

Kureyon Scraps Tote Bag

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NORO Kureyon is a self-striping wool yarn with wide color repeats. Other yarn leftovers may be used if they are 100% wool; however, keep in mind that your results might differ depending on what you use. I recommend knitting and washing (felting) a small swatch so you can see how the yarn behaves. Measure the swatch before and after felting. This step is not necessary, but it is highly recommended.



Yarn: NORO Kureyon 100% wool, 250-300g – assorted colorways
Needles: Circular needles – Sz 10-1/2 (US) 24"
Accessories: Grayson E leather handles, set of two 25"
Notions: Stitch markers
Tapestry Needle
Perle cotton embroidery thread (in a color that matches handles)
Wool wash (Soak, Eucalan)

Using long-tail cast-on, cast on 80 stitches. Knit back and forth for 41 rows (garter stitch). This forms the base (bottom) of your bag.

Pick up and knit 20 stitches on short side of rectangle
Pick up and knit 80 stitches on long side of rectangle
Pick up and knit 20 stitches on remaining short side of rectangle

Knit across the 80 stitches that you cast on and place a marker to mark beginning of the round. You should now have a total of 200 stitches on the needle. Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist your stitches. Knit at least 80 rounds and measure your bag's height. The bag's final height after felting will be approximately 40-60% less than what it is unfelted. Most of the shrinkage tends to be in height rather than width, so when in doubt, make your bag taller.

Knit until you are almost out of yarn (leaving enough to bind off) and bind off loosely. (*Note: the photo on the following page was taken when one-third of the bag was knit.*)



FELTING: Place the finished bag in a zippered pillowcase (to protect your washing machine from the excess fiber and fluff). A top-loading washer, hot water, a quality wool wash and agitation are required for the bag to felt properly. I also use an old pair of jeans in the washer during felting to speed up the agitation process. Set your washing machine for a hot wash and cold rinse. When you reach into the washing machine to check felting progress, the water will be very hot. Finally, it's totally up to you how aggressively you want to felt the bag. If you prefer to see no stitch definition after felting, it might require 3-4 felting cycles. I'm usually happy with mine after no more than 3 cycles. Block the finished bag and allow to air dry.

Although I am glad to answer questions regarding felting, please read the material at the link below before emailing me:

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEwinter03/FEATfelthis.html>



To sew on the handles, I estimated the placement and sewed on the first handle by backstitching through the pre-drilled holes with a double-strand of embroidery thread (I used DMC Perle cotton). When both sides of the first handle were attached, I measured the distance between the handles with a ruler and used that as a guideline for the second set of handles for the opposite side.

Enjoy your bag!