
Knit Crossbody Clutch with Cirilia Rose

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat tones) - My name is Cirilia Rose, and I'm a knitwear designer and the Creative Director at Skacel Collection in Seattle, Washington. I'm going to show you how to make a miniature bag that's perfect for going out. It holds a phone and a little bit of money, but not much else. It's a great use for special yarn, that's precious, either hand-dyed or hand-spun yarn, and then I finished it with items that I found at the hardware store. (quirky electronic music) We're working mostly in the round, starting with a Provisional Cast On at the top, we're doing some simple shaping, and saddle finishing at the bottom. I'll show you how to attach the clasp and the hardware later, so you can do a chain or a detachable wrist strap. (quirky electronic music) (upbeat tones)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The original bag uses, a hand-spun yarn made in Bellingham, Washington. It's called Spincycle. It's a DK weight yarn, and it's very precious. We're going to use Zitron Patina for the tutorial just because it's easier to see. You need about 50 grams of two colors, they can be contrasting or matching. I really like to use a contrast color for the flap, it just adds a little more interest. And because you only need a tiny bit, you can use a yarn that's pretty expensive or precious, something that you just wanna feature. You'll also need a bit of scrap yarn for your provisional cast on, you'll need a crochet hook, a tapestry needle and scissors, a set of five double-pointed needles. The needles, whatever your ballband says for the yarn when it's a DK or worsted, like worsted you would usually use a size six needle. We're gonna go down a couple needle sizes, so size four or five just to create a dense fabric so that the bag isn't droopy and nothing falls through it. This is a size seven, again just so it's easier to see. You're gonna finish the bag with hardware. What you need is a clasp or closure and some light-duty chain, this is sometimes called decorator chain. I got it at the hardware store. You might need wire cutters if it's a little too long. And you need two rings, something to attach to the side of the bag. I like to use something that's, that you can open and close so either a book ring like this, a split ring key marker or a carabiner style clip. It just gives you some flexibility, you can either wear it crossbody with a chain or with a detachable wrist strap. You could also use a fused o-ring like this if you don't care about changing out the chain.

Chapter 3 - Create Clutch

Provisional Cast-on

- We start this bag with a provisional cast-on, and I will just show you where that starts. It starts right here. To do a provisional cast-on, what that means is, we are going to later go back and unpick it, so you need to use scrap yarn. I like to choose something that contrasts with the yarn you are working with, so you can see exactly what you are unpicking and what's your actual working yarn. One of the ways to work a provisional cast-on is to start with a slip knot. Take your crochet hook, and this should be about the same size as the needles you're working with or a little larger. Start with your crochet hook and make a loose crochet chain. Don't work it too tightly because what you are going to be doing is working into the back of this chain. Keep it nice and loose. You want to chain as many stitches as your cast-on. For this bag, we're going to be starting with 56 stitches. So,

we are going to chain 56. I like to do a few more just so you have a little insurance. You can start with this chain. Take the crochet hook out. I will just show you how to work this. Take a double-pointed needle. This is the front of the chain and once you have done your 56 stitches, you flip it over and work into the back loop. You start by sticking the needle into the back little loop. Take your working yarn and knit one stitch through that loop. Just proceed all the way across the chain. So again, we've got our front, which looks like a little "v", and the back, which looks like a little rainbow. Stick your needle through. Use your working yarn to pull through a stitch. Continue all the way across until you have 56 stitches on your needle. Continue that way all the way across the needle until you have 56 stitches picked up. It's going to feel a little awkward at first, but if you just keep at it you will get the hang of it. You want to get as many stitches as possible on this one DPN before switching to another one. I want these stitches divided up onto four needles, so I'm going to have 14 stitches on each needle. When you have 14 on one, just switch to the next one. Let's make sure I have 14 on this first needle. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 I need one more. Then, I'm going to take my second needle and start the next set. You want to make sure to work this chain on the loose side because you don't want to be fighting to get into that back loop. I think I did it a little too tightly. Just repeat this until you have 14 stitches on four needles. Once you've picked up 14 stitches on each of your needles you are going to want to lay it flat and make sure that nothing is twisted. Just make sure that the green provisional cast-on yarn, whatever you've used for your scrap yarn, is pointing downwards and that the loops are all facing upwards before you join. Picking up those stitches is definitely awkward. It doesn't matter how long you've been knitting, it's always going to be unstable and weird, but laying it down on a flat surface really helps to figure out and make sure that you're going in the right direction before you join. To join, what I do is I just take my fifth needle and I start at the first needle that I was picking up stitches into and I knit a stitch with the working yarn. Keep it nice and tight and close together, especially for that first stitch just so you don't get a gap where you've joined. So, work it pretty firmly. You can work a couple stitches and then tug on the yarn just to make sure it's nice and tight. Again, this first round is going to be awkward. You might want to give a little tug to tighten up anything that's getting loose. You work across the first needle until you run out of stitches. You'll end up with an empty double pointed needle, and you're just going to move on to the next set of stitches and knit those. When you've knit across all four needles you'll reach the beginning, and you'll know it's the beginning because you will see you're tails of the provisional cast-on and your working yarn. I'm going to use that as a stitch marker for now. You're not going to put stitch markers in this project because you can use the needles to figure out where you are in the project. So, if you've ever knit socks before, this will feel familiar. You're going to be doing all of your shaping at the beginning of needle one, the end of needle two, the beginning of needle three, and the end of needle four. Now that you're joined and you know where you are work three rounds just knitting plain.

Start to shape body of clutch with increases

- I always like to do shaping a couple of stitches away from the edge so you're never going to do it right at the edge, but a couple of stitches in. So knit one and then knit two before you work your increase. Same goes for the decreases later. To knit this increase it's going to be a make one right and the way you do that is you spread the needles apart slightly, so you see the bar that runs between the two stitches? Take your left hand needlepoint and working from back to front just insert it and lift that bar. And then knit into the front of it. This creates an increase that slants gently to the right. It's a subtle detail, but it makes a huge difference. Knit until the end of that needle until

you run out of stitches. And then we're going to work the opposite increase that leans to the left at the end of the second needle. So we're done with needle one. So knit these stitches until you're almost done. Knit until you're two stitches away from the end of needle two. We're going to work the opposite increase now to make one left, so we're going to spread the stitches apart, insert the left-hand needle tip from front to back, and knit in the back. And this one will mirror the other increase and slant gently to the left. Then just finish that row. So I'm going to repeat those increases on needles three and four. I'm going to do my make one right first, so the needle goes in from back to front and you knit into the front. Knit until the end of that needle. The knitting is a lot more stable when you have a little bit more on. The cast on is always the worst part. So just get through that and it'll be fine. Now we're onto needle four which is our last needle. We're going to knit until we're two stitches from the end of it and work our make one left. When you're two stitches away from the end of this needle, needle four, you're going to do a make one left, which is inserting the needle tip from front to back lifting that strand and knitting into the back of it. Then you're going to knit two to end the round. Knit four more rounds. Just knitting plain, no increasing. Repeat the increase round, and then knit until the bag measures 4 inches.

Finish shaping body of clutch with decreases

- After we've knit about four inches in stockinette stitch in the round, we're going to be ready to shape the bottom with some decreases. So we're just going to do two decrease rounds, just to match the increase rounds that we did at the top. So once again, we're going to work two stitches in from the end of the needle. So starting with needle one, I'm going to knit one stitch, knit another stitch, and then I'm going to work a left slanting decrease. So I'm going to do a slip slip knit. So slip one stitch, slip the next stitch, and then knit both of these through the back loop. So that's a left slanting decrease. Working to the end of the needle, and then we're going to work all the way to the end of needle two, stopping four stitches before the end of that needle. OK, we're almost ready for our right slanting decrease. We're going to do a knit two together. So, four stitches from the end, we're going to knit two together and then knit two. Repeat these two decreases on needles three and four. So, we're going to do a slip slip knit on needle three. Knit two, and then slip slip, knit those stitches together to the back loop. And then knit to the end of this needle. It's just like shaping a toe on a sock. This is exactly how you do the shaping for a toe. Now we're on needle four. And we're going to repeat the decrease from needle two which is worked four stitches from the end. Those two stitches right at the end, we're going to knit those two together and then knit two to finish the round. So work four rounds plain stockinette and then repeat this decrease round. And then, I'll show you how to finish the bottom.

Finish body of clutch using a saddle stitch bind-off

- After we've worked our two decrease rounds, we're ready to finish the bag. And what we're gonna do, is we're gonna finish it with a saddle, and there's no seaming involved, it's a little funny, we're gonna knit a little strap back and forth on four stitches, and we're gonna join that with the sides as we go. So I'll show you how it comes together. First we're gonna set it up in one round of knitting. So we have our stitches divided up as usual, we're gonna knit across one needle, and this time, we're actually gonna knit across the second needle, not switching to the empty, double-pointed needle. So I'll show you what that looks like. Once we're finished with this first needle, you're just gonna keep knitting, all the stitches from needle two, onto needle one. Knit to the end of needle two, and then, knit the first two stitches of needle three. Then we're gonna take these stitches, and

we're actually gonna put them on a stitch holder. So, this is a stitch marker, but you can use it as a little holder, since there's so few stitches. You can also use a bobby pin, a piece of scrap yarn, a paper clip, whatever will keep those stitches held, and out of the way. Because it's only four stitches, it doesn't need to be a huge stitch holder, you can just use whatever is handy, to keep those stitches away-- out of your way, and live. So we're gonna take an empty DPN, and we're gonna work the rest of the stitches that are on needle three. Just knit all the way across. When you get to the end of needle three, repeat what you did on the other side. Knit, not with the empty DPN, but just knit across needle four. This will join the stitches, and put them on one needle. So now we're at the end of needle four. I'm gonna knit two stitches. Then I'm going to take an empty needle, and I'm gonna slip two stitches, from the previous first two needles, that are now onto one, and just slip that on to an empty DPN. You're gonna take an empty double-pointed needle, and knit those last two onto the empty double-pointed needle. Then you're gonna knit the first two stitches from needles one and two, which are now on one needle, knit those onto this new double-pointed needle. We have our stitches arranged. Both needle one and two are joined onto one needle now, same with needles three and four, and we have four stitches reserved, two from each side, on a holder on this side, and then on an empty DPN on this other side. So we're gonna be knitting a strap all the way across, and then joining it to the sides as we go. So there's no seaming involved, but it's a little tricky on how we do this. We're gonna do it at the edges, so we have four stitches. We're gonna work across four stitches. Just knit one, two, three, and then slide your double-pointed needle over, and slip one stitch over from this one stitch on the side, this needle on the side, slip it over, and knit those two stitches together. Now we're gonna turn, and work our wrong side row. So far we've been working in the round, but this strap is actually knit flat back and forth, so you're gonna be purling these stitches. We're gonna purl across three, and then, when you get to the last stitch, slide the double-pointed needle over, slip a stitch from this needle, over to this one, and purl two together. Okay, now you're just gonna turn your work. Woops. Knit across three stitches, and when you get to the end of the needle, slide it over, slip one stitch over from the needle here, and knit those two together. Turn, and just repeat. So we're purling across three. When we have one left, we're sliding one over, and purling two together. Turn the work. Knit across. Slide a stitch over. Oops. And knit two together. So we're knitting the strap, and we're joining it at the same time. It's all coming together at once. And you're doing a lot every row, but it'll go quickly. We're gonna repeat these two rows all the way across, until both needles have been all joined. Then you'll have four live stitches on this needle, you're gonna take your four live stitches from the stitch holder, put them back onto a needle, and join them with either a Kitchener stitch, or a three-needle bind off, whichever you prefer. I'm almost to the end of my bind off joining of the saddle strap, and when you get to the end, the stitches kind of have a tendency to move around, and sometimes drop out of the knitting, which is a little unnerving. I find it's easy to put it on a flat surface, like a table, just to make sure that the needles don't go anywhere. So, that's what I'm doing right now, working the last, next to last stitch on this side. Joining that. And gently turning to work my wrong side. Keepin' all the needles in place. Definitely feel a bit like Edward Scissorhands right now. (chuckles) Purl across these stitches. And slide over the purl from this needle, the extra stitch, that you're gonna purl two together. Now we have one stitch left on each side. Probably the trickiest to work, so. Oops, there we go (laughs). Stick the needle back in. So work across three, slide the last stitch over, join it, put that needle aside, turn to work your last wrong side row, purl across three stitches, and then slip your last stitch from this needle over, and purl two together. You might notice that my stitches look a little loose and sloppy. It's because I'm working with a larger needle. When you work this bag,

definitely use a smaller needle, and work firmly, so that everything's nice and tight, and it looks I have finished purse fabric. So, now we have four live stitches on this needle, four live stitches on this holder. We're gonna take them off the holder, take an empty double-pointed needle, slide them off the holder, or whatever you're using to hold those stitches, and I'm gonna show you a three-needle bind off. You could do an invisible graft here, but this is just a little quicker. So we have our working yarn, we have our two stitches that I'm gonna hold parallel, take my double-pointed needle, knit the first stitch, knit the stitch on the back needle, knit these two stitches together, as though they're one stitch. Take it off the needle tips, and do the same with the next stitch, so you have two on your right-hand needle. And then you're just gonna bind these off. So, pick up this stitch that's furthest away from the needle tip, and hike it over the first one. That's one stitch bound off. And repeat. Just leap-frogging that one stitch over the first one. Repeat until all the stitches are bound off. And then you're gonna cut your yarn. Pull this through. After you've worked your three-needle bind off, the last thing to do, is take a crochet hook, or a tapestry needle, and pull that end into the middle, and weave it in.

Create side tabs for chain

- To work the flap of our bag, we're going to unpick our provisional cast-on, purl one round, bind off half of the stitches, and put some on a holder, and then knit back and forth for the flap. I'm gonna use a contrast yarn, here I'm gonna be using a light gray, but here I have it in black. So, the first thing to do is to take an empty double-pointed needle. Go back to your crochet chain. You're gonna unpick the knot that you ended with, and hopefully kept it kind of loose, and then you're just gonna start to pull. You basically unzip it. And I like to do this slowly, one stitch at a time. And when you unpick the chain, you'll have a live open stitch. And you want to get that on your needle as soon as possible so it doesn't drop down any further. Sometimes, before I even unpick the chain, I actually put the needle-tip into the stitch and then undo the chain, just to make sure it doesn't go anywhere. So, do this one at a time, slowly, all the way across. We've unpicked the provisional cast-on and divided it evenly onto four double-pointed needles. Working with a contrast yarn, we're going to be knitting one round, then purling one round, then we're gonna bind off about half the stitches, place four stitches on each side onto holders to knit little tabs like this. This is where we're gonna be attaching our chain or our detachable wrist-strap. We're binding off half of the stitches here and knitting the flap back and forth down in the rest. So I have knit one round, and I have purling one round. And now I'm going to ... Knit across needle one. When I get to the end of needle two, I'm gonna work all the way to the end. Knit those last two stitches. And knit the first two stitches of the next needle. And then you're slipping these four stitches onto a locking ring stitch marker. Just slip them over, and set them aside. Close that marker, and that'll keep them secure. After we've put these four stitches onto a holder, we're gonna bind off the rest of the stitches, just as you normally bind off a row. So, you're knitting two stitches, and then pulling the stitch that's furthest away from the tip of the needle over the first one. And that gets rid of one stitch, and repeat. So, we're knitting one, pulling the stitch that's on the needle already over the new one that you just made, and then repeating. So, we're done with the stitches on needle three. Now we're onto needle four. Bind off these stitches just as you have, the ones on needle three. And work all the way until you're two stitches from the end of the needle. When you've reached the very last stitch, don't bind this one off. Just knit it, and then knit two stitches from needle one. Then take these four stitches, and slip them onto another locking ring stitch marker, or a piece of scrap yarn, or a paperclip, whatever you have handy that'll keep those out of the way. These are our tab stitches. This is our bag opening.

And then, this is where we're gonna knit our flap. So, if you want to, you can slip all these stitches onto one needle. And this is where we'll be knitting out garter flap. Right now, I'm gonna show you how to knit the tabs. You're working the tabs the same way. So, I'll show you how to work one. You open your stitch marker, your stitch holder, and you slip the stitches back onto a double-pointed needle. I still have my yarn attached, so I'm gonna use this yarn to work the tab. I turn it, and I'm purling across these four stitches. So, I'm knitting and stocking that stitch flat instead of in the round, which means alternating a purl row and a knit row. I'm working back and forth in stockinette for about eight rows, or until the tab measures about an inch and a half. We're gonna call this an inch and a half. So, I am gonna bind off these stitches, the same way I did the inside of the bag. We're gonna bind off these stitches, and cut the yarn, leaving yourself about 6 inches. Pull the end of the yarn through the loop and tighten it up, and then fold it, about in half, and use this end to sew it to the inside of the bag. So, you can just thread it onto the needle, and fold it in half, and whip stitch it to the inside of the bag. You wanna do this pretty securely, because the chain is gonna hang from this tab. And that's the finished tab. So, when you're done whip-stitching it, weave in this end, and repeat on the other side for the second tab.

Create clutch flap and finish with hardware

- We've finished our tabs on the side, we've bound off half the front stitches here, and with our contrast yarn, we're going to go back to our live stitches and knit the garter flap. Here you're working back and forth knitting every row, and you're going to work some increases and decreases in the same places that you do for the bag body, just so it mimics the shape. And we're ending a little early. Garter stitch is already prone to compress and look a little shorter than stockinette, but we're also knitting about an inch shorter than the body, so we have room for our closure. We're using a toggle-style closure. I found this one at a leather goods store, and it just attaches with these little rivets. You have on end that's the closure, and one end that's the stud. So to place it, we're going to find the center, about an inch from the bottom of the bag. Take the long end of the rivet, and poke it through the knit fabric just like that. And place the closure end on there, and close it with the stud. And these just close really simply. You don't need a special tool, you just pinch it into place. And it snaps and stays put. Repeat the same on the other side. We're going to repeat the same on our flap, finding center again, working about an inch from the bottom of the flap. Our clasp is in place, and the last thing we have to do is attach our chain. To attach the chain, I'm going to use a plain old book ring. I like these because they open and close, so I can swap the chain for something else like a wrist strap if I want to. You're going to use a light chain that is sometimes called decorator weight. And I have about nine feet folded in half here. And so I'm just slipping the links onto the book ring and closing it. And it's folded in half here, so I've got the middle part over here, and another book ring. This is just a standard office supply. You can find lots of other things at the hardware store, but I had this laying around. Put those through the links, and you have a cross body bag. The beauty of using a removable ring is you can take off the chain and swap out a wrist strap instead. If you'd rather have a clutch, you can just swap it out for this little strap, which is about an inch deep. So it's eight rows of garter stitch, and it's about eight inches long, and I folded it in half, sewed the ends, and stuck it on with a ring. This is just the right size for holding money, lip gloss, a phone, everything you need for a night out.