

## CRESCENT BAG

## Designed by CAT BORDHI

## FINISHED SIZE

[After felting] 15" wide, 11" tall, 18" strap length

## MATERIALS

Lana Grossa Royal Tweed
[100\% merino wool, 110 yds in 50 g]
COLOR A \#06 Charcoal - 3 balls
COLOR B \#37 Raspberry -2 balls
COLOR C \#29 Cream - 1 ball

## NEEDLES

Two size US 10½ (6.5 mm) circular needles, one 24" long, the other may be longer.

Sewing needle and thread to match color A.

## GAUGE

(Before felting) 13 sts and 5 rows $=4$ " in garter st

## NOTES

1. You will need about two dozen stitch markers for this project. Two of these markers will be designated "special markers." You can use markers of a different color, or tie a bit of contrasting color yarn to the "special markers."
2. To knit in the round with 2 circular needles: Use each needle to knit its own sts. When the first needle is finished, its sts are slid to the middle of the cable, and the circle of knitting needles rotates clockwise. The yarn is given to the second needle, which then knits its own sts. Then the second needle rests while the first needle knits, etc., always with one needle at work while the other rests.

## FIRST RASPBERRY CRESCENT

CO 100 sts with color B, placing markers on needle between CO sts in the sequence shown below, where $\mathbf{M}=$ MARKER, and $A$ and $B$ represent special markers.

5-M-5-M-5-M-5-M-3-М-3-М-3-M-3-М-3-M-3-А-24-B-3-М-3-М-З-М-З-М-3-М-З-М-5-М-5-М-5-М-5-М-5

ROW 1: K. Identify center of edge by tying a bit of contrast color yarn on CO edge (not on needle) in the center of 24 sts between $A$ and $B$.

Do not treat this yarn as a marker in following instructions.
ROW 2: K to A, remove A, W\&T.
ROW 3: K to B, remove B, W\&T.
ROW 4: K to next marker, remove marker, W\&T.
Rep row 4 until no markers rem on needle. K to end of this row. K1 more row. Break yarn, leaving sts on needle.

## CHARCOAL INSERT

ROW 1: Working along CO edge of raspberry crescent, count 25 sts before and after yarn marker and mark this section. With color $A$ and second needle, pick up and $K$ 50 sts in this center section, placing markers on needle between picked up sts in the sequence shown below, where $\mathbf{M}=$ MARKER, and $A$ and $B$ represent special markers.

## М-З-М-З-М-З-М-З-М-З-М-5-А-10-B-5-М-З-М-З-М-З-М-З-М-З-М

ROW 2 (WS): $K$ to A, remove A, W\&T.
ROW 3: $K$ to $B$, remove $B, W \& T$.
ROW 4: K to next marker, remove marker, W\&T.
Rep row 4 until no markers rem on needle.
LAST 2 ROWS: K to end of charcoal, W\&T. K to end of charcoal, W\&T. Break yarn, leaving sts on needle.

## SECOND RASPBERRY CRESCENT

With RS facing, and without attaching yarn, use tips of needle holding charcoal sts to pick up 25 sts on either side of charcoal insert along CO edges of first raspberry crescent - 100 sts. Join color B and rep from row 1 as for first raspberry crescent. When complete, each needle holds 100 sts -200 sts total.

## CHARCOAL BODY OF BAG

Work in the round with two circular needles [see note].
ROUND 1: Join color A. K1, inc 1, K98, inc 1, K1. Rep on second needle - 204 sts.

ROUND 2: \{K1, inc 1\} twice, K98, \{inc 1, K1\} twice. Rep on second needle - 212 sts.

ROUND 3: K.
ROUND 4: K1, inc 1, K104, inc 1, K1. Rep on second needle - 216 sts.

ROUND 5: K.
ROUND 6: K1, inc 1, K106, inc 1, K1. Rep on second needle - 220 sts.

NOTE: Soon you can probably work on 1 needle [choose longer one if you have 2 lengths]. Next time you finish knitting with the longer needle, continue using it to $K$ all sts off shorter needle. Make sure to place a beg of round marker before putting all sts on one needle.

ROUNDS 7-8: K.
ROUND 9: K1, inc 1, K6, \{K4, K2tog\} 16 times, $K 6,\{K 1$, inc 1\} twice, K6, \{K4, K2tog\} 16 times, K6, inc 1, K1 - 192 sts.

ROUNDS 10-14: K.
ROUND 15: K1, inc 1, K7, \{K2tog, K3\} 16 times, $K 7$, $\{K 1$, inc 1\} twice, K7, \{K2tog, K3\} 16 times, K7, inc 1, K1 - 164 sts.

ROUNDS 16-20: K.
ROUND 21: $K 1$, inc 1, $K 8$, \{ $K 2, K 2 t o g\} 16$ times, $K 8$, $\{K 1$, inc $1\}$ twice, K8, \{K2, K2tog\} 16 times, K8, inc 1, K1 - 136 sts.

ROUNDS 22-26: K.
ROUND 27: K4, \{K2tog, K3\} 12 times, K8, \{K2tog, KЗ\} 12 times, K4 - 112 sts.

ROUND 30: (POCKET OPENING) K13, BO 30, use cable CO method to CO 31 new sts to left needle. With RS facing, bring left and right needle tips together and join by knitting together the first st on each needle. $K$ to end of round -112 sts.

ROUNDS 31-32: K.
ROUND 33: K5, \{K2tog, K3\} 9 times, K11, \{K2tog, K3\} 9 times, K6 - 94 sts.

ROUNDS 34-37: K.
ROUND 38: $\{K 5, K 2 t o g\} 13$ times, $K 1, K 2 t o g-80$ sts.

## EDGING AND STRAP

Continuing with color A , with shorter needle in right hand, work knitted cord edging as follows: CO 4 sts to left hand needle tip using cable CO method. * K3, SSK, sl these 4 sts back to left hand needle, draw yarn across WS and rep from * across 40 sts [first side].

Continue as free 4-st knitted cord as follows: * K4, sl these 4 sts back to left hand needle, draw yarn across WS and rep from * until free knitted cord is 20" long [strap]. Attach cord strap to opposite corner of bag (being careful not to twist it] WS facing as you work, and work knitted cord edging across rem 40 sts. BO and use tail of yarn to sew end to rim. Use tail from other end to sew beg to rim.

## INNER I-CORD BORDERS

With color C and shorter needle, pick up 1 st for every round of knitted cord along outer edge of circle formed by charcoal handle and rim on side opposite pocket opening. Work 4 st knitted cord edging around all sts as above. BO and sew ends closed. Rep with color B on other side.

## POCKET EDGE

With color $C$ and shorter needle, pick up and $K 30$ sts across bottom of pocket opening, 2 sts in corner, 30 sts across top of opening and 2 sts in corner - 64 sts. Work knitted cord edging as follows: CO 3 sts to left hand needle tip using cable CO method. * K2, SSK, sl these 3 sts back to left hand needle, draw yarn across WS and rep from * until all sts around opening have been worked. BO and use tail to sew ends together.

## POCKET LINING

Lining is worked as a separate piece in st st and sewn on after felting to avoid distortion of outer bag. With color A, CO 60 sts. Work 2" in st st, ending with a WS row.

NEXT ROW: KЗ, \{K2tog, K7\} 6 times, KЗ - 54 sts. Work 2 " in st st, ending with a WS row.

NEXT ROW: КЗ, \{K6, K2tog\} 6 times, КЗ - 48 sts. Work 2" in st st, ending with a WS row.

WORK STRIPES AS FOLLOWS: Work 2 rows color B . Work 2 rows color A . Continue to alternate 2 rows color $B, 2$ rows color $A$ until 5 color $B$ stripes have been worked, then continue in color A to end.

At the same time, beg with first row of color $B$, КЗ, \{К2tog, K5\} 6 times, КЗ - 42 sts. Work 2" in st st, ending with a WS row.

NEXT ROW: KЗ, \{K4, K2tog\} 6 times, KЗ - 36 sts. Work 4" in st st.
$B O$ and weave in all ends.

## FELTING AND FINISHING

Place bag and pocket lining inside large zippered pillowcase [or close a pillowcase with bulldog clips or very strong rubber bands) in washing machine with a pair of jeans or a half dozen tennis balls. Set machine for low water level, hot water, and add one teaspoon detergent. Set timer and check progress every few minutes. Reset machine to continue agitating until bag and lining are desired size (lining will be trimmed to fit). Press between towels to remove excess water, push and pat into shape, then stuff bag with bubble wrap to block as it dries. Flatten lining and let dry. When both pieces are dry, pin lining to inside of bag (turn bag inside out) so narrow bound-off edge is 1" beneath rim, centered over pocket. Let pocket gape open about an inch and pin bottom of lining to bottom of bag. Use scissors to trim bottom corners of lining to a rounded shape. Use sewing thread and needle to sew edges of lining to bag. The sewing thread will sink into felt and disappear.


## ABBREVIATIONS

beg......begin/beginning
BO.....bind off
CC.....contrasting color

CO.....cast on
dec.....decrease/decreasing
dbl dec.....double decrease - slip 2 sts together as if to K them together, K1, pass 2 slipped sts over.
inc.....increase/increasing
K.....knit

K2tog......knit 2 together [K3tog = knit 3 together, etc.]
Kwise.....knitwise
LH.....left hand
m1.....make 1 - Use the tip of your left needle to lift up the strand running between the st just worked and the next st. K into the back of this strand, twisting the loop to avoid making a hole.
MC.....main color
P.....purl

P2tog.....purl 2 together [P3tog = purl 3 together, etc.]
PM..... place marker
PSSO......pass the slipped stitch over the st just knitted

Pwise.....purlwise
rem.....remain/remaining
rep.....repeat/repeating
rev.....reverse
RH.....right hand
RS.....right side
sl.....slip
SSK.....slip, slip, knit - sl 1 st as if to K; sl another st as if to K; sl both sts back to LH needle and K them together TBL.
st st.....stockinette stitch
st[s].....stitch[es]
TBL.....through back loop
W\&T.....wrap \& turn-Used to prevent holes at the turning point in short rows. With yarn toward WS, sl next st to RH needle, bring yarn to RS, sl st back to LH needle and turn the piece, ready to work back in the other direction.
WS.....wrong side
WYIF.....with yarn in front
WYIB..... with yarn in back
yo.....yarn over

