



## String mesh shopping bag - 2

**Needle size: 5 double-pointed or 18 -24" circular needle**

**Gauge is not critical in this pattern.**

**Yarn:** About 200-250 yards sport or DK weight cotton, linen or micro-fiber yarn. This one was done with Euroflax linen yarn.

### **Create bag base.**

Cast on 50 stitches.

Row 1: Slip 1 (slide the stitch from left needle to right needle as if to purl), knit 49 stitches (the slipped edge stitch makes it easier to pick up stitches when you create the circle).

Repeat for 16 rows (8 garter stitch ridges).

### **Establish bag sides.**

This may be easier using double-pointed needles.

Pick up 8 stitches along first short end of base. Use the loops in the slip stitch edges.

Pick up 50 stitches along cast-on long side of base.

Pick up 8 stitches along second short end of base. 116 stitches total.

### **Increase row.**

Place marker.

Long edge: KF&B (knit into the front and back of the stitch to create 2 stitches), [K3, KF&B] 12 times, K1 last stitch to make 62 stitches.

K 3, KF&B across short end to make 10 stitches.

Long edge: KF&B (knit into the front and back of the stitch to create 2 stitches), [K3, KF&B] 12 times, K1 last stitch to make 62 stitches.

K 3, KF&B across short end to make 10 stitches.

Total: 144 stitches.

### **Modified Indian cross-stitch pattern.**

Row 1: Slip marker. Purl.

Row 2: Slip marker. Knit each stitch, wrapping yarn around needle twice for each stitch and keeping wrapped stitches on needle as you knit across row.

Row 3: Slip marker. With yarn in back, slip 4 stitches dropping the extra wrap so that you have 4 long stitches on the right needle. Insert left needle into the first 2 stitches of the long 4 stitches, and pass them over the second 2. Then return all 4 stitches to the left needle keeping the crossed order. Then knit these 4 stitches in their crossed order.

Repeat across the row

Repeat these 3 rows until you have 18 to 20 rows of cross-stitch stitch. The bag should now be 10 or 11 inches in length.

### **Top band**

Row 1: Slip marker. Knit all stitches to end.

Row 2 (decrease row): Slip marker. K2, K2 together. Repeat across row. 96 stitches.

Row 3: Slip marker. Knit all stitches across row. Repeat row 3 for 10 rows.

Bind off VERY loosely (I find it helpful to use a needle 2 or 3 sizes larger for binding off).

**Straps**

Make 2.

Cast on 8 stitches. Work in stockinette stitch for 7 or 8 inches.

Position and attach straps about halfway down the wrong side of the stockinette band. Use a grafting stitch to attach.