

Portland Tote

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Portland Tote is a fulled bag large enough to hold a couple of knitting projects along with all your knitting tools and a book or magazine. Plus, it's a gorgeous way to show off your mad knitting skills! People will stop you just to ask where you got your fabulous bag.

MATERIALS: 450 – 500 yds bulky weight feltable wool. You must use wool or wool blended with other animal fibers; DO NOT use acrylic, cotton, bamboo, etc., as these will not felt.

Pattern as shown uses 4 skeins Lamb's Pride Bulky (85% wool/15% mohair, 113 grams/125 yds/114 m), 3 in main color M225 Elderberry Wine and 1 in second color M215 Tormented Teal. US 15 (10mm) 32" circular needles, stitch marker.

GAUGE: 4 ½ sts and 13 ½ rows = 4 inches in circular stockinette.

INSTRUCTIONS - BASE: With main color, CO 40 st (do not join), K 40 rows (20 ridges) garter st. Next, pick up 20 sts along short edge of rectangle, 40 stitches along long edge, and 20 more sts along second short edge – 120 sts.

BODY: Place marker; begin knitting in the round. Bag as shown used the following stripe sequence: 8 rnds MC, 5 rnds SC, 3 MC, 8 SC, 3 MC, 5 SC, 3 MC, 3 SC, 8 MC. This equals 46 rounds of knitting before beginning handles. Change up the stripes however you wish--one skein of Lamb's Pride will give you about 21 rounds at this gauge.

HANDLES: At beginning of next round, K 8, BO 24 sts in 3 st i-cord (instructions below), K 36, BO 24 sts in 3 st i-cord, K 28. Next rnd, K 8, CO 24 sts in 3 st i-cord (instructions below), K 36, CO 24 sts in 3 st i-cord, K 28. Knit two rnds. Last round, BO all 120 sts in 3 st i-cord. You may choose to secure the corners of the handles by picking up and then decreasing one st or whipstitching the corners together before felting.

Instructions for i-cord bind off: cast on 3 sts by knitting into the first st on the left needle and pulling the resulting loop over the end of the left needle to add one stitch. Knit into this st, then pull the loop over the end of the left needle to create another stitch. Repeat a third time; you've added 3 additional sts to the left hand needle. Knit the first two new sts, then K the next two sts together through the back loop. One st has been bound off. Transfer these three sts from the right needle back to the left needle and repeat the process of K 2, K 2tog tbl, until 24 sts have been bound off, then decrease the last three sts down to one by passing two slipped sts over the third st.

Instructions for i-cord cast-on: Using a backwards loop cast on, CO 3 sts onto the right hand needle. Transfer these three sts to the left needle. Knit into the front and back of the first st, then K 2. Transfer 3 sts back to the left needle, and repeat the process of K fb, K 2, until 24 sts have been cast on.

There are video tutorials for both these techniques online—a quick YouTube search will yield several different results.



DIMENSIONS: 24" wide, 21" tall overall (14" base to handles) before fulling; 19" wide, 16" tall overall (11" base to handles) after fulling.

FINISHING: Weave in all ends, and secure inside corners of handles with whipstitch if you haven't already. Place bag into a zippered pillowcase and wash in hot water with a very small amount of detergent on lowest water level. If possible, wash with some jeans or tennis shoes thrown in to increase agitation. Check on the progress of the fulling during the wash cycle; it may be necessary to repeat the wash cycle several times to achieve desired results. Do not let the tote go through the spin cycle; this may set permanent creases in your finished bag. When tote is full as desired, remove from washer and press out additional water as necessary. Pull tote into shape; stuff with plastic bags, or boxes covered in plastic bags, as desired, to maintain shape while drying.



It's great to have a sunny day to help the finished bag dry!

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