

# The Pirate Queen's Booty Bag

***A double-knitted, felted, reversible bag with a two-color pattern***

designed by Pat Kight, aka Jezebel, Webwench to the Pirate Guys

Available exclusively from <http://talklikeapirate.com>



*Finished bag is large, thick, sturdy - and reversible!  
More photos: <http://tinyurl.com/haqh5>*

## **Special techniques used in this pattern**

(described on page 4):

Double knitting  
Applied I-cord  
Kitchener grafting  
Felting

Skill level: Intermediate

Finished dimensions: 8"x12"x13"deep; straps 16" from shoulder to top of bag.

Materials:

Yarn: 3 skeins each of Cascade 220 Color 9465 (black) and Cascade 220 Tweed Color 609 (hot pink) OR any feltable, worsted-weight wool in two contrasting colors. You will need about 500 yards of each color.

US size 8 circular needles, 29" or longer.  
Interchangeable needles recommended.

Stitch markers

Stitch holders or waste yarn

Tapestry needle for finishing

Gauge: Gauge is not critical for this pattern. Knit loosely to encourage maximum felting.

Nonetheless, if you are new to double-knitting or two-color work, knit a test swatch to get used to the technique, and felt it (by hand in a sinkfull of hot water) to make sure the pattern looks good after shrinking

## **Knitting the bag:**

Cast on 84 st with MC.

In the first row, add the CC (see double-knit technique). Although you still have 84 st on the needle, the fabric will now be 42 st wide; half the stitches on the front side and half the back.

Knit 48 rows in DK to make the bottom of the bag. When you've finished the last row, turn work to MC side and place marker (PM) on needle.

**Holding both colors of working yarn together**, pick up stitches around the other three edges of the rectangle as follows: 24, 42, 24. (NOTE: Each "stitch" you pick up will actually put two stitches on the needle, one of each color; when you're done you should have a total of 264 loops on your needles, and be back where you started, ready to begin knitting in the round).



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**Knit the sides of the bag in the round**

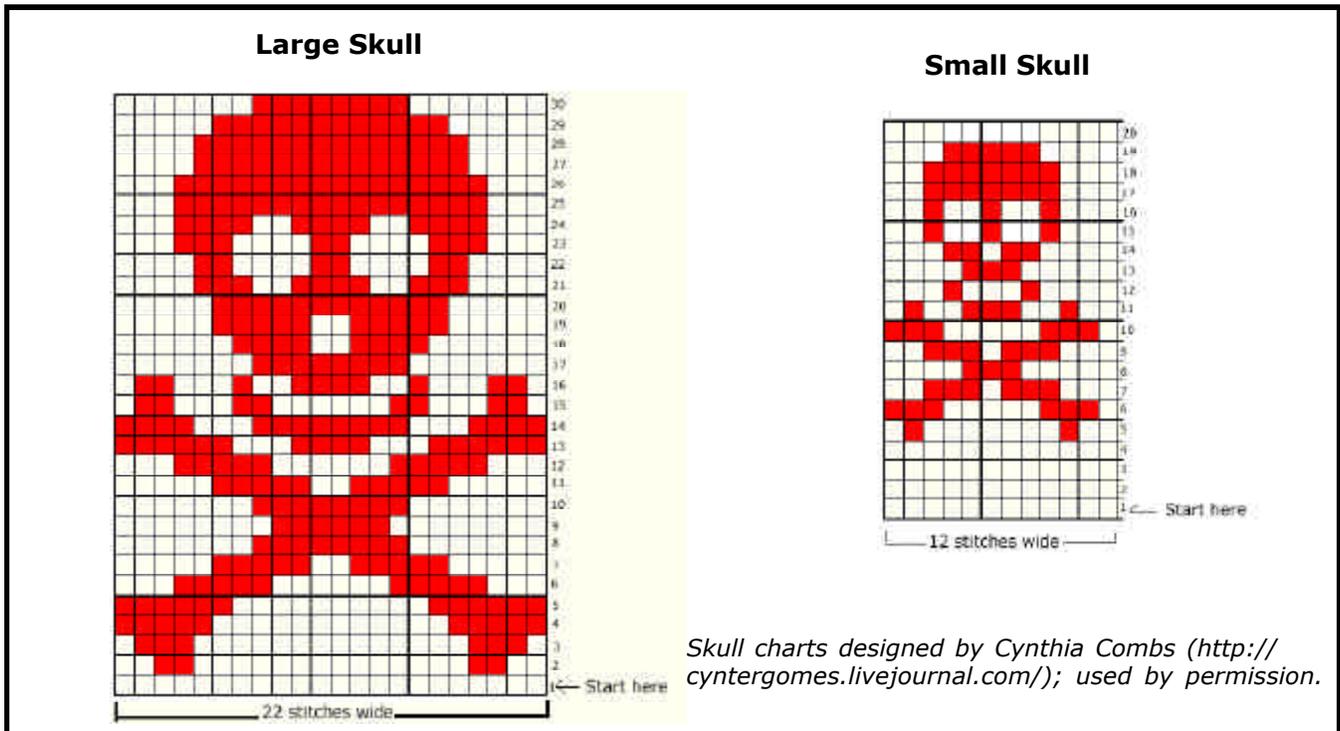
Rounds 1-20: DK plain

Rounds 11-26: Work small skull pattern, using double-knit technique to change colors. You will wind up with a band of 11 small skulls around the bag.

Rounds 27-36: DK plain

Rounds 37-67: Work large skulls as follows:

\*DK plain 10, DK in pattern for 22 st; DK plain 10; PM; DK plain 24; PM; repeat from \*.



Rounds 68-78: DK plain

Round 79: DK to within 8 st of each corner marker; PM; K16, removing the old corner marker and adding it when you've done the 16 stitches.

When all four corners are thus marked, DK to first marker.

Now work the 16 marked-off stitches of each corner to make straps. Before you start, protect the rest of your live stitches by placing them on holders or lengths of scrap yarn - separate holders for each 16-stitch corner section and for the top edge stitches in between the strap sections.

**Knit straps:**

k2T, p2T (using both colors) at start of row, k to end, turn.

Repeat, continuing start-of-row decreases until 7 pairs of stitches remain on the needle.

Then continue DK until strap is 18" long. Break yarn, leaving a 12" tail, and place stitches on holder or waste yarn.

Rejoin yarn (both colors) to live stitches at the top edge of the bag, to the left of the handle you just finished. DK around to next handle and repeat, putting each handle on a stitch holder as it is done.

Carefully move strap stitches from stitch holders (this is a little tricky): Put all MC stitches from one strap on a needle, leaving CC stitches on holder. Do the same with the stitches on the strap to which you are grafting. Graft MC; break yarn and weave in ends. Turn work to CC side; move CC stitches onto needles and graft. Repeat with other set of straps.

### A note about the straps:

You may join the straps in either of two ways. For a conventional shoulder bag, join across the long side of the bag (the side with the big skulls on it). For a bag that can also be worn backpack style, join across the short edges (see my bag).

### Bind off the top edge of the bag:

Beginning to the left of the first strap you finished, work I-cord bind-off along the top edge of the bag **with MC only**; when you get to the next handle, pick up stitches up its edge to continue applied I-cord all the way around the outer edge of the handle.

Then move to the next section of unbound edge and repeat around the rim of the bag until all edges are bound off with I-cord.

### Reinforce bottom edge of bag (optional, but makes a neater base)

The layers of fabric will be attached on the three sides of the bottom where you picked up stitches, but the fourth will be separate layers of fabric. On the MC, use the CC to pick up stitches around all four sides of the bag bottom and add applied I-cord trim. Knit loosely! As you go, work the I-cord to cover the edges where the two colors show.

If you like, turn the bag inside out and add MC I-cord to the CC side. Weave in all ends.

### Felt the bag:

#### **Washing-machine method** (recommended - this bag is too big for effective hand-felting):

Squirt a generous amount of shampoo or mild detergent on the bag. Put it inside a pillowcase\* and secure shut with a knot and/or rubber band. Add some old towels, a pair of tennis shoes or jeans (or a couple of old tennis balls!) to the washer and put it through the hottest wash cycle possible.

Check bag at end of spin cycle. If you can still see stitches, add more soap and repeat the hot wash cycle. When the bag is fully felted, the stitches should be nearly invisible.

*\*The pillowcase will keep stray fibers corralled so they don't clog up your washer's drains. Having paid the plumber's bill for unclogging a felted-shut drain, I highly recommend the pillowcase method!*

**Block:** Stretch the bag into shape - don't be afraid to pull, tug and stretch until it's even and perfect - the fabric can take it! Form and if necessary pin bag around an appropriately sized object (shoe boxes or a stack of books wrapped in plastic bags, for instance) to hold it in the right shape while it dries. I used some small plastic craft bins.

Hang to dry (I slung the straps over a pair of dining room chairs and let it hang.) Midway through drying, turn bag inside out, re-weight and finish drying.

### Adapting the design:

Don't like skulls? Prefer other colors? Go for it! This bag is adaptable to almost any simple two-color pattern. Simply:

- Chart the pattern, keeping in mind that felting will shrink the fabric more along the vertical axis than the horizontal
- Knit and felt a pattern swatch to make sure it will look the way you want.
- Decide how many repeats of the chart (including spaces between repeats) you want on the bag
- Use that number to how many stitches you need for each side of the bag, long and short.
- Multiply the number of long-side stitches by 2 to get the cast-on, and the short-side stitches by 2 to get the number of rows you will knit for the bottom.

## Special techniques used in this pattern:

### Double-knitting (DK):

To begin, cast on twice the number of stitches needed with the main color (MC).

Row 1: Attach the contrasting color (CC) to the MC with a slip stitch. Carrying both yarns together, \*K1 with MC, P1 with CC\*. This will create two layers of fabric, one in the MC and one in the CC. Continue to end of row. You will now have alternating color stitches on the needle.

At the end of each row twist the two strands once to close the edge of the fabric; otherwise you'll wind up with two layers of fabric that are loose at the edges.

**Each pair of MC/CC stitches counts as one stitch for purposes of the colorwork pattern.**

Row 2 and ensuing plain rows: Whether working flat or in the round, K the color you want to see on the side facing you; P the color you want on the other side.

When you reach the pattern rows, swap colors to create the pattern by twisting the MC and CC once. Always knit the color that should appear on the side of the fabric facing you, and purl the color that should show on the reverse.

For a tutorial on double-knitting, see: <http://knitting.about.com/library/bldoubleknit.htm>

For a special double-knitting cast-on and bind-off technique (not necessary, but it produces a cleaner edge), see: <http://knitting.about.com/library/blcodoubleknit.htm>

### Applied I-cord/I-cord bind-off

**For edges with live stitches:** CO two stitches to the left needle using a knitted cast-on, as follows

K 1; do not slide stitch completely onto the right needle. Instead, twist the new stitch and slip it back onto the left needle. K 1 into that twisted stitch; twist and slip back onto left needle.

K 3 st; slip those stitches back onto the left needle.

\*K 2, k2T, slip stitches back onto left needle. Repeat from \* until edge is bound off and you have three stitches remaining on the right needle. With left needle, pick up three stitches from beginning of cord, and use Kitchener grafting to attach the ends of the cord together.

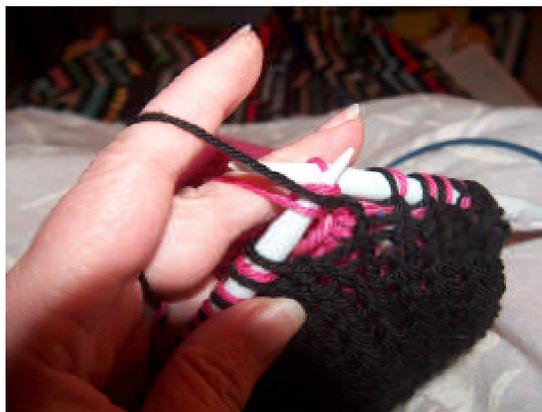
**For selvage of straps:** Pick up stitches along edge: Insert needle into stitch at edge of fabric, making sure to go through both layers. Wrap yarn around needle as if to knit and pull through to right side to create a loop/stitch on the right needle.

Continue picking up stitches (about three for every four edge stitches) until the entire edge is on your needle, then proceed as above.

**For the bag bottom trim:** You'll be picking up stitches around the perimeter of the base, first on the three attached sides. When you hit the open side, where the two layers of fabric were not joined when you began knitting in the round, be sure to dig through both layers of fabric every few stitches and catch a stitch from the reverse side; this will serve to attach the two layers of fabric and ensure that they felt together securely.

### Kitchener grafting

See this tutorial: <http://www.knitty.com/issuesummer04/FEATtheresasum04.html>



*Carrying the yarn is easy if you knit Continental-style: Just use your first two fingers to control the colors. If you knit English style, you'll probably have to move each color separately, and be careful not to get the strands twisted.*