Harris Bag

Size: 16 inches x 15 inches approximately

Materials: 250g Harris double knitting yarn; 2ply yarn in a contrast colour; 5mm & 4mm needles; ¾ inch wide elastic for the top hem; 4 buttons.

Tension: using 4 mm needles and double knitting yarn 22 stitches x 30 rows = 4 inches in stocking stitch.

MAIN PART (make 2 pieces):

Using 5mm needles, cast on 84 stitches.

Pattern:

- purl 3, knit 2 together but do not slip stitches off left needle, knit the first of these 2 stitches again, then slip both stitches off the needle, *(purl 4, knit 2 together but do not slip stitches off left needle, knit the first of these 2 stitches again, then slip both stitches off the needle), repeat from * to last 3 stitches, purl 3
- knit 3, *(purl 2, knit 4) repeat from * to last 5 stitches, purl2, knit 3
- purl 3, take yarn to back of work, slip 2 stitches purl-ways, bring yarn to front of needle *(purl 4, take yarn to back of work, slip 2 stitches purl-ways, bring yarn to front of needle), repeat from * to last 3 stitches, purl 3
- knit 3, *(purl 2, knit 4) repeat from * to last 5 stitches, purl 2, knit 3

Continue until it measures 11 inches from the cast on edge ending on row 4.

- Repeat row 1 of pattern, cut 2 ply yarn and continue with one strand of double knitting yarn.
- Repeat row 2 of pattern

Change to 4mm needles.
Work in knit 2 purl 2 rib for 4 inches ending with a wrong side row.

Make an edge:

- knit 1, yarn forward *(knit 2 together, yarn forward) repeat from * to last stitch, knit 1
- Purl

Work a further inch of rib. Cast off in rib.

To make up: With right sides together join side seams and cast on edges.
Fold over the cast of edge and slip stitch into place leaving an opening for the elastic.
Thread elastic through.

HANDLES (make 2):
Using a 4mm circular needle, cast on 22 stitches and using the magic loop system work in stocking stitch for 20 inches. Cast off.

Cut some stiffener to fit each handle then thread through - this will stop the handles stretching. Sew up the openings then stitch through the knitting and stiffener to secure.
Sew onto the bag as shown and decorate with buttons if wanted.

The bag can also be lined with material. This will stop it from stretching.
The top edge of the lining is put underneath the top hem before the elastic is threaded through.

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