

# Spangled Tote

By Rachel Roden



*This sturdy felted tote is perfect for carrying your personal items to the beach or a summertime picnic! The base is constructed with short rows and the body is striped to represent an American flag. The top is finished with a simple section of stranded colorwork (this can be omitted and knit plain!). The rolled straps are knitted on, and then the entire bag is felted!*

## **Gauge**

12 stitches and 16 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch with yarn held double (pre-felting).

## **Dimensions**

24 inches wide at the top and 23 inches long (pre-felting).

14 inches wide at the top and 12 inches long (post-felting).

## **Materials**

Color A: 2 skeins of Cascade 220 in color 2402 Light Navy Blue

Color B: 2 skeins of Cascade 220 in color 2413 Red (to reduce color bleeding you should soak your red yarn in a vinegar bath ahead of time)

Color C: 2 skeins of Cascade 220 in color 8010 Natural

US 11 24" circular needle

Stitch markers (locking and circular)

Yarn needle

## Glossary

k: knit

p: purl

k2tog: Knit two stitches together

m1: Make one stitch

pm: Place marker

Wrap and turn: Bring yarn to front of the work, as if to purl. Slip 1 stitch purl-wise and then bring the yarn around the slipped stitch to the back of the work. Slip wrapped stitch back to the left needle and bring the yarn back to the front. Turn your work.

Knit stitch together with wrap(s): Slip the wrapped stitch to right needle. With the left needle, pick up the wrap(s), and then slip the stitch back to the left needle. Knit the stitch together with the picked up wrap(s).

## Directions:

### Base

With color A, cast on 48 stitches.

Rows 1-2: Knit all stitches.

Rows 3-4: Knit to 4 stitches before the end, wrap and turn. Repeat once more.

Rows 5-12: Knit to 4 stitches before previous wrapped stitch, wrap and turn the next stitch.

Rows 13-18: Knit to first wrapped stitch. Knit it together with the wrap; knit 2 more stitches. Wrap and turn the next stitch (this adds a second wrap to it).

Rows 19-20: Knit to final wrapped stitch. Knit it together with the wrap, then knit to end. Turn work normally.

Rows 21-22: Knit all stitches. DO NOT TURN.

Row 23: Rotate and pick up 2 stitches in the garter ridges, rotate again and pick up 48 stitches in the cast on edge, rotate once more and pick up 2 stitches in the garter ridges. Join for working in the round.

Row 24: p49, pm, p50, pm (this marks the beginning of the round). Cut yarn. There should be 50 stitches between each marker for a total of 100 stitches.

### Body

Join color B and begin working stockinette stripes as follows:

Round 1: With color B, \*k1, m1, k to one stitch before marker, m1, k1\* Repeat once more.

Rounds 2-6: With color B, knit all stitches.

Round 7: With color C, \*k1, m1, k to one stitch before marker, m1, k1\* Repeat once more.

Rounds 8-12: With color C, knit all stitches.  
Repeat rows 1-12 four more times (10 stripes).  
Repeat rows 1-6 once more. You should now have 11 stripes (144 stitches).

Cut yarn and join colors A and C. Repeat chart 1 a total of 3 times. Knit one more round in color A. Bind off all stitches with color A.

Chart 1

Blue	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	8
Blue	White	Blue	White	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	7
Blue	Blue	White	Blue	White	Blue	White	Blue	6
Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	5
Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	4
Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	Blue	3
Blue	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	2
Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	1

### Straps

*If your gauge was accurate you are likely quite low on yarn at this point. The straps can be made with any combination of colors you have left over from the body!*

On each side, measure 4 inches in and 1 inch below the edge, marking these spots with a locking stitch marker. Pick up 10 stitches at one of the marked spots, leave a 12" tail for finishing. Knit every row until the strap measures approximately 22" long.

To attach it to the other end (on the same side of the bag), pick up a purl bump at the marked spot and knit it together with a strap stitch. Do this for the remaining strap stitches, binding off as you go. Leave a 12" tail for finishing.

Repeat on the other side of the bag for the second strap.

### Finishing

Using your cast on and bind off tails, sew down the straps where they overlap with the body by going up one side, across the top and then down the other side. Then, to create a rolled handle, fold the center of the strap in half and sew it together for approximately 4 inches. Weave in all ends.

Felt in a washing machine, being sure to check every 5 minutes, until it reaches the specified dimensions or your desired size!