



## #608 Neapolitan Tote

### Skill Level

Advanced beginner

### Size

Before felting: 20"H x 22"W

Completed Measurements: 12½"H x 17"W

### Materials

- Color A: 4 skeins Manos del Uruguay, 136 yds, color G coffee
- Color B: 2 skeins Manos del Uruguay, 136 yds, color 1 Hollywood pink
- Color C: 2 skeins Manos del Uruguay, 136 yds, color 14 natural
- Needles: Size US 15 needle 24" circular
- Stitch markers
- Finishing needle
- Pom-pon maker
- 2 large metal rings 2-3 inches in diameter

### Gauge

10 sts by 12 rows to 4" over st st holding two strands together the entire time on size 15 needles or size needed to obtain gauge.

### Bottom of Bag

With two strands of color A Cast on 40 sts.

1. Work in garter st for 21 rows.
2. Bind off all sts except last st. Do not cut yarn

### Body of Bag

Pick up sts around outside edges of panel as follows: Pick up 20 sts along short side, 40 sts along long side, 20 sts along next side, 39 sts along remaining side— (120 sts). Place marker on needle indicating the beginning of the round, and begin to knit in the round. (*You will be knitting every round.*)

1. Rounds 1-20: Knit
2. Rounds 21-40: Change to Color B and Knit
3. Round 41: Change to Color C and K20, pm, k40, pm, k20, pm, k40, you have now place markers in all four corners of the tote bag
4. Round 42 and all even rounds up to 60: K2tog, k to within 2 sts of next marker and k2tog, k40, sl marker, k2tog, k to within 2 sts of next marker, k2tog, k40. Continue in this manner, decreasing 4 sts in between side gussets.

5. Round 43 and all odd numbered rounds until 59: Knit
6. Bind off loosely.
7. Finish off. Weave in all yarn ends.

#### Handle

1. With Color A: Cast on 20 sts.
2. Work in garter st for 11 rows.
3. Bind off.
4. Finish off. Weave in all yarn ends.

#### A Little about Felting:

Did you ever shrink a wool sweater by accident? Well, felting is the process of shrinking wool using hot/warm water and agitation.

You will need:

- A washing machine with good agitation.
- A zippered pillow protector (a lingerie bag is not suitable). It helps protect your washer from excess lint and fiber.
- An old pair of jeans or khakis.

Be prepared to be near your washer during felting process. Set washing machine to smallest load setting and hottest water setting. Add a small amount of laundry soap. Place handbag in pillow protector and place in washing machine. Add a pair of jeans or khakis to help in the agitation process.

After 5—8 minutes, check on progress. Check again every 3 minutes. Do NOT allow machine to go through rinse/spin cycles. When handbag appears to be the correct size, remove from washer and hand rinse in cold water. Gently squeeze out excess water (do not wring). Wrap handbag in towels to remove as much water as possible. Shape handbag with your hands or stretch handbag over a box to shape. Allow to dry over night.

#### Attach Handles (done after felting)

Attach metal rings with Color A to top of side gusset of tote. Attach handle strap to metal ring, finish off and weave in all yarn ends.

#### Pom Pons (shown in photo)

Attach after felting! Using leftover yarn and pom pon maker make 5 pom pons of varying size.

Be sure to leave a tail at least 36 inches long. When pom pons are completed, braid the strands together and attach them to a handle on the tote. Secure tightly. The largest pom pon on sample is 5 inches in diameter. There are two 3 inch pom pons, and two 1½ inch pom pons.

#### Abbreviations

K	Knit
K2tog	Knit 2 stitches together
Pm	place marker
Sl	slip
Sts	stitch (es)



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288 Lancaster Avenue • Malvern, PA 19355

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