



“LAINE”

Simply wool, simply felted, what could be easier than the machine knitted Laine bag. To line or not to line—the question is yours to decide. If you carry lots of heavy or sharp objects in your bag, it might need to be lined. But for those of you who throw a wallet, lipstick, and car keys into a bag before you rush out, just use it as is. It's also a great knitting bag.

MATERIALS:

Patons Wool, Bernat Lana (200 yds plus per skein) - 1 skein each of three colors.

KnitPicks Wool of the Andes (170 yds per skein) - 2 each skeins of three colors.

Hand knit: US #10 needles (circular needles if you knit in the round).

Machine knit: Keyplate #3 on bulky knit machine such as USM
No specific gauge is required. (See, simple!)

SMALLER BAG: CO 80 needles

LARGER BAG: CO 90 to 100 needles and add two extra stripes on front and back.

ABBREVIATIONS:

MC = Main Color

SC = Secondary Color

TC = Third Color

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cast on with waste yarn and knit 6 rows. Join main color (brown shown in picture) and knit as follows:

BAG FRONT:

MC: Knit 20 rows

SC: Knit 15 rows

MC: Knit 5 rows

TC: Knit 25 rows

MC: Knit 2 rows

TC: Knit 3 rows

SC: Knit 15 rows

TOTAL = 85 rows for front of bag.

BAG BOTTOM:

MC: Knit 50 rows

BAG BACK:

SC: Knit 15 rows

TC: Knit 3 rows

MC: Knit 2 rows

TC: Knit 25 rows

MC: Knit 5 rows

SC: Knit 15 rows

MC: Knit 20 Rows

TOTAL = 85 rows for front of bag--220 rows altogether.

Knit 6 rows of waste yarn and remove from machine.

STRAPS:

Cast on 6 to 8 needles on the machine. And knit 150 rows for a short, over-the-shoulder strap. Three hundred rows will give you a longer strap that will cause the bag to hang at hip length. The long knitted strip will roll, and when washed it will felt together in a round strap. If you wish, you can back stitch it into a roll before felting. KNIT TWO, or cut in half and tie after felting.

Think about how long you want the straps before knitting them. You can do one long strap run through the bag and tied on one side, or two straps to be attached on each side of the bag.

FINISHING:

Backstitch bind-off both ends, and remove waste yarn.

Stitch sides of bag together using your favorite method (mattress stitch, Kitchener stitch, or pick up stitches from the inside of the bag for a three needle bind-off). Be sure to match color stripes as you seam.

When side seaming is finished, turn the bag inside out and flatten the bottom to form pointed sides on each end. (See attached picture) Stitch across each end, creating triangles at each side. The deeper you make each triangle, the wider the bottom of your bag will be.

Attach straps by poking a knitting needle through the bag. Felted bags are like blanket material. A hole punched in the material will not run or pull through. You can even cut slits in bags and run ribbon or a pretty scarf through them.

Another way to attach straps is to fold the bag like a paper sack and punch the holes through all four layers. Run the strap through, tie on the inside or outside, and pull up as two loops. (See attached photo).

FELTING:

You can put your bag into a pillow case, or just throw it into the washer with similarly colored clothes. My favorite washing companions are dark colored sheets. The important thing is to use **HOT water. Most wool objects will felt on the first wash, losing about 1/3rd of their size. After washing, stretch over a box or other object which is approximately the size of the bag. I use a cereal box with a plastic bag over it. If you don't have an object to stretch the bag over, you can use newspaper or tissue to stuff the bag into shape.**

Allow the bag and straps to dry. Attach straps, and show off your new bag.

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Stitch ends of bottom into triangles:



Fold bag like paper sack and run straps through all four layers.