

Ballia Bag

designed by Stephanie Shiman

frabjous fibers

every yard is an adventure™



Yarn: Sari Ribbon, 50g : 5 skeins

Needles: US sz 11 or 13

Notions: yarn needle, sewing thread, bamboo handles (handles shown measure 5.5" wide by 5.5" tall), lining (optional—see note below)

Gauge: 9 sts = 4" (approximately, aim for tight fabric more than exact gauge)

Measurements: 7.5" tall, 9" wide

Note: On size 11 needles you can knit a tight fabric that does not need to be lined. However, it is easier to work with size 13 needles, but then the bag may need lining to keep smaller items like pens and knitting needles inside.

Bag Body (pull the fabric down as you go to stretch it flat)

CO 23 sts. (Keep this cast-on tight, it will be the opening of your bag.) Work 4 rows in stockinette stitch. Continue working in stockinette stitch, increasing as directed below:

Rows 5, 9, 13, 17: K1, M1, knit to last stitch, M1, K1.

Row 18: Purl.

Row 19: BO 6 sts, knit to end. (17 sts)

Row 20: BO 6 sts, purl to end. (11 sts)

Work even in stockinette stitch for 12 rows.

Row 33: Knit to end of row, CO 6 sts. (17 sts)

Row 34: Purl to end of row, CO 6 sts. (23 sts)

Row 35: Knit.

continued on reverse...

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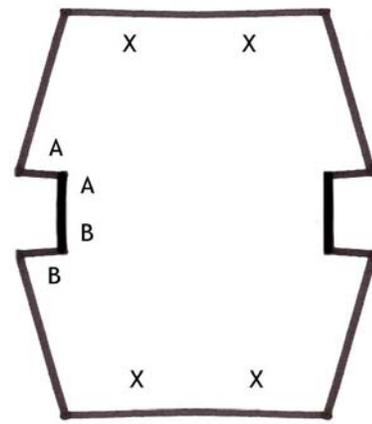
Continue working in stockinette stitch, decreasing as directed: Rows 36, 40, 44, 48: P1, P2tog, purl to last 3 sts, P2tog, P1. (Note: If you find the P2tog too hard to do, decrease instead on the right side rows following each decrease row: K1, K2tog, knit to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1.)
 Row 49: Bind off all stitches. (Keep the bind-off row tight, it will be the opening of your bag.) Weave in ends.

Lining (optional): If you would like to line your bag, cut the fabric before you assemble the bag. Lay the (stretched, flat) bag body on your lining fabric and trace the outline of the bag—leaving about half an inch on all sides. Use 1 inch seams and sew the lining together with right sides together, in the same manner as directed below for the sewing the bag body.

Assembly: Stretch your bag body in all directions. This will pull the stitches in place and allow it to lay flat. Next, refer to the diagram at the right for assembly. Fold B to meet B and A to meet A on both sides and with sewing thread doubled, sew into place. Lastly, sew up the sides.

Handles: The handles are attached with loops of Sari Ribbon. Xs on the diagram indicate handle placement. With remaining Sari Ribbon, cut 4 strips 5 inches long. Thread these strips through the bag body at the X location, through the handle, and back through the bag. Sew ends together, catching the bag body at the same time to secure in place. Make sure to use sturdy stitches here to support the weight of your bag.

Sew in Lining: Put your lining into the bag and sew it in place along the top opening, turning down the top edge .5" as you stitch.



Tips for working with recycled silk yarn:

- It is easier to work from a hand rolled ball
- As soon as you can, weave in your cast-on tail to keep it from catching on your working yarn.
- If your yarn is over-twisted, letting out some of the twist will make it easier to work with and maximize your yardage. The easiest way to do this is by putting a rubber band around your ball and dangling it allowing it to turn and untwist the working yarn.

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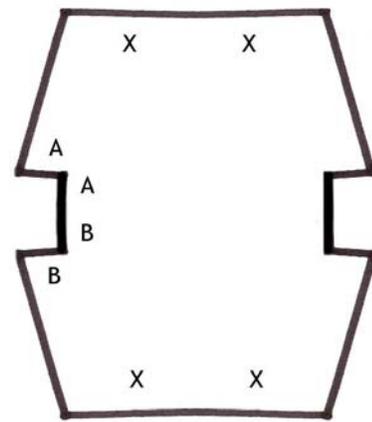
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