

# ASTHORE BAG

“Asthore “ means loved one. The beginnings of this bag were an accident as I was trying to knit some fun coasters for our living room- but the pattern came out more rectangular than square so I scrapped the idea for coasters. However, I loved the swatch that I had created and couldn’t bring myself to get rid of or frog it. Instead, I decided that I loved the swatch so much that I would base a bag around it.

This bag’s colorful pattern is made using a method that I very recently learned called “mosaic knitting” which means three amazing things for knitters everywhere.

- 1) you only use one color each row, so no messing with multiple lines of yarn while you work
- 2) you only knit/purl some of the stitches each row and purl the rest
- 3) because of how the knitting is worked you use less yarn and your project goes quicker

I encourage you to try this method of color work because even though it sounds like an overwhelming task, but after working one repeat of the pattern you will quickly realize that it is an easy, fun and quick way to make colorful knitted pieces.



## MATERIALS NEEDED

Approximately 250-300 yards of each color. I used old wool that my mother graciously bought for me at a secondhand store and there were no labels so I am unable to tell you what I used, or how much was in the skein (neither skein was full however). Yarns that I would recommend would be Lion Brand Wool, Lion Brand Fishermen's Wool, Patons Classic Wool, and KnitPicks Wool of the Andes.

For the bag show I have used the following color scheme:

Color A= Lime Green

Color B= Hunter Green

Color C (lining color)= Blue

Size 6 24 inch circular needles

Other Notions Needed:

- yarn needle
- buttons or patches to decorate the front flap (if desired)
- Velcro (if desired) to help hold the flap of the bag down

## PATTERN NOTES

You only use one color every row. You will switch the color that you are using every two rows so you will be able to let the yarn travel along the side of your work. Because the bag will be sewn and felted, this means that you will be able to have minimal finishing.

The three main pieces of this bag are worked flat, blocked, and then sewn together.



The lining of the bag is created by picking up stitches around the very edge of the bag on the inside and knitting in the round.

If you want a felted bag, all you have to do is use feltable wool and increase the bag (due to size lost during felting) using the instructions below.

You can make this bag wider by casting on more stitches in multiples of 16 and make it longer by work more repeats of the colorwork pattern. You can make the shoulder strap longer or shorter by casting on more or less any number of stitches.

Final measurements (after blocks before sewing together)= shoulder strap; 51 inches long by 2 inches wide/ front panel; 13 inches wide by 8 ¼ inches high/ back panel(including flap); 13 inches wide by 15 inches high

## ASTHORE COLORWORK PATTERN

Pattern Abbreviations:

K= Knit

P= Purl

S1= Slip one stitch knitwise while holding the yarn in the back of the work

The Pattern (multiple of 16 stitches +1):

Row 1 (Color B): \*K9, S1, K1, S1, K1, S1, K1, S1; repeat from \* until one stitch remains, K1.

Row 2 (Color B): Purl all stitches worked in Color B. Slip all stitches in color A while holding the yarn in front of the work.

Row 3 (Color A): \*K10, S1, K1, S1, K1, S1, K1; repeat from \* until one stitch remains, K1.

Row 4(Color A): Purl all stitches worked in Color A. Slip all stitches in Color B while holding the yarn in front of the work.

Repeat Rows 1-4 once.

Repeat Rows 1 & 2 once.

Row 11 (Color A): Knit all stitches

Row 12 (Color A): Purl all stitches

Row 13 (Color B): K1,\* S1, K1, S1, K1, S1, K1, S1, K9; repeat from \* to end.

Row 14 (Color B): Purl all stitches worked in Color B, Slip all stitches in color A while holding the yarn in front of the work

Row 15 (Color A): K1, \* S1, K1, S1, K1, S1, K11; repeat from \* to end (last repeat will end with a K10 instead of a K11).

Row 16(Color A): Purl all stitches worked in Color A, Slip all stitches in Color B while holding the yarn in front of the work

Repeat Rows 13-16 once.  
Repeat Rows 13 & 14 once.  
Row 21 (Color A): Knit  
Row 22 (Color A): Purl

## THE PATTERN

Front Panel (make one):

With Color A, CO 65 stitches. Knit one row with Color A

Work the colorwork pattern 3 times. BO all stitches.

Back Panel (make one):

Work as front panel, but instead of BO after working the pattern 3 times, continue as below (makes the flap that closes the bag):

Break off Color A, you will only be using Color B from now on.

Row 1 (RS): Knit

Row 2: (WS): K4, Purl until four stitches remain, K4

Continue Rows 1 & 2 for 5 ½ inches (ending on a RW). Knit five (5) rows. BO all stitches.

Shoulder Strap (make one):

Using Color A, CO 240 stitches.

Color A= Purl 1 row, Knit 1 row

Color B= Knit 1 row, purl 1 row, Knit 1 row

Color A= Purl 2 rows, Knit 1 row

Color B= Knit 1 row, purl 1 row, knit 1 row



Color A= Purl 2 rows

Using Color A, BO all stitches.

## FINISHING

Block all pieces.

Starting with the front panel and one edge of the shoulder strap, put the pieces right sides together and starting at the bottom left corner sew the strap along the bottom of the bag and up the right side. Repeat this process with the back side (make sure to check that the right sides are facing in). Take the other side of the shoulder strap and, starting from the bottom left corner, sew the strap along the left side on the front panel. Repeat this process for the back panel. Sew up the left corner where the strap meets.

Fasten and weave in all ends.

Optional: sew Velcro or magnetic metal snaps on the front of the bag and underneath the front flap

Optional: decorate the front flap with a patch or buttons