



#141 Purple Maze Messenger Bag

Designed by Dena Childs

A felted messenger bag knit in the round in stockinette with a slip stitch pattern for the flap.

Finished Size:
Approx 10.5" x 12" x 3.5"
after felting

Materials:

Valley Yarns Amherst (100% Merino Wool; 109 yds/50g) MC- Charcoal: 7 balls, CC- Soft Grape: 1 ball
24-inch US 10 1/2 circular needle
Tapestry needle
Stitch markers
Stitch holder or waste yarn

Gauge:

Approx. 13.5 sts and 18.5 rows = 4" in St st.

Abbreviations:

Pm = place marker
Sl1 = slip 1 st with yarn in back
Sl1 wyif = slip 1 st with yarn in front
K2tog = knit 2 together
Ssk = slip 2 sts as if to knit, insert tip of LH needle up into both sts and knit them together

Bag:

Begin bag at bottom. With MC, CO 58 sts.
Work 34 rows back and forth in garter st.
Begin sides of bag. CO 96 sts.
Join in rnd, purl 1 rnd. (154 sts)
Rnd 1: Starting on long side of bottom piece, pm, * k58, sl1, pm, k17, sl1, rep from *.
Rnd 2: Knit.
Rep last 2 rnds until piece measures 17" from second CO edge.
Dec rnd: (k8, K2tog) around (139 sts).
Purl 3 rnds. BO all sts purlwise.

Front Flap Slip Stitch Maze Pattern:

With MC, pick up 58 sts from second purl row from back of bag. P one WS row.
Row 1 (RS): With CC, k1, *k7, [sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1; rep from *, end k1.
Row 2 and all other WS rows: P all sts knit on previous row with the same color; sl all the same sl-sts with yarn in *front*.
Row 3: With MC, k1, * sl1, k7, [sl1, k1] 3 x; rep from *, k1.
Row 5: With CC, k2, * sl1, k7, [sl1, k1] 3 x; rep from *. Row 7: With MC, *[k1, sl1] 2 x, k7, sl1, k1, sl1; rep from *, k2.
Row 9: With CC, k2, *sl1, k1, sl1, k7, [sl1, k1] 2 x; rep from *.
Row 11: With MC, * [k1, sl1] 3 x, k7, sl1; rep from *, k2.
Row 13: With CC, k1, *[k1, sl1] 3 x, k7, sl1; rep from *, k1.
Row 15: With MC, k1, *[sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1, k7; rep from *, k1.
Row 17: With CC, repeat Row 1.
Row 19: With MC, *k7, [sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1; rep from *, k2.
Row 21: With CC, k6, *[sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1, k7; rep from * end last repeat k3.

Row 23: With MC, k5, *[sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1, k7; rep from *, end last repeat k4.

Row 25: With CC, k4, *[sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1, k7; rep from *, end last repeat k5.

Row 27: With MC, k3, *[sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1, k7; rep from *, end last repeat k6.

Row 29: With CC, k2, *[sl1, k1] 3 x, sl1, k7; rep from *.

Row 31: With MC, repeat Row 15.

Row 32: See Row 2.

Repeat Rows 1–32 two times more. Don't bind off. Place stitches on a holder or waste yarn.

Garter Border for Front Flap:

On right side of flap with CC, PU 64 sts on side of flap at a rate of 2 sts. for every 3 rows.

PM at corner.

Across bottom of flap from the stitches you placed on the holder, *(k4, k2tog), repeat * across bottom. PM at corner. PU 64 sts on the other side of the flap at the same rate as the first side.

Knit 3 rows, increasing 2 sts at each bottom corner of flap on next and every other row.

RS—bind off knitwise.

Strap:

Leaving a long enough tail for seaming, CO 16 sts, turn.

*K13, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K10, K2tog, k1, sl3 wyif, turn.
*K12, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K9, K2tog, k1, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K11, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K8, K2tog, k1, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K10, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K7, K2tog, k1, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K9, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K6, K2tog, k1, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K8, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K5, K2tog, k1, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K7, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 19".
K5, M1, k2, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K8, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K6, M1, k2, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K9, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K7, M1, k2, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K10, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K8, M1, k2, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K11, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K9, M1, k2, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K12, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3".
K10, M1, k2, sl3 wyif, turn.
* K13, sl3 wyif, turn, rep from * for 3". BO all sts.

Finishing

With WS tog, sew bottom piece to sides with whipstitch. Sew each end of strap to top side edges of bag with MC. Felt the bag to desired size and density. Stuff bag to help maintain shape while drying. Three-ring binders work great for this shaped bag. Also a slip stitch pattern tends to pull in more than stockinette. You may need to pull the front flap to desired size and pin it while it dries.