

SIDEKICK

BY LAURA TREADWAY

A simple bag, just big enough for wallet, keys, and sunglasses. It comes with a long i-cord strap, making it just perfect for running about town on those summer days when you find yourself without pockets.



Materials:

- 80 yards of heavy worsted weight yarn. I used scraps from my stash – three strands of Perle 3/2 Cotton by Silk City held together.
- 5.5 mm (US 9) double-pointed needles. Can also use long circular needles in magic loop for the body of the bag.
- Stitch markers.

Gauge:

4 stitches and 6 rows = 1 inch

Experiment with leftover yarn in your own stash. The key is that you achieve a tight fabric without a lot of give.

Skills Used:

Provisional cast on, knitting in the round, double-pointed needles, three-needle bind off, picking up stitches, i-cord. Magic loop is optional.

Instructions:

- Using DPNs and provisional cast-on, cast on 48 stitches. (This will result in a bag 6 inches wide.)
- Join for knitting in the round, being careful not to twist stitches. Place marker to note the beginning of the round.
- Knit in stockinette for 7.5 inches (19 cm).
- Switch to garter stitch for 3.4 inch (2 cm). This prevents the edges from rolling.
- Bind off all stitches. This is the top of your bag.
- Go back to the provisional cast-on and slip stitches onto your needles. Divide stitches in half so that you have two sets of 24 stitches. Bind these off together with a three-needle bind off. This is the bottom of your bag.
- Pick up three stitches from the inside of the garter stitch border, along the side of the bag.
- Starting with these three stitches, knit an i-cord until strap is the desired length. Remember, strap will stretch once there is weight inside the bag, so make it 4-6 inches (10-15 cm) shorter than you think you will need. Securely fasten the other end of the i-cord to the other side of the bag.
- Weave in ends on the inside of the bag.

