

COTTON CARRY ALL



A SUPER-HANDY, PRETTY, PRACTICAL, COTTON TOTE BAG, TO TAKE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.

FOR THIS PROJECT YOU WILL NEED:

Rigid heddle loom with a minimum weaving width of 50cm

10 d.p.i (40/10) reed

2 pick up sticks

Colourspun cotton DK @ 120 m/50g and approx. 18 wraps per inch

6 X 50g main colour

2 X 50g contrasting colour

OR

Scheepies Cahlista cotton @ 85m/50g 9 X 50g main colour

3 X 50g second colour

An inkle loom for making the strap, or, if you don't have an inkle loom, then a section of 10 dent heddle from a vari-dent.

If you don't have either of the above, I will give instructions for making the straps with an ordinary heddle too.

Fabric for the lining of the bag.

A piece of iron-on interfacing the same size as the bag fabric.

Sewing thread.

All the usual bits and pieces – scissors, darning needle, tape measure, pins etc etc.

The plain, functional concept of this handy little carry bag is enhanced by a section of simple warp stripes based on the Fibonacci series, and a simple pick-up pattern, which runs the length of the fabric.

The fabric is woven in alternating stripes of single weft and doubled weft, which add a subtle textural element to the overall look.

HERE'S HOW.....

Place your warping peg at a distance that will give you a warp of at least 1.8m in length

Using the 10 dent heddle for your loom, warp the loom in the following order:

1. 8 slots – colour 1
2. 2 slots – colour 2
3. 3 slots – colour 1
4. 5 slots – colour 2

5. 8 slots – colour 1
6. 13 slots – colour 2

This sequence forms the Fibonacci stripe sequence, the eight slots at the beginning include the seam allowance for the making up of the bag.

Warp the remaining slots as usual in your main colour, and wind the warp onto the roller using plenty of separating strips, and being careful to maintain an even tension.

WEAVING

1. Using sewing thread of an appropriate colour, or very fine cotton, and a very light beat, weave about 4 cm. This will be the section of the hem that is turned under.
2. Using your main colour, weave 4 picks with a single thread, followed by 4 picks with a double thread. This sequence of 4 single and 4 double picks will continue throughout the length of the fabric, except for the section which will form the bottom of the bag, which we will weave with a triple thread.
3. Remember that the routine for weaving a multiple pick is to weave one pick, beat and return the heddle to the same position to weave the second and any following picks.
4. Weave 5 cm of plain weave using the single and double thread sequence.

PICK-UP SEQUENCE

To calculate the placing of the pick up:

1. In terms of the Fibonacci series, the following number of slots would be 21, so, from the last slot of your second colour, count 21 slots and mark the place by tying a piece of scrap yarn in place around the wooden frame of your reed.
2. Now, count 21 slots from the other side of the reed towards the centre, and once again use a piece of scrap yarn to mark the relevant slot.
3. The section between the two pieces of scrap yarn will be your pick up section.
4. With your heddle in the down position, take your pick up stick through the shed until you reach the slot which is marked with the scrap yarn.
5. Between the two slots that are marked with the scrap yarn, take your pick up stick over 1 and under 1.
6. At the end of the pick up section, your pick up stick will go through the centre of the shed again, all the way to the other side.

To weave the pick up pattern:

1. With your heddle still in the down position, put the pick up stick on to its side and weave the down row.
2. Heddle up – push the stick to the back of the loom to weave a plain up row.
3. Repeat these two rows, then change the pick up.
4. With the heddle in the down position, leave your first pick up stick in place, but push it right to the back of the loom.
5. Take your second pick up stick through the shed until you reach the slot that is marked with the scrap yarn and change the pick up to under 1 and over 1 for the width of the pick up section.
6. At the end of the pickup section the pick up stick will go through the shed again, all the way to the other side.

7. Put your second pick up stick on its side and weave the down row.
8. Heddle Up – push the pick up stick to the back of the loom to weave a plain row.
9. Remove the second pick up stick

Repeat rows 1-9 until your weaving measures 45cm in total excluding the finely woven section at the beginning, *and all the time alternating 4 single rows with 4 doubled rows*

Continue with the alternating single and double sections for a further 10cm.

Now weave a 10cm section of triple rows – this will form the bottom of the bag, and the extra density of the triple rows will add stability.

At this stage, your weaving should measure 65cm

Revert to the 4 single and 4 double rows pattern for 10cm – giving a total of 75cm.

Repeat the pick up pattern as you used it before for 40cm to make the second side of your bag, bringing your total weaving length to 115cm.

Finish with 5cm of alternating single and double woven sections to finish with a woven length of 120cm.

Weave 4cm in your very fine thread for the hem.