

Bobble Handbag with Flower Closure

Hook: H & I or size to obtain gauge
Yarn: Knit Picks or similar yarns
Sierra (bulky)
(70% Wool, 30% Superfine Alpaca; 100g,110 yds.)
1 skein:
Color A (MC): *Cinnamon*
Wool of the Andes (worsted)
(100% Peruvian Highland Wool; 50g,110 yds.)
1 skein each:
Color B: *Avocado*, Color C: *Cloud*,
Color D: *Chocolate*
Notions: 5/8" button, thread
Optional: Smaller (3/8") buttons, store-bought handles
Gauge: 4"x 1" 14 sts, 3 rows in hdc
Size: (Before felting) Approx. 8.25" wide x 5.5" tall



Notes: This would be a great project for scrap yarns, collectible buttons and leftover skeins. Remember to use 100% wool (or similar animal fiber) if you want to felt this project.

Small bobble stitch: Yo, insert hook in next st, yo and draw up a loop, yo and draw through 2 loops. *Yo, draw up a loop in same st, yo and through 2 loops* Do this 3 times. Yo and through all 4 loops on the hook, ch 1.

Body

Make 2 (front and back)

Color A and I hook, working from the bottom up:

1. Ch 24
2. Sc in each ch, ch 2, turn
3. 2 hdc in 1st st, hdc in each st across, 2 hdc in very last st, ch 1, turn (25 sts)
4. Sc in next 2 sts, *make bobble st, sc in next 3 sts*, repeat between ** until last 3 sts, make bobble st, sc in next 2 sts, ch 1, turn
5. Sc in each st, ch 1, turn
6. Sc in next 4 sts, *make bobble st, sc in next 3 sts*, repeat between ** until last 5 sts, make bobble st, sc in next 4 sts, ch 1, turn
7. Repeat row 5
8. Repeat row 4
9. Repeat row 5
10. Hdc in each st, ch 2, turn
11. Repeat row 10
12. Hdc in next 2 sts, sk next st, hdc in each st across until last 3 sts, sk next st, hdc in next 2 sts, ch 2, turn (23 sts)
- 13.-17. Repeat row 10, tie off after last row.

Side and bottom gusset

1. Ch 6
2. Hdc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in each st, ch 2, turn
3. Repeat row 2 until piece measures 17" long, or length around sides and bottom of front/back pieces.

Tab

Along the top of the back piece, find the center. Attach yarn with sc in 3 sts. Ch 1, turn and continue making rows of sc until tab measures 1.5", or desired length. Tie off, leaving a 12" tail.

Flower Closure

Center

Color B or D, and H hook:

1. Ch 7, join, ch 1 (circle)
2. 10 sc in circle, join, tie off. (10 sts)

Petals

Color C, working in front loops only:

1. Join to front loop of any st on flower center, ch 5
2. Dc in 3rd ch from hook, tr in next st, dc in next st, sc in next st, sk next st on center, join next st (1 petal made)
3. Repeat #2 around, making 5 petals, tie off.



Sepals

Color D, working in back loops only:

1. Join to st directly behind a petal, ch 3
2. Sc in 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, sk next st on center, join in next st (1 sepal made)
3. Repeat #2 around, making 5 sepals, tie off.

Handles

Color D and H hook:

1. Ch 57
2. Sc in 4th ch from hook, sc in each st, ch 3
3. Work around foundation chain (do not turn), sc in 1st and each st to end
4. 4 sc in 3-ch space, sc in each st to end
5. 4 sc in 3-ch space, sc until last st, sl st in last st, tie off.

Finishing

Assemble body: Gusset fits around the front and back pieces, making the sides and bottom of the bag. Attach front piece to gusset with sc to create a decorative edge. **Make sure outside of front/back piece is facing you for the correct side of the sc-edge to show. Repeat with back piece. Weave in ends. Weave in ends of flower and handles.

To felt: agitate in hot, soapy water for 10 minutes. Rinse, press out water (do not wring) and toss in dryer until mostly dry. The idea here is not to shrink the bag very much (only about 25") -- and completely lose stitch definition -- but to create a uniform and dense fabric.

Block: Re-shape bobbles. Light press with a hot iron. Reshape flower and handles.

When dry, sew on flower (with 12" tail from tab) and handles with matching yarn. Sew on larger button for closure with thread (if using a flat button with holes, make a shank). Optional: Use small buttons to decorate the ends of the handles. Or, use wood or plastic handles for a different look.