

GINA Hexagon Felted Bag



**Approximate Dimensions: 10" wide 10" tall
(not including handle)**

Materials:

Gina: 3—50G balls, color 11 Spring Flowers

Gauge: 16 sts, 16 rows= 4" in st st on size 10 (6mm) needles (before felting),

5" x 5" = 1 triangle, before and after felting.

Needles: US Size 10 (6mm) DPNs (double pointed needles), stitch marker, yarn needle for sewing.

1 Triangle

CO 66 sts, placing 22 sts each onto 3 DPNs.

Join in the round, being careful not to twist. PM.

K one round.

Round 1: *Ssk, k to last 2 sts on DPN, k2tog; rep from * twice more. (6 sts decreased)- 60 sts.

Repeat the last round until there are 6 sts remaining- 2 sts on each needle. Cut yarn and draw through remaining sts.

Fasten off.

Make 11 more triangles. Make 2 hexagon motifs by working a small (not too bulky selvedge) mattress stitch-stitching 6 triangles together. Set aside.

Strap/Gusset

CO 14 sts onto a DPN. Work in garter stitch (knit every row) for 25"- this "gusset" will go around the perimeter of the bag.

Rows 1, 3, 5, 7 (WS): P all sts

Rows 2, 6: K all sts.

Row 4: Sl 5 sts to spare DPN and hold to front, k5, k5 from DPN, k4.

Row 8: K4, sl 5 sts to spare DPN and hold to back, k5, k5 from DPN. Repeat these 8 rows for braided strap until desired length- ours is approximately 26" + 25" for the gusset. End having worked row 3 of cable. BO in k on next row.

Finishing

Sew the 25" of the gusset's sides to the sides of the hexagons. Sew the CO and BO edges of the strap together-making sure there isn't a twist in the strap.

Felting: Gina felts quickly and easily by hand.

Fill your sink with hot soapy water so that the bag is just submerged. Using your hands (put on some rubber gloves to protect them from the heat!) agitate the hand bag, rubbing it against the sides of the sink and against itself. You can shock the bag by running it in some very cold water to help merge the fibers together, but it isn't mandatory. When the stitches of the handbag have disappeared and the bag has stiffened a bit from felting, wring out the excess water and roll in a towel to get most of the moisture out. Shape and let air dry.

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