

# frabjous fibers

every yard is an adventure™

## Textured Tote Bag

designed by Stephanie Shiman



**Yarn:** Kathmandu Original 200g : 1 skein, Cascade 220, col. 8414: 2 skeins (or similar feltable wool yarn)  
**Needles:** Sz 11, 24" circular & doublepoints (or second circular needle)  
**Notions:** yarn needle, bulky (or doubled) waste yarn, marker, similar colored cotton sewing thread  
**Gauge:** 2.5 sts & 4 rows = 1" (approximately)

**Measurements:** *before felting:* 12" tall, 12" wide  
*after felting:* 11" tall, 10" wide

### Bag body:

**Note:** The bag body is worked double stranded, with one strand of wool and one strand of recycled silk held together

Using a provisional cast on, CO 30 sts.

Work 12 rows stockinette stitch. With RS facing, pick up and knit 12 sts along side, recover 30 sts from cast-on, and pick up remaining 12 sts along the second side, place marker. (84 sts.)

Join and knit in the round until bag measures 12" from picked up bottom.

**Work bind-off i-cord as follows:** Cast on 3 sts onto left needle. Knit these three sts through the back loops and slide them back to left needle (do not turn). The working yarn is now on the left.

continued below...

\*Pull yarn snugly across the back of these sts then K 2, knit the last stitch through the back loops with one live stitch from the body of the bag. Slide these 3 sts back to left needle.\* Repeat around from \* to \* until all the live stitches have been bound off. Sew this end to the beginning of the i-cord.

**Chunky strap: (shown)** With two strands of wool—no recycled silk—CO 3 sts and work i-cord for 50 inches. Sew these live stitches to the start of the i-cord. Repeat for second strap.

**Skinny strap:** With one strand of wool—no recycled silk—CO 3 sts and work i-cord for 50 inches. Sew these live stitches to the start of the i-cord. Repeat for second strap.

**Felting:** *Before felting please note:* Using hot, hot water can cause the recycled silk to bleed and possibly stain other items in the washer. Also, hot water will mute the shine of the silk. To avoid bleeding and for best results use warm water and multiple wash cycles.

Throw bag and strap pieces into a pillow case and put into the washer with detergent. Add other items (note the possible bleeding) for agitation. Use warm water and enough wash cycles to felt the fabric as desired. Remove from washer, stretch into shape as necessary. Stuff bag with bubble wrap or dark colored towels and allow to dry.

**Finishing:** Once dry, fold the straps in half. Using leftover recycled silk yarn wrap the ends of the strap with yarn—leaving about a one inch loop on either end. (see photo) With sewing thread doubled securely stitch the strap to the tote on the wrapped section. Repeat for second strap.

### Tips for working with recycled silk yarn:

- It is easier to work from a hand rolled ball
- As soon as you can, weave in your cast-on tail to keep it from catching on your working yarn.
- If your yarn is over-twisted, letting out some of the twist will make it easier to work with and maximize your yardage. The easiest way to do this is by putting a rubber band around your ball and dangling it (or your knitting, whichever is smaller at the time) allowing it to turn and untwist the working yarn.

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