

texie's backpack

No traveling teddy is completely without his or her bag...but what adventurous teddy wants just any old utilitarian bag? Not the stylish Texie, who wanted something pretty and colorful to collect her travel mementos.



Size: sized to fit a bear 9" tall

Materials:

- Aurora Yarn Bee super bulky ribbon yarn (polyester)
- One (1) skein Autumn Sparks (100)
- Two (2) Size US10 (6mm) circular needles*
- Tapestry needle

Gauge: 15 stitches / 20 rows = 4 inches / 10mm in stockinette stitch

*While I knit the project with 2 circular needles, it can be done on 1 if you have a circular needle with a small enough circumference and then switch to double pointed needles (DPNs) or you can do the entire project on DPNs. The instructions are not written specifically for any style.

The backpack is a drawstring bag with straps. The top of the bag will be folded down and sewn to form the pocket for the drawstring. Stitches will be picked up along the back of the bag (opposite the drawstring opening) to knit the I-cord straps, which will be sewn down to finish.



BAG

Cast on 60 stitches; join in a round, being careful not to twist.

Knit in the round for 9 rounds. This will form the pocket to fold over for the drawstring.

On the next round: *K4, K2tog, repeat from * for 1 round (50 sts).

Knit in the round for 3 1/2".

Begin decreases.

*K3, K2tog, repeat from * for 1 round (40 sts).

[K2, (K2, K2 tog) x4, K2] x2 (32 sts).

[K2tog, (K2, K2tog) x3, K2tog] x2 (22 sts).

[K2tog, (K1, K2tog) x3] x2 (14 sts).

[K1, (K2tog) x3] x2 (8 sts).

*K2tog, repeat from * for 1 round (4 sts).

Cut yarn, leaving enough to thread the tapestry needle. Thread needle through remaining 4 stitches, remove stitches from knitting needles, draw yarn tight, and tie off.

DRAWSTRING

Cut a length of ribbon yarn the desired length to fit around the top of the bag when fully open and still long enough to tie. (NOTE: The ribbon yarn used here is sturdy and flexible enough to be used as a drawstring. If you desire, you can knit an I-cord with this or the yarn of your choice to the desired length.)

The top of the bag will naturally curl outward due to the stockinette stitch. Tuck the drawstring under that curl, and fold the edge down the desired distance. Stitch in place with the drawstring underneath, being careful not to catch the drawstring. Leave enough of an opening to easily tie the drawstring.



STRAPS

The straps will start with 4 stitches, and then will split into 2 2-stitch I-cords, one for each strap. Use a circular needle or 2 DPNs to begin the straps to avoid having to switch needles for the I-cord portion.

Leave the bag untied, and find the point on the back of the bag directly opposite the drawstring opening and just under the sewn-down edge of the drawstring pocket. Pick up 4 stitches for the straps.

Knit 4 rows.

On the 5th row, K2, then place remaining 2 stitches on a stitch holder.

Knit I-cord strap with 2 stitches to desired length for placement in bottom corner, then bind off; repeat for remaining 2 stitches.

Sew straps at desired point. (NOTE: I recommend you tie up the drawstring to see the shape of the bag when tied in order to determine strap placement.)



Weave in all ends.



**STRAP YOUR TRAVELING BEARS
INTO THEIR BAGS AND SEND THEM
ON THEIR WAY TO ADVENTURE!**

Copyright ©2008 Jen Johnson, all rights reserved. For personal use only. Please do not photocopy, scan and email, or reproduce by any other means. Feel free to provide the link to the pattern on my blog (<http://sarahwinchesteroffiberarts.wordpress.com/2008/08/14/texie-following-in-big-brothers-footsteps/>) at will! If you have any questions, you may always contact me by leaving a comment on my blog. Thank you and enjoy!