

Level of Experience: Easy

Open Stitch Market Tote

by Kathy Perry

The open stitch body of the bag is knit in one long rectangular piece with the Garter st front and back Borders done on smaller needles and added last. The bag is folded in half and seamed. The Straps are i-cord but options are suggested for a different look.

Size: One size fits all

Finished Measurements:

Circumference: approx 36"

Height: approx 18"

Materials:

Lion Brand Yarn Nature's Choice Organic (3oz/85g, 103yds/94m, 100% Organically Grown Cotton):

3 skeins #170 Pistachio

5 yards waste yarn (WY)

Size 8 (5mm) straight knitting needles

Size 10 (6mm) straight knitting needles or size needed to obtain correct gauge

Size 8 (5mm) double pointed needles for i-cord (dpn)

Sewing needle and thread in matching color for attaching Straps.

Tapestry needle

Gauge:

On size 10 needles in Eyelet pattern, 12 sts & 18 rows = 4"/10 cm

To save time, take time to check gauge.

Eyelet Pattern:

Using larger needles

(mult 8 + 9)

Row 1 (RS): K3, *yo, k3tog, yo, k5, rep from * to last 3 sts, k3.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: Purl.

Rep Rows 1-4 for pat.

Bag

With size 10 needles, CO 57 sts.

Designer Note-Cast On: Use an open method so the stitches can be picked up later and worked to form the Border. Make a slip knot with your working yarn and place it on both needles. *Hold the WY beside the slip knot and take the working yarn under it and over the needles from front to back. Bring working yarn in front of WY. Rep from * until all stitches are CO. Take out one needle before starting to work. Keep WY in place.

Work in St st for 4 rows.

Start Eyelet pat and work until piece meas approx 28" from beg, ending with row 4 of pat. Work in St st for 2 rows and dec 1 st on last row - 56 sts.

Border

Change to size 8 needles. *K2, k2tog, rep from * across row - 42 sts.

Work in Garter st for approx 1 1/2".

Shape Front Border: Work across first 14 sts, join another ball of yarn, BO middle 14 sts, and work across to end of row.

Work each section separately. Dec 1 st at beg of ea row ten times - 4 sts. Cut tail end of yarn and thread through tapestry needle. Run yarn through live sts to BO. Tighten and knot to secure.

Shape Back Border: Pick up sts from WY on size 8 needle. Make in same manner.

Straps

Make two i-cords approx 45" long.

Designer Note-Optional Strap ideas: You can make braided straps with 9-12 strands of yarn or knit straps in Garter st on 3 stitches with 2 strands of yarn. Purchased cord in a contrasting color also works well.

i-cord

Using dpn, CO 5 sts. *Knit one row. Without turning the work, slip the sts back to the beg of the row. Pull the yarn tightly from the end of the row. Rep from * for desired length. Bind off.

Finishing

Fold Bag in half and sew side seams stopping at Garter st Border.

Technical Tip: 100% organic cotton yarn is very soft to work with and can break if pulled too tightly. Try using a different yarn in a similar color to seam sides. Bottom corners can be rounded by poking in bottom ends and tacking in place or left square.

Pin Straps in place centered under Garter st Border and up Border points following picture. Tack down with sewing needle and thread. Tie ends in knots.

Weave in ends.



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