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SUMMER STRIPES

BY EKELOA



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SUMMER STRIPES

A BEACH BAG

I'll be honest with you: I can't explain exactly how I got the idea that made me design this bag.

I loved the geometrical motif of diagonal stripes that interchange in colour and stitch, as well as the idea of using a very heavy and texture-rich yarn to realize it.

MATERIALS

- ✓Fettuccia by Borgo De' Pazzi (70% recycled cotton, 30% acrylic), 80 meters for 200g skein, 240 meters per colour; you will have about half skein leftover of the colour you choose not to use for the sides of the bag.
- ✓10 mm needles
- ✓8 mm crochet hook

and if you wish to linen your bag on the inside, you will also need about 1 m of fabric of your choice (at least 140 cm wide), two 2,5 - 3 cm automatic buttons, some Cucirini Coats Invisible and Cucirini classic sewing thread, (preferably) a sewing machine and sewing needles.

TENSION

Tension is not crucial to this project, but I strongly recommend not to work this yarn too tightly in order to avoid a very heavy finished bag.

10 cm in diagonal ribbing stitch = 10 stitches and 11 rows

10 cm in double knit fabric stitch = 8,5 visible rows

ABBREVIATIONS

kX = X number of knit stitches

PX = X number of purl stitches

MC = main colour, used for the sides of the bag as well

CC = contrasting colour

CO = Cast on

BO = bind off

st(s) = stitch(es)

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MAIN BODY MAKE 2

CO 52 sts in MC using long-tail CO method

1. Row 1: * k4 (CC), p4 (MC), repeat from * 6 times, k4 (CC)
2. Row 2: p3 (CC), * k4 (MC), p4 (CC), repeat from * 6 times, k1 (MC)
3. Row 3: p2 (MC), * k4 (CC), p4 (MC), repeat from * 6 times, k2 (CC)
4. Row 4: p1 (CC), * k4 (MC), p4 (CC), repeat from * 6 times, p3 (MC)
5. Row 5: p4 (MC), * k4 (CC), p4 (MC), repeat from * 6 times, p4 (CC)
6. Row 6: * k3 (CC), p4 (MC), * k4 (CC), repeat from * 6 times, p1 (MC)
7. Row 7: * k2 (MC), p4 (CC), * k4 (MC), repeat from * 6 times, p2 (CC)
8. Row 8: * k1 (CC), p4 (MC), * k4 (CC), repeat from * 6 times, p3 (MC)
9. Row 9: * k4 (MC), p4 (CC), * k4 (MC), repeat from * 6 times, k4 (CC)

Continue working starting from row 3 until you have on the side 6 stripes worked in CC.

p all one row with CC, then the next row k all, BO all sts with CC.

SIDES MAKE 1

CO 12 st in MC with long-tail CO method.

- ✓ * k1, slip 1 st with yarn in front, repeat from * to end of row.
-

Repeat these instructions for about 116 cm.

BO all sts using MC.

SHOULDER STRAPS

The shoulder straps for this bag are simply baided yarn: very easy to make, they will give your bag a stunning finished look.

Prepare 8 pieces in CC and 4 in MC of th Fettuccia yarn, each about 150 cm long. Tie a knot at each end of your yarn to avoid it unravelling and then, with another piece of yarn about 10 cm long tie all the pieces together.

Holding 4 strands of the same colour together, divide the strands into three parts (each of 4 strands) and braid them together to the end. Repeat the same procedure for the second strap.

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If you wish to give your bag a less refined look, you can make the shoulder straps with the same technique used for the sides of the bag. In this case only CO 6 sts and work 62 cm for.

SEWING LINING FINISHING

Join all pieces of the bag together using crochet hook and the Fettuccia yarn. I started by joining the front to the sides all around first, then joining the back in the same way.

Finish the upper edge of the bag with one round of single crochet (American term): you can choose to decrease the number of sts you actually work to help with the lining process later.

The lining consists in 2 pieces of fabric (dimensions 62 cm x 44 cm, including the seam allowance for French seam) and - for the brave - a double piece of 24 cm x 16 cm fabric for internal pockets.

First of all, pin the pieces for the internal pockets where you want your pockets to be, stitch the central part of the pockets to make pen holders first, then along the 3 edges (bottom, left and right).

To ease the stitching and finishing, I folded 1 cm of fabric all around and ironed it down, marking with a tailors chalk the 3 central seams: I created 2 bigger pockets (namely 8 cm and 10 cm wide) while in the center I made two smaller divisions for pens of 2 cm each.

After this, I sewed the two pieces all around keeping the right side out, then I turned the work inside out and sewed all around again on the wrong side, closing up the previous seam edge inside the new one inserting.

I then turned the work outside out again and... voilà!

The seams are done on both right and wrong sides!

I then hand-sewed the whole lining into the bag using the invisible Cucirini thread.

The shoulder straps are sewn in place on the third "space" counting from the bag side; the bag is also "wrinkled" a little between the two bag straps: you can choose to wrinkle it before attaching the bag straps or obtain the effect while sewing the straps to the bag itself.

Attach the two buttons in correspondence to the bag straps... and you're done!

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FETTUCCIA

BY BORGO DE' PAZZI

I'm here today to review the yarn I used for my May pattern,

Fettuccia by Borgo de' Pazzi.

This yarn is definitely peculiar, both in its look and its composition.

To be honest, I would never have used it if I hadn't been given the chance, since I seldom use needles larger than 5 mm. and in this case I had to stretch to no less than 10 mm!

But I have to say that the experience helped me grow both as a knitter and as a designer... but let's go back to the yarn with a more specific description of it.

Fettuccia is a recycled cotton and acrylic blend of huge tubular yarn made of slightly-thicker-than-lace thread worked very loosely.

Once spread out, it can create effects similar to a tiny net, very delicate and weak: but knitted as yarn it gives a substantial texture even on regular stockinette.

I've been particularly struck by the lightness of this yarn: I would easily use it for a tiny summer coat (or an evening shrug) as well as for home decor such as rugs, american dining sets, hand towels, etc. In the pattern I designed, this yarn enhances the stitches used and definitely reinforces the structure of the finished bag, making it a very unique garment.

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