



The “Marilyn Monroe” Bag

© 2004 Janice Farrell Pea
Sketched-On-A-Napkin Designs

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Most of the design work and knitting on this project was done in the car on a round-trip road trip from Champaign, IL to Columbus, OH. I had already decided to make the bag 50% taller than it was wide (pre-felting) and that I would use 36-stitch rows for the sides of the mitred rectangle and 24-stitch rows for the bottom of the mitred rectangle. Nancy Delcomyn immediately recognized the 36-24-36 reference and dubbed the project my “Marilyn Monroe Bag.”

Gauge

approximately 3.5 sts = 1” (gauge is not terribly important when felting, as long as the knitted fabric is not too stiff and has plenty of drape)

Materials

Yarn: 4 skeins Noro Kureyon

Needles: Size US #10 or 10.5 or size needed for gauge

Notions: 4 grommets, 2 markers

Abbreviations

CO = Cast On; **ST** = Stitch(es); **K** = Knit; **P** = Purl; **K2tog** = Knit 2 Together; **SSK** = Slip-Slip-Knit (slip 2 sts knitwise, return to left needle, and knit them together through the back); **BO** = Bind Off; **PM** = Place Marker; **SM** = Slip Marker from left needle to right needle; **RS** = Right Side; **WS** = Wrong Side; **Sl** = Slip the indicated number of stitches (purlwise, unless otherwise noted, *e.g.* working an SSK).

Instructions

Side Piece

CO 22 sts. Repeat the following two rows until you have completed 96 rows.

Row 1 (WS): K2, P to last 2 sts, K2

Row 2 (RS): K

Note that the 2 st garter borders help keep the edges from curling and makes it easier to pick-up and knit sts along the edge.

Bind off all sts.

Front

With RS facing, pick-up and knit along the edge, picking up a single st in each row as follows: Pick-up and knit 36 sts; PM; pick-up and knit 24 sts; PM; pick-up and knit 36 sts.

Repeat the following two rows until you have only two sts remaining between the markers.

Row 1 (WS): P

Row 2 (RS): K to 2 sts before marker, SSK, SM, K2tog, K to 2 sts before marker, SSK, SM, K2tog, K to end

When 2 sts remain between markers, work one more P row. Arrange sts on needles so that you can either sew the two sides together using the Kitchener stitch or join the two sides together using the three-needle-bind-off technique.

Back

Repeat as for the front, but pick-up and knit the sts on

the opposite edge of the side piece.

Top Edge

Pick-up and knit sts evenly around the top of the bag, one stitch in each row of knitting. PM and join into a round.

Work 4–5 rows either in stockinette stitch (knit all rounds) or in garter stitch (alternate one round of purling with one round of knitting).

Bind off all sts.

Handles

Make two handles with I-cord worked over 4 sts for 4.5 to 5 feet.

Finishing

Felt.

Dry in shape by stretching over a box or other suitably shaped object (an empty Cheerios box covered with a plastic bag worked for me).

Place gromets at “T” formed where the side, front/back, and top edge meet. Push a smaller knitting needle (size 7 or 8) through the felted bag where you intend to place the gromet. Enlarge the hole using larger needles, eventually stretching it to fit the selected gromet.