

YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU

Body

Knit even in St st (knit every rnd) for 70 rnds. Adjust the number of rounds knitted to change the depth of the bag.

Tab Top (see Mid-row BO, Techniques, page 103)

Bind off 4 sts, knit 5 sts and place on holder, *bind off 8 sts, knit 5 sts and place on holder; repeat from * to last 4 sts, bind off 4 sts. Cut yarn and fasten off. Working on one set of 5 sts at a time, join yarn with WS facing. Knit 12 rows of garter stitch (knit every row) (6 ridges), ending with a RS row. Bind off all 5 sts. Cut yarn, leaving a tail long enough to sew tab down. Fold tab in half, WS together, and sew bound-off edge to inside of tote. Repeat for remaining tabs.

Second Bottom Piece

With circular needle, cast on 64 sts. Place marker and join, being careful not to twist sts. Work same as the first bottom until there are 104 sts. Purl 1 rnd. With spare smaller circular needle, pick up the top loops of the last purl round of the tote bottom. Place the second

bottom piece on top of the tote bottom. Holding both needles in your left hand, and with the bottom of the bag facing, work a 3-needle bind off (see Techniques, page 103).

Strap

With dpn, cast on 3 sts and work in I-cord (see Techniques, page 103) for about 68" (173 cm). Cut yarn and draw tail through sts. Pull together tightly and fasten off.

Finishing

Working a flat seam (see Techniques, page 107), first sew the cast-on edges of the inner bottom piece together, then repeat for the second (outer) bottom. Using short and very loose stitches, tack the two bottoms together down the center. This will encourage them to felt together.

Weave in loose ends on WS. Thread strap through the tabs at the top of the tote, then sew the two strap ends together.