MAKERS MANUAL #22
Black Girl Knit Club

KNITTED T-SHIRT BAG

LIST OF THINGS

MATERIALS
– 800g of Jersey Yarn or 6 X T- Shirts

TOOLS
– 12mm Knitting Needles
– Tapestry Needle
– Scissors

BIO OF THE DESIGNER
Black Girl Knit Club (BGKC) is a knitwear collective based in East London started by friends Sicgmone & Vea. Created in January 2019 following the recent social media hash-tag #diversknitty, where knitwear designers and makers were calling for more diversi-ty within the craft community. They host monthly knit workshops, talks and provide learning content for their online community of knitters.

FURTHER READING
– Black Girl Knit Club – how to create your own T- Shirt Yarn. https://media.craftscouncil.org.uk/docu-ments/Make_your_own_T_Shirt_Yarn_w._link.pdf
– Knit Innovations in Fashion, Art, Design – by Samantha Elliott, 2015

Finishing your Knitted Bag (finishing techniques):
– Casting off technique https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-9b7KS9jaAo
– How to Knit: Horizontal invisible Seaming https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-hbM_ZsoOgE
– How to knit: Vertical Invisible Seaming https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lULXxuAcIEg

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides step-by step instructions on how to create your own knitted bag from recycling a cotton T- shirt into jersey yarn. This is a very simple technique where you cut the top of your T shirt and fold it together to create a continuous piece of yarn to knit with. This is a great sustainable solution which intro-duces the idea of recycling old clothes to create something new. You will learn a simple knit technique called the garter stitch, which involves knitting every row on your knitting needles to create your bag pattern.

Makers Manual is a collaborative project between exciting makers and STORE STORE. This is a collection of manuals encouraging people to make objects from what is around them. These manuals are both a practical guide to making for beginners and experts, and a journey into the designers' practice. You can share your creations using #makersmanual.

This project is supported by G.F Smith.

STORE STORE

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STEP 1
To create your T-shirt yarn, cut straight across your t-shirt just under the armpits, and trim off the bottom hem.

STEP 2
Rotate your t-shirt by 90 degrees, as shown in the image below. Remove the two excess pieces from the top and bottom. Fold the remaining section in half widthways, leaving a gap of about 1 inch between the two edges.

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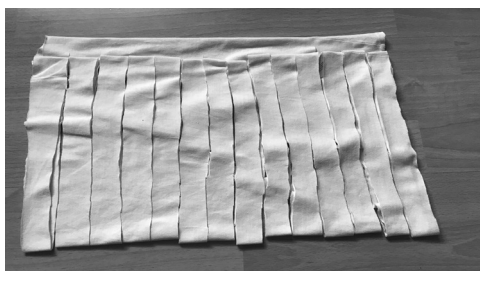
STEP 3
Next cut 1inch strips along the whole of the T-shirt from bottom to top, cutting both sides. Cut to the edge of the lower fold but not into the top inch you have left.



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STEP 4
Continue following the black girl knit club T-shirt yarn guide in the further reading section, to complete your yarn ball.

STEP 5
Create a slip knot onto your left -hand needle. Cast (-on) 30 stitches onto your left-hand needle (*tip - leave a long edge of yarn for sewing up the bag at the end. This minimises the ends to weave in)

STEP 6
Create your first stitch by going into the loop at the front of your slipknot, take your working yarn from right to left (clockwise). Bring your yarn through the stitch on your needle and place this loop back onto your left needle.

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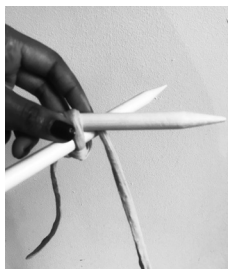

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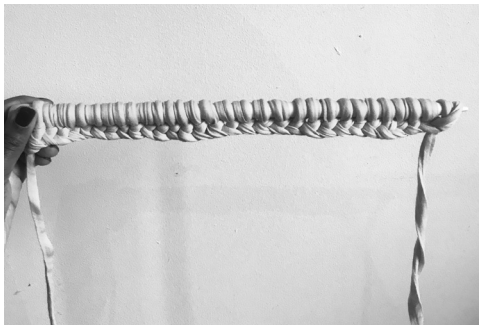
STEP 7
Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you have 30 stitches on your needle. You should now have 30 stitches casted onto your left-hand needle. Now knit your stitches onto your right-hand needle and continue to knit these stitches for 34 more rows.



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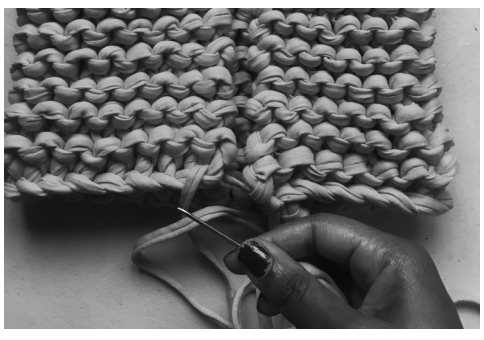
STEP 8
When you reach row 34, cast off your knitting.

STEP 9
Cast off technique - Knit 2 stitches onto your right -hand needle. Take the first stitch over the second stitch so you now have one stitch on your right- hand needle. Continue with step 9 until you reach your final stitch. (See casting off technique in further reading)

STEP 10
When you reach your final stitch cut your working yarn and take this through the Loop. You now have a completed flat A4 piece of knit for the bag.

STEP 11
Fold the bag in half and sew along the side of the bag to complete, using a tapestry needle and a vertical invisible seam along the side. Take the tapestry needle and thread through the jersey yarn. Take this through the bottom right of the bag through the first stitch at the bottom and across through the corre-sponding stitch on the left-hand side. (see vertical invisible seam in further reading)



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STEP 12
When you have finished sewing along the side of the bag, weave in the ends by using the tapestry needle to go through the knitting stitches on the top inside of the bag.

STEP 13
Now sew along the bottom of the bag. Take the tapestry needle and thread through the jersey yarn. Thread this through the bot-tom right corner of the knitted bag.

STEP 14
Thread the jersey yarn through the first knitted stitch on the right-hand side of your knitting and then through the corresponding stitch on the left-hand side. Continue doing this from right to left to form a horizontal invisible seam at the bottom of the bag (see horizontal invisible seam in further reading)

14

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STEP 15
When you have completed the horizon-tal seam at the bottom of your bag, weave in any loose ends by using the tapestry needle to go through the knitted stitches at the corner of the bag. Then cut off the working yarn.

STEP 16
Knit your separate bag handle strap. Cast on 31 stitches onto your left- hand needle.

16

STEP 17
Knit for two more rows and then cast off your knitting.

STEP 18
Attach the knitted strap to both sides of the bag. Begin by attaching the right- hand strap, place this on the right-hand side of the bag along the seam. Sew through the knitted loops using a tapestry needle and jersey yarn to attach the strap to the side of the bag, going through the knitted loops. Repeat this step on the other side of the bag to secure it.

STEP 19
To complete your bag, weave in any loose ends through the loops of your knitting. You now have a completed bag pattern.

Black Girl Knit Club, London.