

## 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.

### TO MAKE UP...

Remove your fabric from the loom, wash and iron prior to making up the bag.

Iron the interfacing (if you are using it) on to the wrong side of the fabric for the bag.

With right sides together stitch the length of the side seams.

Fold the bag so that the seams are together and tuck the bottom of the bag neatly to form a point at the bottom of the seam.



Measure 7.5cm from the point of the seam and mark it.



Measure 10cm up each side of the “V” from the point and make a mark, then mark your stitching line across all three marks and stitch.

Now turn the bag right side out and the sewn point will fold neatly into place along the bottom of the bag to form a gusset.

Repeat this process with the fabric that you will be using for the lining, but omit the step with the interfacing which has already been dealt with.

Put the lining of the bag into the body of the bag, turn the section woven with sewing thread under and fold the fabric over the lining, pinning in place before stitching by hand AFTER the straps have been sewn in place

The body of the bag is now complete, and all that remains is to make and attach the straps.

## TO MAKE THE STRAPS...

If you have an inkle loom, then obviously this is the ideal vehicle for the making of the straps for your bag.

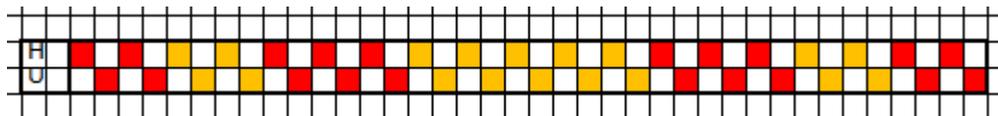
If you do not have an Inkle loom, but have a Vari-dent reed, then a section of the Vari-dent used on your Rigid Heddle loom will work fine.

If you don't have either of the above, it is also possible to make the straps using a normal reed.

You will need to make two straps of 70cm each, so your total warp length will be at least 1.8m.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE STRAPS WITHOUT AN INKLE LOOM, THIS IS THE MOST COMFORTABLE AND EFFICIENT WAY TO MAKE THEM.**

Below is the treading draft for an Inkle Loom



If you are using a section of Vari-dent reed to make the straps then use a 10cm section with a sett of 10 d.p.i.

Place this single section into the Vari-dent frame and centre it.

If you are using a normal reed, you will use a 10 d.p.i reed (which is the reed we used for the fabric for the bag), and you only warp the centre 10cm.

Warping colour order is as follows:

1. 2 slots Main
2. 2 slots contrast
3. 3 slots main
4. 5 slots contrast
5. 3 slots main
6. 2 slots contrast
7. 2 slots main

Wind the warp and tie on in the usual way.

If you are using a vari-dent, you can now take the frame away so that the single 10cm section is suspended on the warp threads.

If you are using a normal reed, you must now take it out of the heddle blocks and push it to the back of the loom where it will be suspended on the warp threads.

In both cases you will now have to manipulate the heddle by lifting it up or pushing it down by hand.

Weave the first pick by lifting the heddle or the section of reed up. For the return pick push it down and weave back, leaving a loop on the selvedge.

Pull the heddle up again and inset the belt shuttle, pushing down hard on to the previous pick.

Take the shuttle through the shed and pull up the loop until it is tight enough to pull the warp threads close together.

Again, leave a loop on the selvedge, before pushing the heddle down and putting the shuttle back into the shed and pushing down hard with the shuttle and pulling the loop up tight.

The aim is not to see any weft except for on the selvedges, and this results in excessive pull-in which is why it is easier to weave if the heddle or the section of the Vari-dent is pushed to the back of the loom.

You will have to advance the warp frequently in order to accommodate this excessive draw-in.

Weave two pieces of 70cm each, beginning and ending each strap by tucking the weft thread into the opposing shed.

When both pieces are complete, take the strap off the loom and run the ends through the zig-zag on your sewing machine to secure.

Stitch them into place on the body of the bag.

Hand stitch the lining of the bag to the body of the bag to complete.