 sts along row 28 (marked row) at the center of the back of the bag.
- Work in Stockinette Stitch for 20 rows.
- Bind off. Using the tapestry needle, sew the sides of the pocket to the bag.

Finishing

- Slip tab ring onto strap tab, fold, and using tapestry needle, sew tab edge to the inside of the bag. Repeat on the other side.
- Weave in all ends.
- Using a steam iron on wool setting, press flap gently.
- Felt the bag using your favorite felting technique.
- While still damp, use an iron on wool setting to press the flap flat. Use plastic bags to block the bag. Don't overstuff it. Allow the bag to dry.
- Attach either a sew-on magnetic snap, or a pronged magnetic snap to the wrong side of the flap and the right side of the front of the bag.
- Attach strap.