HANDLES (MAKE 2)

With MC and straight needles, CO on 7 sts.

Work in garter st until piece measures 8 $(9\frac{1}{2})$ " from beg. BO loosely.

PIPING (MAKE 2)

With CC1 and dpns, CO on 3 sts.

Work in I-cord for 41 (54)".

Place sts on a holder. Break yarn, leaving a 9" tail.

FINISHING

With MC, sew the CO and BO edges of the center panel tog.

Sew the front and back to the center panel, ensuring that the zipper opening is centered along the top.

With CC1, sew I-cord along the outer edges of the front and back.

If necessary, adjust length of piping by taking sts off holder and working in I-cord or ripping back to appropriate length. Draw tail through sts and secure ends of piping tog.

Sew handles right next to piping on the center panel, placed at the beginning and end of the BO edge.

Weave in ends.

FELTING

Place the bag in a zippered pillow or laundry bag, then in the washer on the hot cycle with a tablespoon of dish soap or laundry detergent. Stop occasionally to check the bag. If it is not completely dense after one cycle, run it through again until it is.

When felted, remove excess water by letting the bag go through the spin cycle.

Remove the bag from the washer, shape, and stuff with plastic bags. Set the bag on a towel and allow it to dry completely.

Pin the zipper in place and sew it in by hand.



MAKING I-CORD ON CIRCULAR NEEDLES

or my current project, I desperately needed to make an I-cord. After getting directions from a friend, I set out to look for double-pointed needles. Despite the number of craft stores in Austin, I was unable to find the right size. That's when I realized that if the right circular needle is used, you can create I-cord with only one needle. Simply move the I-cord from one side of the needle to the other as you knit. I call it "I-cord for the desperate." Jennifer Mailloux, Austin, TX





