

# Rowan Handbag



The Rowan bag is a great introductory project into the felting world. The bag is knitted as a flat panel with simple shaping to create the shape of the bag. The instructions included are for a simple non-stripped bag. Once you have mastered the instructions. You can follow the same pattern and simply change color of yarn when you want a new stripe.

Enjoy the pattern!

Isela Phelps

Before starting the bag, I recommend to knit a swatch to make sure your yarn

<b>Materials</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 270 yards of bulky weight wool Iceland Wool in Celadon color by Crystal Palace was used in sample.</li><li>• <b>Prayer Shawl Loom</b> from <a href="http://www.decoraccentsinc.com">www.decoraccentsinc.com</a> or any Large Gauge Loom with a minimum of 46 Pegs.</li><li>• <b>Notions:</b> Row Counter, Crochet Hook, Tapestry Needle</li></ul>	<p>Before felting: base 10.5" wide x 5" deep ( 12" High)</p> <p>After felting: 11"(bottom width) x 3.5"(bottom depth) x 8" (high) top tapers to 9" wide</p> <p>The strap is knit flat with garter stitch. 20" in length.</p>

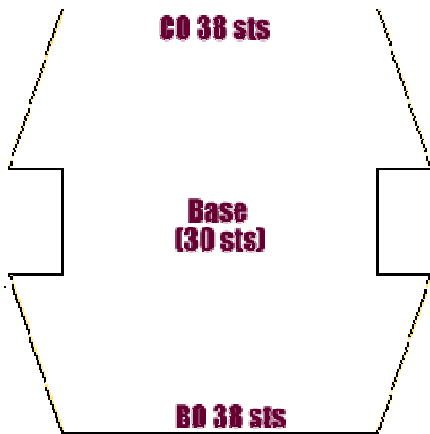
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felts properly and that you like the way the yarn looks once felted. I have only tested this pattern with the above yarn, please make sure to test swatch if you are substituting yarns.

A **How To's** page is included for your convenience.

Basic knowledge of loom knitting is required. If you need further assistance, email me at [iselaphelps@loomknit.com](mailto:iselaphelps@loomknit.com) Subject: Rowan Bag.

## Bag Schematic



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## DIRECTIONS

The bag is knitted flat as in the diagram above.

### Body of the Bag:

Cast on 38 stitches.

Rows 1-9: Work in SS.

Row 10: Increase one stitch at each end (e-wrap the empty peg).

Repeat Rows 1-10: 4 times. (46sts total on loom)

Next: Work 10 rows in SS. (50 rows total)

Next: BO 8 stitches at beginning of next row, knit to end in SS. (38sts remain)

Next: BO 8 stitches at beginning of next row, knit to the end in SS. (30sts remain).

### Bottom of Bag

\*Next row: SS.

Next row: p\*

Repeat from \* to \* 15 more times. (16 garter stitch ridges, 32 rows).

### Bottom of Bag Ends

Next row: Cast on 8 stitches at beginning of next row, work in SS to end of row. (38sts on loom)

Next row: Cast On 8sts at beginning of next row, work in SS to end of row. (46sts on loom).

\*\*Next: Work 9 rows in SS.

Next row: Decrease one stitch at each end and work the row in SS (bring the stitch from the outer peg and place it on the adjacent peg, treat both loops on the peg as 1).\*\*

Repeat from \*\* to \*\* 4 times.

Next: Work 10 rows in SS. (38sts remain on loom)

### Abbreviations

**SS=** Single Stitch

**P=** Purl stitch

**BO=** Bind Off/Cast Off

**Sts=** stitches

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## ASSEMBLY

Arrange your bag so that both right sides are facing each other. Seam the sides closed. On the bottom, you will be forming the base by seaming the tips of the body of the bag down to meet in the short side of the base. Weave in all your yarn ends into the wrong side off the bag.

Turn your bag right side out. It should look like the picture below.



## HANDLE

Cast on 8 pegs. Loom knit in garter stitch a 20" long handle. Remove with flat removal method.

## FINISHING

Seam it to the sides of the bag. Make sure it is seamed straight.

Tips to make the handle stronger, so it doesn't stretch as much: sew ribbon to the inside of the handle when it is felted. Make a tube and insert bias tape prior to felting.

## FELTING

**Time to Felt It!** Refer to the felting page.

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## Felting Instructions

### Items needed to felt:

Zippered Pillow Case

Eucalan Woolwash\* (recommended) or Shampoo

**Caution!** Turn the washer machine off before reaching into it.

Set the washer to the smallest setting, regular cycle, and hot water. Add one tablespoon of Eucalan woolwash or 1 TBLS of Shampoo. However, using the Eucalan will save you the rinsing of the item by hand and the it makes the item smell better-wet wool does not smell too nice.

Place the items to be felted in the zippered pillow case. Close it. Throw it in the washer. Put in the two pairs of jeans to aid in agitation. I do not recommend putting towels in, as these may leave fuzz in your felted items. Start the washer. Check the felted items frequently. **Stop the machine completely before placing your hand inside.** If additional felting is required, reset the washer and continue felting the bag. Check the progress closely, and shape your bag as the felting process continues by pulling at the corners, and shaping the strap. Item is felted, when it feels firm and the stitches are indistinguishable. Keep felting the bag until you are completely satisfied. It may take a few cycles. **Do not** let the machine go into the rinse and spin cycle, as this will create creases in the bag that are very difficult to remove.

When the item reaches the desired look, remove it from the zippered pillow case, place it between towels and squeeze out as much water as you can. Shape the bag again and follow blocking instructions.

## Blocking—the Finishing Touches

Stretch your damp bag over a suitable sized form. If nothing that resembles the shape is available, use a plastic bag and place plastic bags inside to give it its form. The felted item should fit over the fitted form snugly. Shape all the corners, and strap, you may have to tug on the strap so it lines up. Make sure that everything looks the way you want it to look. Feel free to pull at it. Do not let it dry until you are completely satisfied with the way it looks. Once it looks the way you desire. Let it air dry completely, it may take up to 2 full days to dry. Keep shaping it during the drying process if you so desire.

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How to's

# Rowan Handbag

**Garter stitch:** Created by knitting one row of e-wrap, one row of purl stitch. These 2 rows =1 stitch of garter stitch.

**Flat knitting:** Wrap each peg until you get to the last peg you need to wrap. Wrap the last peg twice wrap back to the first peg. Knit over. In this bag, you will knit on 30 pegs. You can also view a mini-movie of knitting a flat piece at [www.decoraccentsinc.com](http://www.decoraccentsinc.com)

**Flat removal method:** (the one used in the Rowan Bag flat knit version): You will need a crochet hook. Remove loop from first peg with crochet hook, crochet 1 chain, and pass it through the back stitch. Remove loop from the next peg, and pass it through the back stitch on the crochet hook. Continue until all loops are removed from the pegs.

**Decrease stitches:** To decrease stitches on a flat piece, you need to move the loop from the very last outside peg, and place it on the peg adjacent to it. Wrap your loom as usual.

**Increase stitches (an alternate method to the e-wrap method in the pattern):** To increase stitches on a flat piece, you need to move the loop on the very last peg, to the empty peg right next to it. You have now one empty peg. Lift a stitch from the bottom V stitch. Place it on the empty peg. Wrap your loom as usual, making sure that all the pegs have 2 strands on them.

To find more information about stitches and mini-movies of stitches, visit [www.decoraccentsinc.com](http://www.decoraccentsinc.com)