

Retro Style Knitting Bag



Here is my free pattern for a Retro style knitting bag. The base is knit first. Stitches are picked up from the base, and the body of the bag is knit in the round. Finished dimensions are 13" long x 4" wide x 10" high.

I used wooden handles for my bag, but any handles will do, as long as they have a similar sized slot for attachment to the bag.

I wrote up this pattern quite a while after I made the bag, so if you find any mistakes in the pattern, please let me know.

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MATERIALS

5 x 50g Patons Cotton Rich DK (50% cotton, 50% acrylic 113m/123 yds per 50g)

2 x 3.25mm circular knitting needles (or size needed to obtain tension (gauge)

2 knitting bag handles (13" long with 10.5" slot to attach to bag)

50cm lining material (optional)

STITCHES USED

Butterfly Blocks (BB)



For the butterfly blocks for the base where you are working flat:

Row 1(right side): knit

Row 2: Purl 6 *(slip 5 stitches with yarn to back, Purl 5), repeat from * to last stitch, Purl 1

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: as row 2

Row 5: Knit

Row 6: as row 2

Row 7: Knit 6 *(knit 2, take tip of right hand needle under three long strands formed by slipped stitches in previous rows, and knit them with next stitch, Knit 7) repeat from * to last stitch, K1

Row 8: Purl 1, *(sl 5 st, purl 5) repeat form * to last 6 stitches, sl 5 st, Purl 1

Row 9: Knit

Row 10: as row 8

Row 11: Knit

Row 12: as row 8

Row 13: Knit 1 *(Knit 2, take tip of right needle under 3 strands and knit with next stitch, Knit 7) repeat from * to last 6 stitches) Knit 2, Take tip of right needles under 3 strands, and knit with next stitch, Knit 3. The last 12 rows make the butterfly blocks pattern

For the body of the bag, you are working in the round, with the right side always facing you, so you on even numbered rows, you need to knit where it says purl, and slip stitches with the yarn towards you

Sock Heel Stitch

Row 1: Sl1 *(K1, Sl1) repeat from * to last stitch, Sl1

Row 2: Knit to end

Tension (gauge)

24 stitches and 48 rows over butterfly blocks using size 3.25mm needle

Base

Cast on 87 stitches.

Work butterfly block chart for 48 rows.

Knit 1 row

Cast off 86 stitches leaving last stitch on needle (we'll call this stitch Last Stitch). Do not break yarn. Place Marker (PM).

Pick up stitches for body of bag

Turn work, and pick up 25 stitches from short side of base, PM, 87 stitches from long side of base, PM.

Using second circular needle, pick up 25 stitches from other short side of base, PM, and 86 cast off stitches from long side of base.

Knit Last Stitch onto second circular needle.

Knit body of bag

Knitting in the round using the 2 circular needles method, work sock heel stitch for 25 stitches, Butterfly blocks for 87 stitches, Sock Heel stitch for next 25 stitches, and butterfly blocks for remaining 87 stitches, slipping markers as you go.

Continue in this manner, knitting butterfly blocks for front and back of bag, and sock heel stitch for sides of bag until bag is 10 inches high (or desired height) ending on row 13 of butterfly blocks chart.

N.B. After the first 2 inches, there should be enough give in the back to transfer to one circular needle.

Work Handles

Cast off 25 side stitches, knit 1 Row of BB across front of bag, cast off 25 side stitches, Knit 1 row BB across back of bag.

Working on front and back of bag separately Knit one row decreasing 9 stitches evenly across the row.

Work in 1x1 rib for 3 inches and bind off

Attach Handles

Sew handles to front and back of bag, by placing ribbing through slot in handle, and stitching top off ribbing to inside of bag.

Side Gussets

Turn bag inside out, and flatten out bag, so that sides of bag stick out to the sides, and oversew top of side gussets closed

Note - I sewed up the gusset of my bag with the bag the right side out, but it would be much neater, to turn the bag inside out first.

Turn bag the right way out again, and poke the top of the side gussets into bag (see top right hand photo)

Lining (optional)



Using the bag as a template, and leaving about 0.5 inch (1cm) all around as selvedge, cut lining material in five pieces to match front, back, sides and bottom.
Sew pieces together with right side of material innermost, sewing top of sides together to match side gussets of bag.
sew lining to front and back of bag just below ribbing.

I used an extra piece of material to form inside pockets for my bag before sewing the lining pieces together

Enjoy your bag!