

Beginning Nalbinding

Small Tote

By: Amy Vander Vorste
ShyRedFox on Etsy
Avlor on Ravelry
cloudlake@gmail.com
Copyright 2012



Overview:

We're starting at the bottom of the bag and working up. We'll make the bottom row, then go around and around in a spiral. Finally, continuing our work at the top of the bag, we'll make the handle. We'll be using the Oslo stitch. (Though, this pattern can easily be adapted for other stitches.) Color changes will be on the edge of the bag, so they aren't as easily seen.

I assume you know how to join and how to do the Oslo stitch. If you don't know the stitch – an excellent tutorial on it is here by Sanna-Mari Tonteri:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcuUgeKQZ5Q>

You'll learn how to turn your work and go the other direction.

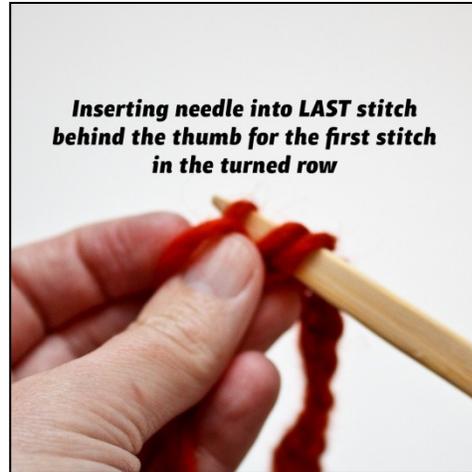
Supplies Needed:

- 1 color of Bulky Wool Yarn - about 100 yards (I used Nashua Handknits Creative Focus Chunky. Other yarns may affect your bag size, but not the overall project.)
- Nalbinding needle
- Needle to tuck in ends

Bag Body:

Make an initial chain of about 27 stitches. (I like to straighten my stitches as I work, so they look neat (aka. without the bumps in the back). But this stretches them out a bit. My initial chain, after straightening, measures about 8 ½ inches before the second round. After the next row/round – it will measure only 7 inches.)

Turn. (You only have to do this once for the bag. To do the turn, pick up the 2nd and 3rd to last stitch to make your next stitch into those loops. If this make it difficult to make a stitch, you can pick up the 3rd and 4th to last stitches instead.)



When you get to the end of the row for the next turn, it should look like this. Continue working around the end. (Don't increase. We're making a tube with an end.)



After you've turned the corner you should have the beginning of a tube on the one side of your work that looks like this. This is the start of the walls of your bag.



This is how the rest of the turns will be.

Work in the round for a total of about 20 rounds.

*Tip: You can work your stitches right over the original left over end to easily tuck it in. This works well for tail yarns of the same color as the stitches.

Handle:

Continue making stitches, but not connecting them back down to the bag. (Just make a chain that started at the bag (where you left off at the last row) and goes off by itself.)



My chain was about 90 stitches. Make your chain as long as you see fit.

When you feel the chain for the handle is the appropriate length for the bag, attach the working end of the chain to the bag and work a few stitches going straight down the outside of the bag (going down a few rows into the bag fabric).



Pull last loop tight.

Finishing:

Use needle to tuck any end yarns. And wa-lah!

Enjoy your little tote!