

Good, Good Dice Bags

all content, unless otherwise specified, by Jinger Roy (<http://jingersnaps.wordpress.com>)



I had the opportunity to see *The Adventure Zone* live this past summer, and I just couldn't let the experience go by without making some good, good dice bags for those good, good McElroy boys. (*Don't know what The Adventure Zone is? Well, you really need to fix that and go listen to some episodes right here:* <http://www.maximumfun.org/shows/adventure-zone>). I have the sneaking suspicion that once you listen to this wonderful family play some of the best *D&D* ever, you'll probably want to make one for yourself, too.



But don't make any for the McElroys, because I already did that, and that would just be weird.

This bag features some lovely LOTR-inspired monogram letters (*directly ~~stolen~~ influenced by the wonderful free font Hobbiton Brushhand designed by Nancy Lorenz, find it here: <http://www.fontspace.com/category/lord%20of%20the%20rings>*) executed in duplicate stitch. You'll find them (*handcharted and adapted by yours truly*) in a separate attachment called *Good Good Dice Bags - The Letters.pdf* for your enjoyment.

Yarn:

Knit Picks Dishie (100% cotton, 190 yds. per skein), 1 skein each of two complementary colors (*bag color will be called Color A, letter color will be called Color B*)

for some examples from the ones I already made:

- "C" bag - Color A is 26670 Navy, Color B is 25789 Silver
- "G" bag - Color A is 25789 Silver, Color B is 27039 Eggplant
- "J" bag - Color A is 27039 Eggplant, Color B is 25789 Silver
- "T" bag - Color A is 27040 Ash, Color B is 25789 Silver

Supplies:

US size 6 (4.0mm) needles
locking stitch markers
tapestry or yarn needle
scissors

Gauge:

5 sts per inch on US 6 (4.0mm) needles

Duplicate Stitching:

Duplicate stitching is a major component to the look of this pattern, so if you've never tried it before, it might be good to practice a little on a swatch (*maybe your gauge swatch that you've diligently knitted, right?*) before you move on to the finished project. Here's a great tutorial from Purl Soho: <http://www.purlsoho.com/create/2007/10/28/duplicate-stitch/> (*be sure to follow the "V" stitch portion for our particular pattern*).

To perform a duplicate stitch, you insert a yarn needle threaded with your desired yarn into the base of the stitch you'd like to embroider over, from back to front. Then, you thread the needle underneath the "V" of the stitch above the one you're working on, pull the yarn snugly, and then bring the needle back down into the base of the stitch where you came up. You're basically following the yarn through the stitch as it loops up and down, but only doing it one stitch at a time.

The most important thing to keep in mind is to keep your tension consistent. You don't want your embroidered stitches to be too loose and floppy because then you'll be able to see the knitted fabric underneath, and everything will just be a mess. If your stitches are too tight, there will be all kinds of puckering and strangeness, which will be near-impossible to block out. Just practice for a bit on some no-stakes stockinette swatches, and you'll be good to go.

Pattern:

Body of Bag:

CO 28 sts with Color A.



Knit for 4 rows.

Purl 1 row (WS).

Next row: (RS) k4, *yo, k2tog, k2* until end of row.

Then, knit in st st for 85 rows, starting and ending on WS with purl row.

Next row: (RS) k4, *yo, k2tog, k2* until end of row.

Purl 1 row (WS).

Knit 4 rows.

Bind off all stitches.

Now, fold over the bag so that the garter stitch edges line up and use mattress stitch (*or the stitch of your choice*) to sew up the sides.

Monogram:

Locate your totally awesome letter on the attached charts, and take a good long look at each side of your bag to figure out which side is the prettiest. That's the one you're going to put your letter on. The "stitch-able" area of that side of the bag is approximately 28 sts x 42 rows, so, keeping that in mind, count down 21 rows from your eyelet row and 14 sts in from the edge of your bag and mark the center point of the side of the bag. Each chart has this center point marked in red in order to help you properly center your letter.



Keep in mind that duplicate stitching looks the best when you're working from right-to-left and from bottom-to-top, so you might have to do each letter in two or more parts. Don't make your working yarn too long, or you'll end up tangled all the time. Make sure, as you're moving from area to area, that you leave enough slack on the back of your work that the fabric doesn't pucker, but not enough that you're getting tangled up and catching on loops back there all the time. The way that I do this is to put 2-3 fingers against the back of the fabric and under the slack as I'm pulling the yarn across and making my first stitch, keeping things loose, but not sloppy.

When you've gotten to the end of your working yarn, weave it under the loops made by your stitches for about 4-5 sts and then break your yarn. That's also a good method for weaving in your ends.

Drawstring:

Using 3 strands of yarn approximately 6-7 times longer than the width of your bag (*but please do not quote me on this, just make it waaaaay longer than you think you need to, trust me*), braid the strands together and knot the ends. Make two of these. Thread the first braid through the eyelets so that the knotted ends end up on the outside of the stitched edge of the bag, then knot those braided strands together to create one loop. Do the same for the opposite side of the bag.



Your strands will run the same way through each set of eyelets, and if you pull on each knotted end? The bag closes up and pretty much stays closed! Magic! You could tie it in a half-hitch knot at the top, if you really wanted, to make sure those dice stay safe in there.

Make sure all of your ends are woven in, then wet block the bags, making sure to keep those edges nice and straight. Then, when they're dry, give them a little press with the iron right on the monogrammed letter just to make sure everything lies flat and perfect.

Now fill it with dice and play!