

LIL' BIT

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Calling this a pattern is overstating it a bit. It's a knitting recipe. But it's a great project for stashbusting small amounts of yarn, and makes very useful little bags for any purpose you can dream up.

It's a good use for handspun, too, or lighter weight yarn held doubled (or tripled!)



First:

What do you want to make a bag for? I seem to like sunglasses cases, but there are many other options. Knitted gift bags, a point-and-shoot camera sack, storage for the face plate of your car's radio, sachets for a packet of lavender to store with your wool... This will help you determine how big you want to make the bag, and therefore how much yarn you will need.

Materials:

- Yarn of your choice. Here are some guidelines for a glasses case of 3.5 inches by 8 inches: 25 yards of super bulky, 45 yards of dk/worsted, 75 yards of fingering/sport.
- Needles in the appropriate size for your yarn. Double-pointed needles are my first choice, but I also used this project to learn how to knit with two circulars.
- Gauge depends on your yarn. You'll need to figure out your gauge and how big you want the bag to be to know how many stitches to cast on.

Skills Used:

Cast on, knitting in the round, three-needle bind off. That's it.

Instructions:

- Cast on the number stitches you need. Should be an even number. (For eyeglasses case in dk/worsted with US 7 / 4.5 mm needles, I cast on 36 stitches).
- Join for knitting in the round, being careful not to twist stitches.
- Knit until desired length. Be sure to knit to end of the round before binding off.
- Finish with a three needle bind-off and sew in ends. That's all!

Three needle bind-off:

- Transfer all stitches onto two needles, with an even number on each needle. Live yarn and live stitches are to the right, and wrong sides of work are facing each other.
- With a third needle, insert the tip through the first stitch on the front needle and then the first stitch on the back needle, and knit these two stitches together.
- Repeat so there are two stitches on the right, third needle. Pass right stitch over left stitch as in normal bind-off.
- Repeat to end of stitches.



Variations:

- Add eyelets (yarnover, knit 2 together) a few rows after the cast on and thread yarn through holes for a tie.
- Start with k2, p2 ribbing for an inch or two for an end that will cinch in.
- Whatever you dream up!