Easy Fair-Isle Felted Bag

**By Tracy St. John for
KNITFreedom.com**

*Photography by Camilla Emond
of Twist and Twine Yarn*

Free Pattern: Easy Fair-Isle Felted Bag

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Materials
Yarn: Approximately 150 yards each of 2 colors chunky-weight (bulky/7 WPI) yarn. Shown in project: 2 skeins each Malabrigo Yarn Chunky in 83 Water Green and 32 Jewel Blue.

Needles: US size 11 (8 mm) or 13 (9 mm) 24-inch circular needle.

Notions: Stitch marker, tapestry needle. Optional: 4 metal rings for handle attachment, 4 metal feet, highlighter for easily following the chart.

Gauge: Not really important for this project. Because this bag will be felted your fabric should appear to be loosely knit.

Finished Measurements: After felting, the bag will be approximately 9 inches (23 cm) long by 7 inches (18 cm) wide by 10 inches (25 cm) tall.

Abbreviations/Terms: *(all links go to KNITFreedom videos)*
WPI: wraps per inch

A: color A

B: color B

CO: cast on

K: knit

P: purl

RS: right side

PM: place marker

BOR: beginning of round

M1: make one

K2tog: knit 2 together

BO: bind off

Pattern Notes:
Designate one of your colors as color A and the other as color B.

Bag Bottom
Note: Work bag bottom back-and-forth on your circular needles.
With color A, CO 24 sts.
Row 1: With A, K.
Row 2: P. Do not end off A. Join color B.
Row 3: With B, K.
Row 4: P

Repeat rows 1-4 nine times more, changing colors every 2 rows. You will have 10 stripes of each color.
Repeat rows 1 and 2 once more, then bind off all sts loosely.

Bag Body
With RS of bag bottom facing and using B, pick up and knit 1 st in each cast-on (or bound-off) st along the short edge of the bag bottom (should be 24 sts). Rotate bottom, pick up and knit 28 sts along long edge of bag, rotate and pick up 24 sts along short side, rotate and pick up 28 sts along other long side (104 sts total).

Join to begin working in the round, PM to mark BOR.
Rnd 1: P
Rnd 2: K

Begin working from chart at the end of this pattern. Refer to the notes and links provided in the chart to help you knit. Begin at the bottom reading chart from right to left, placing A and B as desired throughout. Work each row of the chart, repeating the 4-stitch repeat indicated, until you come to the end of the round. Contine until chart is complete.

You can make the bag taller by repeating the designated bands of color. Bag shown on cover was knit without making any modifications.

Next: Work in garter st for 8 rounds, changing color every 2 rows.

Decrease round: *K6, k2tog; rep from * around (91 sts rem).
Next round: P.
BO rem sts.

I-cord Handles (make 2)
With B, CO 4 sts.
K 8 rows.
Next row: k1, m1, k 4, m1, k1 (6 sts).
Do not turn work at the end of this row.
Work a 24-inch-long i-cord as follows:
Continue knitting each row, but do not turn work; rather, you will slide your work to the right

end of the left hand needle. Pull your yarn tightly when working the first st of each row.
Next row: K2tog, k2, k2tog, turn work (4 sts).
Knit 8 rows.
BO.

Hardware Attachment Loops (make 4)
With A, CO on 5 sts.
Knit 18 rows.
BO all sts.

Finishing and Felting
Weave in ends. Place bag, loops, and straps in pillowcase and felt in washer with hot water ad detergent until fabric is firm and sts have lost their definition. Block bag over a box to make it nice and square.

Sew on straps as desired and attach feet.

About the Designer
Tracy St. John is the founder and editor of Tangled, a knitting and crochet webzine published by Stix Yarn. Subscribe to their newsletter at http://stixyarn.com/tangled.

About the Yarn
The Malabrigo Chunky yarn for this pattern was provided generously by Stix Yarn. Shop their online store at http://stixyarn.com/store.

Pattern Support
If you have any questions about this pattern, I am here to help you! Please post your question in a new thread in the KNITFreedom Forum.

Typos and errata
Please report any typos or other mistakes that you've found in this pattern so that I can fix them. Thanks! Errata: http://knitfreedom.com/help/errata/fair-isle-felted-bag

Links:
How to read a Fair-Isle chart: http://knitfreedom.com/knitting-videos#chart
Basic Fair-Isle knitting video: http://knitfreedom.com/knitting-videos#fair-isle
Fair-Isle on Magic Loop: http://knitfreedom.com/knitting-videos#fair-isle-magic-loop

KNITFreedom step-by-step video class on how to knit Fair-Isle using this project:
http://knitfreedom.com/classes/fair-isle-knitting

Fair-Isle Felted Bag Chart

Designate colors A and B in the chart as you wish. If your color A is darker, designate the dark squares as color A. Write your color legend next to the chart.

Need help reading this chart? Watching this video will explain everything.

4 stitch repeat
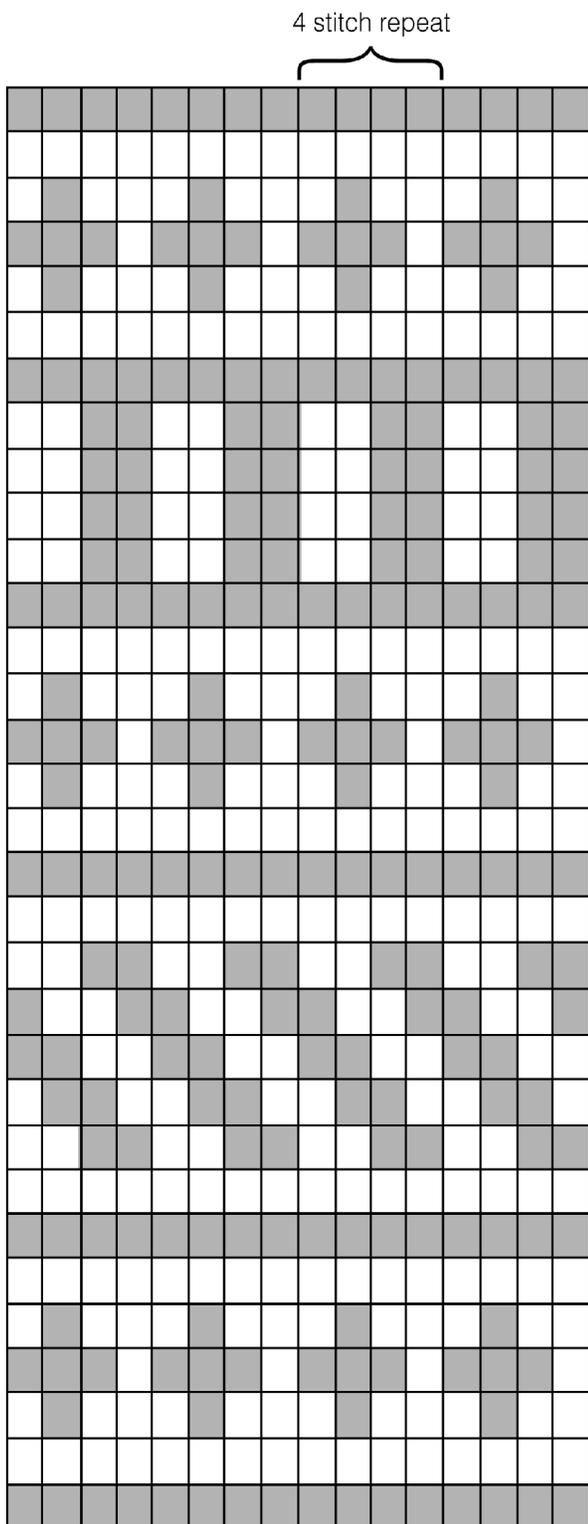
To work this chart, start at the bottom-right corner. Work from right to left, knitting each stitch in the designated color.

If you are a beginner, watch this video on how to do basic Fair-Isle knitting. Switch colors by leaving the unused color to the back and picking up and using the color needed.

repeat for desired height

Make sure that all floats (the pieces of unused yarn that lay across the back of the work) are nice and loose. Do not pull them tight.

If this is your first Fair-Isle project, I recommend you watch the video course showing every step of this project. It included tons of tips and tricks for knitting Fair-Isle easily and successfully.

repeat for desired height

If you are using Magic Loop to knit this bag, watch this video on tips for Fair-Isle knitting on Magic Loop.

Work each row of the chart, repeating the 4-stitch repeat indicated, until you come to the end of the round. Contine until chart is complete.