

The Pine Apple Bag

This bag is based on the instructions for a "Pine Apple Bag" published in 1840 by Mrs. Jane Gaugain in her book "The Lady's Assistant, for executing useful and fancy designs in knitting, netting, and crochetwork" and on a picture of a tiny purse (Knitting Reference Library, University of Southampton), which appeared in the book "Mil anys de disseny en punt", Centre de Documentació i Museu Tèxtil (<http://www.cdmt.es/>), Terrassa, 1997.



On May 2008 I had the chance to study Mrs. Gaugain's book, which is kept in the British Library in London, and to copy the original instructions for the bag –you can find those at the end of this document.

The original model is made of very fine silk in four shades of green and four shades of yellow. For my bag I had to use much coarser cotton yarn and make do with fewer changes of colour.

The following notes explain how the bag on the picture was made; any experienced knitter will know how to adapt the pattern to suit the materials at hand and the intended dimensions.

Dimensions of the finished bag: 28 x 14 cm (11 x 5.5 inches, including leaves and stem); the body measures 21 x 14 cm (8 x 5.5 inches).

Materials

- 2 balls of Catania – Schachenmayr nomotta (100% cotton, 50 g, 125 m), yellow; there will be quite a lot of yarn left from the second one;
- 1 ball of the same yarn in dark green;
- a very short end of the same type of yarn in beige for the two initial rows;
- a bit of fine dark orange or amber for the stripes which make up the darker lines around the "bobbles" of the body;
- 1 ball of fine crochet yarn in light green. Three strands of yarn are used for the lighter parts of the leaves; combined with the dark green, we get the intermediate variegated shade;
- some 10 g (0.3 ounces) of glass beads (4 mm) dark amber (Rocaille mit Silbereinzug de Rayher, 17 g);
- some 5 g of rocaille glass beads (1 mm) in dark green;



- double-pointed needles 2.5 mm (US 1); a 30-40 cm (12-16 inches) circular needle will do for the top leaves and the body of the pineapple, but the set of needles will be needed for the bottom.
- two finer double-pointed needles for the i-cords which are used to close the bag.
- a tapestry needle.

Instructions

We start knitting from the top leaves and end with the bottom leaves and the stem. The long leaves at the top are knitted in stockinette stitch (knit in front) and the rest of the bag is done in reverse stockinette stitch (purl in front). The first row is beaded in green; the centre stitch of each "cell" of the pineapple is also beaded in amber. The original instructions call for a "purl three together" in the pattern; this can be quite difficult to knit in cotton, so I have used a double decrease "slip, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over" instead.

Before you start:

- thread approximately 30 cm (12 inch) of green beads with the light fine yarn;
- wind a small ball of three strands of light green, so as to obtain a yarn which can be worked with the 2.5 needles (US 1);
- in total 88 amber glass beads have to be threaded on the yellow yarn; if they are too tight or they are difficult to pass along the thread as the work goes on, it might be better to thread only the first 33 or 44 and cut the thread later when we need to add the rest.

There is a knitting [chart](#) which shows changes of colour and the position of the beads; it might be a good idea to have a look at it, even for those who prefer to work from written instructions.

Leaves

With the beige yarn, cast on 187 stitches and distribute them on the needles; a distribution in four working needles could be: 51, 51, 34 y 51 st. on each needle (3, 3, 2 and 3 leaves). Knit the first row with two yarns: the beige used to cast on and the beaded light green. Leave one bead at each stitch.

Change to the lighter green –in our case, the three-strand ball of light green.

2nd row: *k7, sk2tog pss0 (double decrease), k7, yo*; repeat 10 times from * to * (11 leaves in total)

3rd row: *k6, double decrease, k6, yo, k1, yo*; repeat 10 times from * to * (11 times in total).

You might prefer to start the row with the yo, in order to keep the stitches as even as possible.

Repeat the 3rd row eight times in total with light green, eight times with medium green (dark green plus light green) and eight times with dark green only.

Fruit

Change to yellow yarn and knit one row.

Now we have to start knitting the purl rows. If you prefer knitting instead of purling, you can change the direction on which the rows are worked by turning the work at this point; this means that you will be working facing the inside of the bag instead of the outside. The rest of the explanations assume that you are following this method. If not, you should p1 instead of k1, p6 instead of k6, etc.

The pattern for the bobbles in the fruit is basically the same one as for the leaves; the only difference is that the place of the double decrease and the yo-k1-yo group shifts at every ridge of bobbles.



If you want to start the row at the yo, knit the first seven stitches on each needle and pass them to the needle on the right; the last stitch of each needle will be the one which lies above the double decrease

Now continue this way:

+ *yo, k6, double decrease, k6, yo, k1 *; repeat 10 times from * to * (11 times in total). Repeat this row once more (2 rows in total); for the 3rd and the 4th row, join the dark orange yarn (optional, if you want to get some stripes) and knit following the same instructions. Knit the 5th and the 6th row in the same way, but with yellow yarn only. The first ridge of the pineapple is ready. +

Knit one row.

Knit one row, beading the stitches which lie just above the k1 on the yo-k1-yo group of the previous rows. (If you haven't done so yet, this might be a good moment to have a look at the graphic!).

Knit one row; at the end of the row, pass the last seven stitches from the right needle to the left one. This way we will align again the change of needle at the k1, yo. ++

Repeat another seven times from + to ++ and once more from + to +; you should have then nine ridges of yellow bobbles.

Leaves at the bottom

Change to light green and purl one row.

Knit one row, leave one green bead in each of the stitches of the group yo-k1-yo.

Knit one row; shift the change of needles as in the previous rows.

The next three rows are done as follows:

yo, k6, double decrease, k6, yo, k1 ; repeat 10 times from * to * (11 times in total).

Change to intermediate green (dark green plus one strand of light green) and knit two more rows:

yo, k6, double decrease, k6, yo, k1 ; repeat 10 times from * to * (11 times in total).

In the next row we start to decrease for the bottom:

*yo, k3, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k3, yo, k1 *; repeat 10 times from * to * (11 times in total).

For the next two rows: *yo, k5, k2tog, k5, yo, k1 *; repeat 10 times from * to * (11 times in total).

Knit one row.

Change to dark green.

Knit the next two rows, but do a double decrease on top of the yo-k1-yo group of the previous rows.

Knit one row.

On the next row shift the double decreases again, so that they fall in between the ones of the previous row. Knit another row, this time with the double decreases in the same place as the previous one.

Stem

Knit seven rows (or some more if you want a longer stem for your pineapple).

Change to lighter green. k2tog all the next row. Knit the last row.

Leave a short tail of yarn and use it to sew together the remaining stitches and close the gap using the tapestry needle.

Cords and make up

With fine crochet yarn and the finer double-pointed needles (1.75 or 2 mm) knit a 3-stitches i-cord as long as you like (or 55cm - 23 inches).

Knit another i-cord.

Thread the i-cords through the eyelets at the bottom of the leaves and sew their ends together.



Pine Apple Bag

(original receipt by Mrs Jane Gaugain)

P – Plain stitch or loop

Pb – Bead stitch

P3 or P4, two, or four plain stitches or loops, as the figure may be.

A – take in three loops into one, by slipping the first loop off backwards, without knitting; knit the second and third loops together, then lift the first over the taken-in loop.

O, make a stitch by bringing the thread to the front, (by passing it under the right wire, to the front)

This bag is knit to imitate the natural colour of fruit as much as possible, still keeping the bag as bright in hues as consistency will permit. The top part is worked in four shades of green, of seven rows each, commencing with lightest and working in succession to dark. This represents the leaves. The centre, or fruit part, is worked in shades of yellow, down to a rich brown four in number, beginning with the lightest, and working 36 rounds of each; again with green finish as described in the working receipt.

The cast-on row looks handsome with a row of gilt beads; also on the centre stitch of each knob of fruit part, there should be a bead, but it might be omitted if not wished. The green part for leaves is worked on right side, and it is the right or outside part; the centre part of bag is like the wrong side of knitting, as well as the green part, at bottom. When the bag is finished, it is drawn at the termination of the top leaves; the bottom is finished with a bunch of green satin ribbon, rounded at the points like leaves.

Working receipt

Cast on with light-green common sized purse twist on no. 19 wires, 96 on first wire, 96 on second wire and 128 on third wire; work a plain row after the cast on row.

1st Round: P6, O, P6, A; repeat all round

2nd Round: * P6, O, P, O, P6, A; repeat all round.

Repeat as second round 5 more rounds.

2nd shade of green

8th round, repeat as second round 7 more rounds.

* observe that you have seven plain stitches before you make an open stitch, the first of which has nothing to do with the six plain, as it is one of those three you knit into one, and will be required to finish in the A on the last wire; the beginning and ending of every wire during the working of green will be the same as this.



3d shade of green

16th round, repeat as second round 7 more rounds.

4th shade of green

24th round, repeat as second round 7 more rounds

32d Round with light yellow, turn and work a plain round. It is necessary here to observe, the A of the yellow must be transposed so as to come directly under the O, P, O, of green. Should you have more loops than six before, take in in the free loops, lift them on to the right hand wire; do the same with the other two wires; having done so, you have not again to change any of the loops off the wires, as the following receipt is so arranged,

33d round, P6, A P6, O, P, O; repeat all round

34th round, P5, A, P6, O, P, O, P; repeat all round

35th round, P4, A, P6, O, P, O, P2; repeat all round

36th round, P3, A, P6, O, P, O, P3, repeat all round

37th round, P2, A, P6, O, P, O, P4, repeat all round

38th round P, A, P6, O, P, O, P5; repeat all round

39th round, plain

40th round plain – save the bead on each knob

41st round, plain

42d round, P, O, P, O, P6, A, P5, repeat all round

43d round, P2, O, P, O, P6, A, P4, repeat all round

44th round, P3, O, P, O, P6 A P3, repeat all round

45th round, P4, O, P, O, P6 A, P2, repeat all round

46th round, P5, O, P, O, P6, A, P repeat all round

47th round, P6, O, P, O, P6, A; repeat all round

48th round, plain

49th round P8, Pb, P7; repeat all round

Repeat from 32d to 49th round once more, with the light yellow

Repeat from 32d to 49th round twice with second yellow

Repeat from 32rd to 49 th round twice with third yellow

Repeat from 32rd to 49th round twice with fourth yellow; (if you wished to be longer add what is required in this shade.)

Repeat with each shade of green once from 32rd to 49th round

P6, A all round

Plain all round

Repeat these two rows till the bag is almost closed, then draw it together with a needle

The bead stitch is directly above the P between the O's in 47th round

This bag might be worked in shades of Berlin wool on No. 16 wires.

