

Modular Purse Pattern

By Stephanie Carrico

Based on the work of Valentina Devine

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This bag can be made to any size with any yarn you choose. The purse pictured here was made with worsted weight wool yarn with a carry along of novelty yarn on a size 7 needle. Work at a tight gauge for a firm and sturdy purse. The front and back measure 8 ½ " square. The sides and bottom measure 8 ½ " X 4 ¼ ".

Front and back (make 1 each): Cast on any number of stitches and work in garter stitch for an even number of rows, bind off on the right side leaving last stitch on needle. Turn work 90 degrees and pick up one stitch for every garter stitch ridge along this side. This is a good place to change colors. Note in the picture below colors were changed 3 times before this first bind off.



Continue knitting in garter binding off and changing directions as above. When picking up along bound off or cast on edge, pick up one stitch for every stitch. Work until piece is square of desired dimensions. Remember it is easy to check for a square if you fold on the diagonal and your resulting triangles match up.

Repeat for back.



Sides (make 3): Work as for front and back. Purse sides measure 8 ½ "tall and 4 ¼ "wide. For a tall narrow piece it is easiest if you knit a tall narrow band changing colors as desired. Then bind off and pick up stitches on each of the four sides until piece is desired dimensions. Make 3 rectangles of this size.

Finishing: Using main color and sturdy yarn single crochet around each piece. At corners sc, ch 1, turn corner, sc again in same stitch. Holding wrong sides together slip stitch through each sc to attach fronts to sides then top of bag to bottom.

If a novelty edge (as pictured) is desired for top of bag, pick up one stitch in each single crochet from right side and work 2-4 rows of stockinette stitch with novelty yarn. Bind off loosely.

Tack front to back by folding side rectangles in half at top and sewing through.

Handles: Work a length of 1 cord over 4 stitches a minimum of 45" in main color. Work another length in novelty yarn for half this length. Fold long cord in half and place shorter cord in the middle, stitch to secure. Braid cord tightly. Handle may be sewn directly to sides or as in pictured bag sewn onto a D rings which are sewn to sides.

Closure: Cut 3 9" lengths of ribbon, fold in half and knot several times. Push through bag along top and stitch to secure. Sew three 1 ¼ "buttons along top of corresponding side. Loop ribbon over buttons to secure. These pieces could alternately be worked in a two stitch i-cord.

Abbreviations

Sc single crochet

ch chain