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Ms. Poppins Bag

Design by Sandi Wiseheart
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Because the yarn I chose reminded me of a carpet bag, I decided to design a boxy tote like the magical one Mary Poppins carried. To keep things simple, I made a rectangle, folded it, and sewed up the sides. I then sewed pleats into the opening edges to make the bag into a trapezoid gathered at the top. I lined the bag with a store-bought linen napkin and added store-bought handles. I did a little beadwork to add decorative dangles.

☆ FINISHED SIZE:

17" wide at base, 10" wide at top, and 9" high, not including handles.

🧶 YARN:

Elle Monet (53% acrylic, 47% polyamide; 95 yd [87 m]/100 g): #273 Gaugin (blue/brown /cream), 2 balls.

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NEEDLES:

Size 10½ (6.5 mm). Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

NOTIONS:

Tapestry needle; about ½ yd fabric for lining; 1 skein DMC six-strand embroidery floss in matching color for seaming and attaching lining (*We used: color #844 dark gray*); one set wooden purse handles (*We used: Unique Chic #216721, distributed by Hobby Lobby, www.hobbylobby.com*); 4 wooden flower beads (*We used: 1 package Elements 30 mm coco flower beads, #1545H R81935, distributed by The Beadery Craft Products, www.thebeadery.com*); mixed wooden beads and leaves (*We used: 1 package Elements Naturals Natural Horn Beads, #1266H 682 burnt horn, 10 pieces per package, www.thebeadery.com*); several small glass beads (*We used: Mainstays Crafts Glass E & Seed Beads Mix, #80244-11 frosted metallic, sold at WalMart*); 1¼" lobster clasp (*We used: #6031 from The Jewelry Shoppe, www.craftsetc.com*), beading thread and beading needle; craft glue or clear nail polish; eight ¼" jump rings; magnetic clasp (optional).

GAUGE:

10 sts and 16 rows = 4" in St st.

SKILL LEVEL:

Beginner. 

BAG:

CO 45 sts loosely. Work in St st (knit RS rows; purl WS rows) until piece measures about 18" from CO, ending with a WS row. BO all sts.

FINISHING:

With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, weave in loose ends. **Lining:** Using the knitted piece as a template, cut lining ½" bigger around on all sides. Turn ½" under around all 4 sides of lining, and pin lining to knitted piece with wrong sides touching. *Note:* If you choose to attach a

magnetic clasp, do so before sewing lining to knitted piece and follow manufacturer's directions for attaching clasp to lining. With 3 strands of embroidery floss, sew lining to knitted piece along all 4 sides using backstitch (see box), mitering corners as necessary. **Pleats:** Position bag so RS of knitting is facing you and CO edge is at top. Measure 3" in from right side along CO edge, and mark position A with pin or tailor's chalk. Measure 6" in from right side along CO edge and mark position B. Measure 3" in from left side along CO edge and mark position C. Measure 6" in from left side along CO edge mark position D. Pinch fabric to bring markers A and B together and pin pleat in place; using three strands of embroidery floss, stitch pleat firmly in place along the top edge, about ¼" in from CO edge. Bring markers C and D tog, and pin and sew second pleat in place in the same manner. Rotate bag so that BO edge is at top, place markers and sew two pleats same as for CO edge. **Side seams:** Fold bag in half inside out with CO and BO edges touching; lined WS of bag will be facing outward. Using six strands of embroidery floss, beg at top edge, sew side seams with backstitches placed about ¼" in from edge. Sew each side seam from top of bag to bottom fold, then sew back up to the top again to reinforce seam. Rep for other side seam. Turn bag right side out, carefully pushing corners out to be square. **Handles:** With 6 strands of embroidery floss, stitch handles to top edges of bag, centering handles between pleats. **Beads:** Beads are attached to inner side of each handle loop using beading thread and jump rings. **Short flower dangles:** Using beading thread and beading needle, string one of each bead in the following order: Size E bead, flower bead, seed bead. Run thread back up through flower bead and E bead; tighten thread so that beads sit close to flower. Loop thread through closed jump ring; run thread back through all beads a few times and tie off, securing knot with a small drop of glue or clear nail polish. Using a second jump ring, attach jump ring at top of flower dangle to inner side of handle fitting. Rep for 2 other handles, leaving space at front left handle for long flower dangle as shown. **Long flower dangle:** Using beading needle and beading thread, string one of each bead in the following order: Size E bead, flower bead, seed bead, flat disc bead, seed bead, heart bead, seed bead, flat disc bead, seed bead, leaf bead, seed bead. Run thread back up through leaf bead and other beads in reverse order; tighten thread so that beads fit snugly

Backstitch Seam

Working from right to left, one stitch in from selvedge, bring threaded needle up through both pieces of knitted fabric (Figure 1), then back down through both layers a short distance (about a row) to the right of the starting point (Figure 2). *Bring needle up through both layers a row-length to the left of backstitch just made (Figure 3), then back down to the right, in same hole used before (Figure 4). Repeat from *, working backward one row for every two rows worked forward.

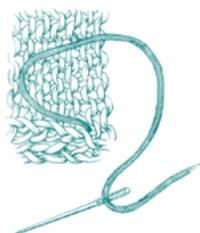


Figure 1

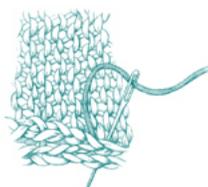


Figure 2



Figure 3

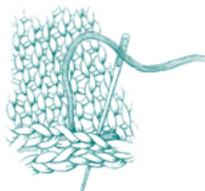


Figure 4

Illustrations by Gayle Ford

against each other but still move freely. Loop thread through closed jump ring; run thread back through all beads a few times and tie off, securing knot with a small drop of glue as before. Attach lobster clasp to long flower dangle using a second jump ring; clip lobster clasp to inner side of handle loop at left front. Long dangle can be unclipped and used as key ring fob if desired. ❄

SANDI WISEHEART, editor of *Knitting Daily*, has been knitting since before she could do long division. She also spins, weaves, crochets, and does beadwork (although not all at the same time). She moved to Colorado from California in 2004, and now lives in a one-hundred-year-old house with her husband, four yarn-loving cats, and a tripod Australian Shepherd named Buddy.