



## Zigzag bag

This modern shopping bag/tote bag has been inspired by Dutch 19th century knitwear from museums in the Netherlands. Although that was usually knit in a much finer yarn on tiny needles.

### Materials and tools

300 gr (3 skeins) = 330 yards or 300 meters of Icelandic wool, Alafoss Lopi or other bulky yarn.

1 Circular needle US 11 (8 mm), max 31 inches ( max. 80 cm) long.

1 Extra needle US 10 or 11 (7 of 8 mm) for 3 needle bind off.

2 Needles US 9 (6 mm) for knitting the handles.

3 Stitch markers of one color and 1 marker of a different color.

2 Tapestry needles (one blunt and one sharp).

1 Cotton shopping bag to use as lining 14 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> by 16 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (37 x 42 cm) with long handles (about 27 inches).

Sewing yarn and sewing needle.

In the Netherlands you get cotton or linen shopping bags for free sometimes in shops. Most people have several in their closet. To make this bag you either need a bag like this or make one yourself.

The ready made bag lining is a nice alternative if you don't have a sewing machine. It's also strong enough to carry your stuff.

The bag has a picot hem and the knitted handles are matrasstitched around the handles of the cotton bag.

### Gauge

12 st and 19 rows measure 4 x 4 inches (10 x 10 cm) with the given needles. If your knitting turns out larger or smaller, change to a size smaller or larger needles.

### Stitches and abbreviations

M= make a stitch (and a tiny hole) by picking up the bridge between 2 st of the previous row with your left needle from front to back. Knit this loop. This bridge will be in between 2 needles when there is an M at the beginning of a needle.

K2tog = Knit two stitches together as one.

PssO = Slip one, knit one and pass slipped stitch over knitted st.

YO= Yarn over, only used for the picot hem in 1 row.

### Description

Follow the chart for this bag on page 3.

CO 96 st, using long tail cast on.

Close without twisting and knit five rows.

Use one color stitchmarker for beginning of round and three in a different color after every 24th st. (4 x 24 = 96 st).

Work the chart from right to left every row because you knit in the round.

The chart shows two of the four repeats in a row. Red lines indicate place of marker and green line (just once) beginning of round.

Knit a row with holes for the picot edge as follows: \*YO, K2tog\*, repeat up until end of row. Knit 5 rows.

In the next row (marked as a grey row in the chart) you fold the hem and one by one you knit every stitch together with every cast on loop all the way round. This makes up the picot hem. Confused? This

[Picot hem tutorial](#) on Youtube shows it very clearly.

Continue with the chart. M together with a decrease makes a tiny hole.

The number of stitches in a row stay the same all the time from CO to BO.

Inside the red box you see the pattern repeat. Repeat 4 times from row 28 up until row 68. After that look at the chart again.

After row 87 just knit 2 more rows.



Use 3 needle bind off for the bottom of the bag. You can do this either on the inside by keeping the wrong side outwards or on the outside, whatever you prefer. I did it on the outside. Hold both needles together. Pull the loop of your circular out on the other end, so halfway, after st no. 48.

Knit the stitches from both needles together (see photo's to the right). Pass previous stitch over as usual when binding off stitches. Use the back needle to pass the st over.

Here's a Youtube film : [3 needle bind off](#)



### Finishing

Weave in all yarntails. Pin down and carefully steam the bag to flatten it if you want. Never touching the wool with the iron but keeping it at least an inch above your knitting. Do this on both sides because of the thickness of the wool.

The finished size should be just a little bit bigger (1/2 inch) than the cotton lining bag.



### Lining

Turn both knitted bag and lining inside out. Put them on top of each other and push the corners out well. Sew these together with a few stitches. (photo A) Now turn the knitted bag (not the cotton bag) again. Now the cotton bag is inside the woolen bag. Pin the top edge of the cotton bag, along the picot hem (photo B).



A



B

Sew together using small stitches (photo B).

Sew through and through at the handles, the rest can be sewn to the knitted loops (photo B).

### Handle

CO 8 st on 6 mm needles, I used just the needles of my interchangeable set, without the cable.

Knit in plain stockinet (knit on right and purl on wrong side). Work all stitches, do not slip side stitches. This will make mattress stitching much easier.

Keep the selvages as straight as possible by keeping your tension quite tight.

When you notice one side getting more loose and longer, pull this even tighter.

You could also knit two stitches on this edge with just the tips of your needles both at the end of the row and at the beginning of the next row. This will tighten it even further.

If you want to measure it along the handles of the cotton bag, pull your work a few times lengthwise. Measure from the edge of the cotton bag.

At desired length, bind off and use the tail to start mattress stitching the sides together at the back of the cotton handle. Keep pulling the yarn carefully after about every four stitches, to close the seam bit by bit.

Finally with sewing yarn, attach both ends to the edge of the cotton bag.



Now you can attach a magnetic fastener in the middle, like the one in the photo. This one is actually meant for a necklace and can be purchased at stores that sell stuff for jewellery making. Or you could use a push button.



# Zigzag bag chart

Cast on 96 stitches

## Notes

Knitted in the round.

Read chart from the bottom up and from right to left.

You start with the picot hem so this will be the top of the bag!

Every second row is plain knitting.

- = Yarn Over.
- M = Make one by knitting bridge in between 2 st of prev. row.
- / = K2tog.
- \ = PssO (Slip1, K1, pass slipped st over).
- ▨ = Making picot hem: knit st together with cast on loop.
- = Double Bind off.
- = Knit.

3 needle bind off

