Putting on the Glitz

Although this book is about surface decoration, not all fabrics need it. There will be times when pure and simple is the look you want, or when the yarn you use needs no other adornment. Such is the case with Sari Silk, a beautiful fibre with its own unique texture. However, I wanted to add just a little bit of Eastern exotic bling to this bag so I used a very fine strand of Lurex with the main yarn.

Fig 108

You will need

200 g (7 oz) Himalaya Yarn 'Sari Silk'

small amount of fine gold Lurex (available on cones from machine-knitting yarn suppliers)

one 5.5 mm (US9) and one 6.5 mm (US10.5) knitting needle (you can use same size needles if you like)

5 mm (US8) needles

4 mm (F/5) crochet hook

1 chenille stem (available from craft stores)

3 accent beads and 1 seed bead, beading thread and needle to fit through beads

wool needle

Instructions

Bag panels

Make 2.

Purl side of fabric is right side.

With one end of Sari Silk and one end of Lurex, using the larger needles, cast on 40 sts and knit in st st until work measures 16 cm (6¼ in).

Change to 5 mm (US8) needles and continue in 1 x 1 rib until rib section measures 10 cm (4 in). Cast off.

With wrong sides together and starting 4 cm (1½ in) from top, join sides and lower edge of bag together with one row of dc(sc), ending 4 cm (1½ in) below top of bag.

Sew the remaining 4 cm (1½ in) of rib sections so that the seam is on the inside.

At the centre front and back, fold centre of rib section over until it sits at the junction where the reverse stocking stitch and rib meet and pin into place. This forms a gentle curve with the sides of the bag sitting higher. Stitch hem down.

Turn bag so bottom edge is at the top and work triangles as follows:

Small side triangle

Using Sari Silk only, pick up and knit 7 sts in from side edge.

1st Row: Knit.

2nd Row: k2tog, k3, k2tog.

3rd Row: Knit.

4th Row: k2tog, k1, k2tog.

5th Row: sl 1, k2tog, psso, fasten off.

Large centre triangle

Using Sari Silk, pick up and knit 13 sts from alongside first triangle.

1st Row: Knit.

2nd Row: k2tog, k9, k2tog.

3rd Row: Knit.

4th Row: k2tog, k7, k2tog.

5th Row: Knit.

6th Row: k2tog, k5, k2tog.

Continue decreasing as established until 3sts remain.

Next Row: sl 1, k2tog, psso, fasten off.

Repeat small triangle for other side.

Strap

With 4 mm hook, make 4 ch using Sari Silk.

1st Row: 1 dc(sc) in 2nd ch from hook, dc(sc) to end, 1 ch, turn.

2nd Row: 1 dc(sc) in each st to end, 1 ch, turn.

Rep 2nd row until strap measures 76 cm (30 in). Fasten off. Sew to inside seams of bag.

Closure

Using Sari Silk, work a row of dc(sc) over chenille stem, bending it into a circle measuring about 8 cm (3 in) in diameter. Wrap the ends of the stem around each other to join and work a few extra dc(sc) over the join. Sew circle to centre of folded hem.

Thread beads, with the seed bead threaded last.

Take thread back up through all but the seed bead. Fasten off securely.

Using Sari Silk, make a chain length about 130 cm (52 in) long, fold it and with a large safety pin attached to folded end, thread the cord through the hem section of the bag. Draw up until bag opening is about 13 cm (5 in) wide and tie a loose knot to secure.

Aztec

You will need

100 g (3½ oz) Cleckheaton 'Country' 8-ply

small amounts of fancy yarns for embroidery (I used Plymouth Yarns 'Noch Eros', 'Patches', 'Jungle' and 'Parrot', left over from the Spiral cushion, page 123)

size 4.5 mm (US7) knitting needles

size 3.5 mm (E/4) crochet hook

pair of rattan eye-shaped bag handles

wool needle

Fig 109

Special instruction

This bag is worked using short rows (SR). Please refer to How To chapter if you are unfamiliar with this technique.

Instructions

Bag panels

Make 2.

Cast on 40 sts.

*Knit 35, work SR, purl back along row.

Knit 30, work SR, purl back along row.

Knit 25, work SR, purl back along row.

Knit 20, work SR, purl back along row.

Knit 15, work SR, purl back along row.

Knit 10, work SR, purl back along row.

Knit 5, work SR, purl back along row*.

Knit 10 rows stocking stitch across all sts.

Rep SR sequence as before from * to *.

Knit 1 row across all stitches.

**Purl 35, work SR, knit back along row.

Purl 30, work SR, knit back along row.

Purl 25, work SR, knit back along row.

Purl 20, work SR, knit back along row.

Purl 15, work SR, knit back along row.

Purl 10, work SR, knit back along row.

Purl 5, work SR, knit back along row**.

Knit 6 rows st st across all stitches.

Rep SR sequence from ** to **.

Purl 1 row across all stitches.

Rep SR sequence 1 from * to *.

Knit 1 row across all stitches, cast off loosely.

Embroidered panel

Since the embroidery is to be worked randomly and in a freeform manner, it's not possible to give detailed instructions. Instead I have listed some suggestions to get you started. You can use similar yarns to the ones I've listed above, or raid your own stash for suitable yarns, keeping in mind that you will need at least three different textures.

Firstly you need to mark off the V-shaped section for the embroidered area. To do this, run a row of tacking stitches along the short row shaping line on either side of centre.

Fill in this area with densely worked embroidery using the following ideas:

- chain lengths made with the fancy yarns which are then attached with a short running stitch
- randomly placed chain or straight stitches
- French knots
- satin stitch
- lengths of fancy yarns couched down with contrasting threads.

Keep working until the entire area has been filled with embroidery.

Add beads in amongst the embroidery if you like to add further richness to the surface.

Add bead dangles to plain sections of front panel if required.

Handle carrier

With main yarn and 4.5 mm (7) needles, pick up and knit 32 sts across narrow edge of bag. Starting with a purl row knit 15 rows stocking stitch. Cast off.

Lower edging

Following the pattern below, knit the edging until it 'fits' the bottom edge of the bag as shown in the photograph (5 pattern repeats should do it).

Cast on 6 sts.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Rows: Knit.

4th Row: Cast on 3 sts, k to end.

5th, 6th and 7th Rows: Knit.

8th Row: Cast on 3 sts, k to end.

9th, 11th, 13th, 14th and 15th Rows: Knit.

10th and 12 Rows: Purl.

16th Row: Cast off 3 sts, k to end.

17th, 18th and 19th Rows: Knit.

20th Row: Cast off 3 sts, k to end.

These 20 rows form the pattern.

Finishing

With wrong sides of bag panels together, sandwich the edging between the panels and crochet a row of surface chain stitch (see How To chapter) through all three pieces, making sure to work on the very edge of each piece to avoid a bulky seam. You may find it easier to tack the edging to the back panel first.

Join the panels together with a row of dc(sc).

Fold handle carrier over handle and stitch down to inside of bag.