

Going Batty Treat Bag



Trick or treat?...definitely treat! Here are the “pithy”, as Elizabeth Zimmerman would call them, directions for this quick and easy bag. The bat motif is based on one by Barbara Walker, but it has been modified to suit my son’s specifications and to accommodate the bulky yarn that I chose for this pattern. This bag is worked from the bottom up. To begin, you will work the base of the bag flat in garter stitch. Once the base is complete, stitches are picked up along the three remaining sides of the piece and the remainder of the bag is worked in the round. The handle is worked from both sets of the 6 side stitches that make up the sides of the bag (directly from the upper edge), and is completed with a three-needle bind off.



Finished Measurements

Width = 13" Wide

Height = 12"

Depth = 2"

Materials

2 skeins of Cascade 128 (100% Peruvian Highland Wool; 128 yds per 100g skein) or comparable yarn

US 10 (6mm) 24" circular needle, or size needed to obtain stitch gauge

US 10 (6mm) 16" double point needles

Gauge

12 sts = 4 inches

Stitch Patterns and Techniques Used in this Pattern

Stockinette stitch—worked flat and in the round

Garner stitch—worked flat and in the round

Three needle bind off

k2tog—knit 2 sts together

ssk—slip, slip knit

yo—yarn over

sk2p—slip the next stitch, then knit next two stitches together as one, pass the slipped stitch over

s2kp2—slip the next 2 stitches knitwise as if you were knitting them together, knit the next stitch, pass the slipped stitches over the knitted stitch

Abbreviations

Dpn(s) — double point needles

Sts — Stitches

Bag Base

CO 39 sts.

Knit 12 rows. Do not turn work after the twelfth row. The needle with all 39 sts should be in your right hand and the tail should be trailing off the left hand side of the work. Place a marker and rotate the work to the right so that the adjacent short side of the work is facing up, pick up 6 sts evenly along the short side of the piece, place a marker, rotate the work to the right, pick up 39 sts along the other long side of the rectangle, place a marker, rotate work and pick up 6 sts along the remaining short side of the piece, place a contrasting marker.

Turning Ridge

The remainder of the bag is worked in the round until you reach the handles. The contrasting marker indicates the beginning of the round.

Join the work in the round and purl 4 rounds, slipping markers as you go. This forms the turning ridge.

Bag Body

Rnd 1: Knit.

Rnd 2: K39, slip marker, p6, slip marker, k39, slip marker, p6.

Rnds 3-8: Repeat Rnds 1 and 2.

Rnd 9 and all remaining odd numbered rounds: Knit.

Rnds 10 and 12: *K17, yo, k2tog, k1, ssk, yo, k17, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 14: *K17, yo, k2tog, yo, sk2p, yo, k17, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 16: *K6, yo, ssk, k7, k2tog, yo, k5, yo, ssk, k7, k2tog, yo, k6, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 18: *K5, yo, k2tog, yo, ssk, k5, k2tog, yo, k7, yo, ssk, k5, k2tog, yo, ssk, yo, k5, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 20: *K5, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, ssk, k3, k2tog, yo, k9, yo, ssk, k3, k2tog, yo, k1, ssk, yo, k5, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 22: K5, yo, k2tog, k2, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k11, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k2, ssk, yo, k5, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from.

Rnd 24: *K5, yo, k2tog, k3, yo, sk2p, yo, k13, yo, sk2p, yo, k3, ssk, yo, k5, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 26: *K5, yo, k2tog, k25, ssk, yo, k5, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 28: *K5, yo, k2tog, k9, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k9, ssk, yo, k5, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 30: *K6, yo, k4, s2kp2, k4, yo, k5, yo, k4, s2kp2, k4, yo, k6, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 32: *K7, yo, k3, s2kp2, k3, yo, k7, yo, k3, s2kp2, k3, yo, k7, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 34: *K8, yo, k2, s2kp2, k2, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k1, yo, k2, s2kp2, k2, yo, k8, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 36: *K9, yo, k1, s2kp2, k1, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k5, yo, ssk, k1, yo, k1, s2kp2, k1, yo, k9, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 38: *K10, yo, s2kp2, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k7, yo, ssk, k1, yo, s2kp2, yo, k10, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 40: *K10, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k5, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k10, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 42: *K16, yo, ssk, k3, k2tog, yo, k16, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 44: *K17, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k17, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 46: *K18, yo, sk2p, yo, k18, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnd 48: *K16, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k16, slip marker, p6, slip marker; rep from *.

Rnds 50, 52, 54 and 56: Repeat Rnd 2.

Rnds 58, 60, and 62: Purl.

The last round of the bag is Rnd 62, a purl rnd.

Upper Edge

The upper edge of the bag is formed by binding off the stitches of the bag front and back while leaving the 6 stitches on the sides of the bag “live”. The 6 stitches on each side of the bag are not bound off. They will be used to knit the handle.

*Bind off 39 sts for the bag front/back, knit across the side sts. You should have six stitches on the needle for the side. These will stay on the needle. Bind off 39 sts for the bag front/back and knit the remaining sts. Do not cut the wool. You will be knitting the first half of the handle with this set live sts, using the wool that is trailing from the last stitch worked. Put the other set of 6 sts on a holder for later.

Handle

Using dpns and the wool that is trailing from the last stitch worked, begin knitting the first half of the handle back and forth in garter stitch (you will begin the first row with the inside of the handle facing you). Knit every row until the handle measures 8-10". I know that this seems like a very short handle, but it is just one half of the total length and it will stretch as it is used. If you decide that you would like to reinforce the handle with twill tape or ribbon, you can go ahead and make the handle one half the finished length that you desire.

Do not bind off these sts. Cut the yarn leaving a tail for weaving in later and leave these sts on the dpn for later.

Turn bag to work the other set of side stitches to work the second half of the handle. With dpns and the inside of the bag facing, join yarn and work the second half of the handle as you did the first. Stop knitting once the two halves are the same length, but do not cut the yarn. Turn the bag inside out and arrange the handle halves with right sides together. Hold the dpns parallel to one another with right sides of work together, and using the yarn trailing from the last stitch worked, join the halves of the handle together with a three-needle bind off. Cut yarn and fasten off.

Finishing

Weave in all ends.

Block the bag so that the bat design shows nicely. I spritzed mine heavily with a plant mister, put a stack of towels inside the bag and then pinned it in place. You will want to turn the bag periodically so that it dries evenly.

Line the bag if desired. It's cute either way, but I like the way the lining shows off the motif. I made a simple lining for mine and then made a fabric sleeve for a piece of cardboard, which I inserted into the bottom of the bag so that it would have a rigid base. This is completely optional, of course.

Happy treating!!