

Coit Tower Bag

Level: Advanced Beginner/Intermediate

Finished Size: 15" wide by 9 ½" height with
23" finished handle

Materials: O'Wool organic wool
(2 skeins of 100 gram size or 398 yards),
Size 8 Straight double pointed needles,
Size 8 Circular needles that are 16"
length, Yarn Needle, Stitch Counter,
Stitch Markers



Stitch Definitions:

K = Knit Stitch, P = Purl Stitch, K2 TOG = Knit two stitches together as one stitch, K3 TOG = Knit three stitches together as one stitch., Yarn Over 3 (a triple yarn over) = bring the back yarn over the right needle and wrap it around three times, BO = bind off.

Bag Bottom Panel & Bag Body:

1. Cast on 70 stitches using cable cast on using size 8 double pointed STRAIGHT needles.
2. Row 1: Knit entire row, Row 2: Purl entire row, Row 3: Knit entire row, Row 4: Purl entire row, Row 5: Knit entire row, Row 6: Purl entire row, Row 7: Knit entire row, Row 8: Purl entire row, Row 9: Knit entire row, Row 10: Purl entire row, Row 11: Last row, knit entire row. **PLACE A STITCH MARKER OR TIE A PIECE OF DIFFERENT COLORED YARN HERE.**
3. Pick up stitches going in the same direction on the stockinette side that you left off, using double point straight needles pick up stitches as follows: 10 on EACH short side for (that is twice) and another 70 stitches on the remaining long side (leave remaining 70 stitches on straight needle double pointed needles you started with = 160 STITCHES in total. **PLACE A STITCH MARKER OR TIE A PIECE OF DIFFERENT COLORED YARN AT THE THREE SIDES WHERE YOU PICKED UP THE STITCHES.** This allows you as you knit along to know exactly where the sides and beginning are which is very important to the structure of this project. Please note: when picking up the on short sides stitches; pick up a single stitch just under the first stitch and when picking up stitches on the long side, make sure you pick up both sides of the individual stitch just under the first row and knit as one stitch (check visually at long stitch row. What I usually do for the long side is pick up every other "set" on my needle, then as I start to knit the long side picked up stitches... I knit the stitches on the needle and pick up stitches from the bag bottom for the skipped stitches not on the needle. The reason is that picking when you pick up stitches on the long side they tend to twist or fall off

unless you do pick up only every other stitch. This method ensures your stitch count is more accurate too).

4. You have four straight double pointed needles now in your project. You will need a fifth needle to keep the sides from being stretched too much. I just use the size 8 circular needle as the fifth needle to start the knitting process.
5. When you have knitted 2 inches from the bag bottom transfer all stitches...as you knit, over to the double pointed circular needles. STOP Make sure you have your FOUR corner stitch markers on your needle. Once you get it going it's easier to work with than the double pointed straight needles. Knit till it's 7.25 inches from bag bottom panel.
6. K2 Tog (knit together 2 stitches as one) every 6 stitches. Make sure you keep the number of stitches on the bag bottom equal to each side, even if you have to add or skip a K2 TOG.
7. Next round K2 Tog every 6 stitches again! Make sure you keep the number of stitches on the bag bottom equal to each side, even if you have to add or skip a K2 TOG.
8. Check all sides for even count of stitches, if you need to make an adjustment make the adjustment on this round. (50 stitches on the front, 50 stitches on the back, 7 stitches on each side) = 114 stitches total. Knit 1 more round.
9. You will slightly change the dimensions by knitting the back side in stockinette and the sides and front side in a moss pattern. You do not do the pattern on the back side. By starting on the back side of the knit 50 stitches WHILE you Knit every 6 stitch by K2 TOG (another series of decrease). DO NOT DECREASE THE SIDES!, the next 7 side stitches Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1. On the same round front side on this same round...Knit 1, Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl (for 6 stitches). K2 TOG, *Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1, K2 TOG* repeat * until last side. DO NOT DECREASE THE SIDES!, the last side 7 stitches Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1, Knit 1, Purl 1 .
10. New round knit 43 (back side) and *K1, Purl 1* repeat stitches in-between* to the end of round. (You are knitting above the purl stitch and purling above the knit stitches for a moss stitch look).
11. New round knit 43 (back side) and *Purl 1, Knit 1* repeat stitches in-between* to the end of round. (You are knitting above the purl stitch and purling above the knit stitches for a moss stitch look).
12. New round knit 43 (back side) and *K1, Purl 1* repeat stitches in-between* to the end of round. (You are knitting above the purl stitch and purling above the knit stitches for a moss stitch look).
13. New round knit 43 (back side) and *Purl 1, Knit 1* repeat stitches in-between*.
14. Final round before starting flap. On the stockinette back side: Increase 1 stitch BY P1 and K1 into the same stitch, P1, K1, P1 for a total of 5 stitches here, then Knit 35 stitches. Increase 1 stitch BY P1 and K1 into the same stitch, P1, K1, P1, making a total of 5 stitches here again. You are now at the side of the bag!
15. Starting binding off in the pattern of K1, Purl 1 till the end of this round. What you are now doing is binding off the sides and front of the bag leaving 45 stitches at the back of the bag to begin the bag flap.

16. Note: the moss stitch pattern now becomes a seed stitch because you are working from on straight needles.

Bag Flap:

1. You are no longer knitting in the round and have 45 stitches on your needle. The bag flap has a border of 5 stitches that you have already set up in your last round on each side of the flap. Begin by P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 35 stitches and except for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
2. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and Purl middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
3. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
4. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and Purl middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
5. Repeat rows 3 and 4 till the flap is 4”
6. Begin row on front side by P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 16, knit 3 stitches together, Yarn Over 3 (FYI, a triple yarn over), knit 16 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
7. Next row on back side by P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and purl the middle 16, from the triple yarn over purl next stitch, purl into the back of the yarn over and purl again into the back of the last yarn over, purl 16 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
8. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
9. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and Purl middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
10. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
11. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and Purl middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
12. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
13. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and Purl middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
14. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
15. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and Purl middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
16. Next row by P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and knit the middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.
17. Next row P1, K1, P1, K1, P1 and Purl middle 35 stitches and for the last 5 stitches you will P1, K1, P1, K1, P1.

18. Next row by P1, K1 entire row. Repeat this row 6 more times. Last row bind off in pattern, leave 6" tail and feed the tail through the last stitch. Weave in loose ends.

Bag Bottom Panel Reinforcement:

1. Cast on 70 using cable cast on using size 8 needles. You will not be knitting in the round.
2. Row 1: Knit entire row, Row 2: Purl entire row, Row 3: Knit entire row, Row 4: Purl entire row, Row 5: Knit entire row, Row 6: Purl entire row, Row 7: Knit entire row, Row 8: Purl entire row, Row 9: Knit entire row, Row 10: Purl entire row, Row 11: Last row, knit entire row. Row 12: Bind off 70 stitches.
3. Turn bag inside out and match Bag Bottom Reinforcement to the bottom of the purse bag.
4. Hand stitch the two bag bottom panel pieces together.

I-Cord Twisted Braided Bag Handle

- Using double pointed needles cast on 3 stitches leaving 6" tail at the start.
- Knit 3 stitches, slide stitches to the other end and pull snugly on the yarn, Knit 3 stitches.
- Keep knitting I-Cord of the bag handle I-cord until it's 27". Do not worry if it curls (this will be corrected below).
- Bind off and leave 6" tail, feed the tail through the last stitch.
- Knit TWO more I-Cords, following above steps.
- After you knit the **three** I-Cords pull snugly on them. All I-Cords stretch, and it's IMPORTANT to pre-stretch your I-Cords before attaching to a bag...to ensure you have the right length (otherwise it will stretch on it's own and be way too long, especially with the bag's contents). The stretched out I-cords should be at least 38", while both I-Cords are next to each other tie a knot at one end of the bottom tails together.
- Then braid them together around each other and tie a knot around the other end. The braided I-Cords should be 32" before felting (23" after felting and attaching). Attach one of end set I-cords to the inside SIDE of the bag going down about 2" of the I-Cord, using the 6" tail stitching on the inside to stitch it. Stitch it also from the outside of the bag (just under the first stitch on the outside of the bag making sure to have the end yarn end inside the bag). Attach the other bag I-cord to the other inside SIDE of the bag I-Cord the same method. This ensures the handle is firm and doesn't look sloppy.

Felting Instructions:

- Put you bag inside of a pillow case and tie a knot at the end. Machine wash in hot water. Tumble dry in air or very low heat (not hot). The beauty of using O-Wool Yarn is that it doesn't pill! I cannot say enough about O-Wool yarn.

- Attach a button to the front of the bag that aligns to the button hole after you felt the bag. I take my bags to the fabric store after it's felted to make sure my button isn't too big. I love beautiful buttons and always go to Britex in San Francisco...the ultimate button store (not inexpensive, but worth it).

Lining the Bag:

- Not necessary but does give a better and cleaner appearance. Go to a fabric store and get about a piece of organic (certified) or eco (100%) cotton that is 24" wide and 18" in length.
- Fold the piece in half the long direction with the right sides together, stitch up the sides on a sewing machine about 3/8 of an inch. I do a second or zigzag seam on the inside of the seam to reinforce it.
- Fold the top edge of the lining edge to the outside for about 1 1/2 inches and stitch this.
- Next on this top lining stitch two rows of gathering stitches which are the largest stitches on the machine (usually 4 to 5 stitches per inch). Pull the two threads and gather the top of the lining to fit the top of the Coit Tower Bag.
- Place inside of the bag with the raw outside edges touching the inside of the bag. Pin in place and adjust gatherings to fit and hand stitch to the inside of the bag. Remove gathering stitches afterwards (they pull out pretty easy).

If you don't have access to a sewing machine, I would spend a small amount of money and take it to a Dry Cleaner with a seamstress. Viola tout! You have a very beautiful Coit Tower Bag that you made.