



# Finishing

## Finishing a bag or purse

### Bag

You can knit handles for a bag, but a stylish and hardwearing option is to choose one of the many types of bag handles you can find in craft shops.

If you are knitting a bag to be sewn onto a bought handle, work about 4cm of stocking stitch at the beginning and end of your knitting.

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

Cast on the number of stitches you need to get the width you need.

St st for approximately 4cm.

Work your stitch pattern until the piece is twice the length you want your bag to be (the piece will fold in the middle).

St st for approximately 4cm.

Cast off.



### MAKING UP

Fold the bag in half in the middle.

Sew up the sides, leaving a gap of a few centimetres at the opening, taking care to fold the bottom of the bag exactly in the centre.



With this type of handle, thread the stocking stitch border of the bag through the opening, fold it over and use whip stitch to sew it to itself on the wrong side. See p.36 of *Knitty Gritty: The Next Steps* for how to do whip stitch.



Leaving a gap a few centimetres wide next to the handles so the bag opens easily, sew up the side seam using mattress stitch. See p.32 of *Knitty Gritty: The Next Steps* for how to do mattress stitch. If you're really having trouble, turn the bag inside-out and use whip stitch.

## Purse

You can purchase metal purse frames from craft shops or online. I think it's a really slick little technique to master. These would be great as gifts, or to sell on a craft stall for charity.

Knit your purse in the stitch of your choice, to fit the size of your purse frame. I knitted this little purse using bramble stitch (see p.150 of *Knitty Gritty: The Next Steps*) and a small amount of Classic Yarns Sienna, and I knit about 1cm of garter stitch as a border to give me a smooth edge to glue.



Fold the purse in half and sew up the sides using mattress stitch (p.32 of *Knitty Gritty: The Next Steps*), leaving an opening the correct size for the side of your purse frame.



Squeeze the glue (I recommend using HT2 textile glue) carefully into the frame. Glue one side of the frame at a time.



Carefully press the edge of the knitting into the space. I find the back of a spoon is really handy for this!

**Leave one side to dry before gluing the other side. If there's any glue stuck to the metal, it should be easy to scrape off when it's dry.**

