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# Easy Felted Tote Bag

Designed by John Crane for *skacel collection, Inc.*



*Large Tote shown here in Reggae Ombré #2262.*

**SKILL LEVEL:**

**SIZE and MATERIALS:**

Size	Small	Large
Approximate <i>Pre-Felted</i> Dimensions	12" x 12" x 2.25"	18" x 18" x 3"
Approximate <i>Finished</i> Dimensions	8" x 9" x 1.75"	12" x 12" x 2.25"
Yarn	3 balls	6 balls

**Featured Yarn:**

**Schoppel *Reggae Ombré***; 100% Merino Wool; 109 yds / 50g ball; Small sizes shown in #1963, #2083, and #2249; Large sizes shown in #1535, #2133, and #2262.

**addi® Needles & Notions:**

8.0 mm (approx. US 11) 40" circular needle

Stitch marker, tapestry needle

**GAUGE:** Gauge is not critical to this project.

*To save time, read all instructions thoroughly before beginning.*

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## DESIGNER'S NOTES:

- Two identical side panels are knit, followed by a long, circular loop that joins the two sides and also becomes the strap.
- A "buttonhole" in the top of each side panel serves as a closure through which the strap can be pulled.
- After the three pieces are knit up and sewn together, the bag is felted to the desired size.
- **Alternate method for working side panels:** Using Reggae Ombre straight off the ball creates wide stripes on the side panels. If a different mixing of colors is desired, alternate two different balls of yarn every two rows while working the side panels. Label them Ball 1 and Ball 2 and work as follows:  
Cast on and knit Row 1 with Ball 1, then switch to Ball 2 for two rows, then switch back to Ball 1 for two rows, etc. Cont as est, and work the "buttonhole" in Row 5 as indicated.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

**Note:** Reserve 10 feet of yarn from each of the 3 (6) balls for later use during finishing.

### Side Panel: (make 2)

Using a Long Tail Cast On, cast on 40 (55) sts.

**Rows 1 - 4:** Knit.

**Row 5 ("Buttonhole" Row):** K14 (21) sts, move yarn to front, slip next st as if to purl, move yarn to back, \*slip next st, PSSO, repeat from \* 11 (12) times for a total of 12 (13) bound-off sts. Move first st from right needle to left needle, turn work, move yarn to back, cable cast on 13 (14) sts, turn work, move yarn to back, slip first st from left needle to right needle, PSSO, move first st on right needle back to left needle, knit to end of row = 40 (55) sts.

Cont working in Garter St, until approx 6 (9) feet of yarn remain. Loosely bind off all sts. Cut yarn and weave in end.

### Strap: (make 1)

Using a Long Tail Cast On, CO 225 (300) sts. Place marker, and join the work in the rnd, being careful not to twist the sts.

**Rnd 1:** Knit all sts.

**Rnd 2:** Purl all sts.

Repeat Rnds 1 & 2 with either one ball of yarn (or 2 balls, if working alternate striping) until 35 (45) feet of yarn remain. Loosely bind off all sts in pattern (*bind off need not begin at beg/end of rnd*).

## FINISHING:

### Sewing Together:

Decide which sides of the panels and the circular loop are the "right" sides, and then sew the seams with these right sides facing together as follows:

- Place the beg/end position of the circular loop at the center bottom of a side panel. Using the yarn reserved at the

beginning, sew the side, bottom and opposite side of that panel to one edge of the circular loop.

- Sew the second side panel to the circular loop, attaching it exactly opposite the first side panel.
- The part of the circular loop not sewn to the side panels becomes the shoulder strap. Still working with the wrong sides of the bag facing out, and using the mattress stitch, sew together the long, parallel sides of the strap to form a tube. (**Note:** the strap seam begins and ends where the strap meets the side panels. When the bag is turned right sides out, the seam is toward the inside of the strap.)
- Stretch the strap several times as you sew it, in order to remove any puckering that the seaming may introduce.



**Totes shown (L to R) in Reggae Ombre:**  
Large in #1535, #2133, and Small in #2249, #1963, and #2083.

## Felting:

Place the knitted bag in a top-loading washing machine along with two pairs of old blue jeans (or other similar rugged garment that won't bleed color or shed lint). The recommended washer settings are Hot Wash/Cold Rinse, Small Load, Extra Heavy Duty. Run through a full cycle and then check the progress in felting. If you would like a smaller bag and/or a denser fabric, run it through another partial or complete cycle. When the bag reaches the desired dimensions, remove it from the washer and air dry it.

## ABBREVIATIONS:

<b>approx</b>	approximate(ly)
<b>cont</b>	continue(s) / continuing
<b>k</b>	knit
<b>p</b>	purl
<b>PSSO</b>	Pass Slipped Stitch Over
<b>Rnd(s)</b>	Round(s)
<b>st(s)</b>	stitch(es)

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