

# Easy to Customize Knit Bag



*TheKnittingYarn.com*

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**Suggested Yarn:** Worsted weight, 3-1/2 to 4 ounces.

**Suggested Needles:** Circular size 6 or size to knit gauge.

**Suggested Gauge:** 14 stitches = 4 inches

**Suggested Size:** This bag is 10-1/2 inches high and 13 inches wide at the top, 14 inches wide at the bottom.

**Knitter's Tip:** If you want a straight-sided bag, try using the same stitch after the 6<sup>th</sup> row (for example continue stockinette in place of the garter at the end of the knitting. See instructions below.)

### Basic Instructions for Bag:

Cast on 100 stitches. Join. Place marker at beginning of row. Begin knitting in the round.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Purl

These two rows make garter stitch. Continue for a total of 6 rows of garter stitch, or desired length to turn top edge down (over lining if making lining).

Next row: Begin stockinette stitch (knit every stitch in every row).

Continue stockinette stitch for 6-1/2 inches, or 4 inches before bottom of bag.

Change to garter stitch. Knit for 4 inches.

To finish bottom seam you can either:

1. Do a three-needle bind off. To make the seam less prominent, first flip the bag inside out, and then bind off. The three-needle bind off simultaneously closes the seam and binds off. Weave in end on wrong side of knitted bag.

Or ...

2. Bind off stitches. Break yarn, leaving a tail long enough to sew up

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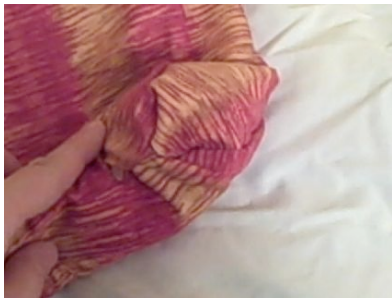
seam. Sew seam. Weave in end on wrong side of knitted bag.

### Handle:

Cast on 6 stitches. Working rows flat (either on 2 needles or back & forth on circulars) knit every stitch (garter stitch). Continue for 32 inches, or desired length.

### Lining:

Because I wanted a soft bag that could stand up when full, my lining is made of two pieces of cotton fabric, approximately 12 inches tall and 14 inches wide, and a bottom for the bag 3 inches by 14 inches.



Using ½ inch seams throughout, I machine stitched the two larger pieces together on the sides, leaving the bottom 1-1/2 inch open. Using pins, I pinned the bottom to the bottom edge and open sides, then stitched the seams (right sides together).

You also could sew the three seams (sides and bottom) of two pieces approximately 12 by 14 inches. This would not give your bag as flat a bottom, though.

You may wish to zigzag the top edge of you lining so it doesn't ravel.

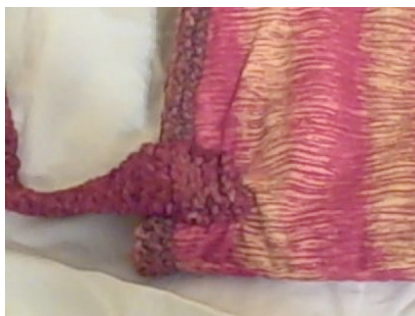


Fit the lining inside the bag so the seams are between the knitted bag and the lining are not showing. Turn down the garter stitch at the top of the knit bag over the lining, and hand sew in place. I used thread, sewing through the cast-on edge, the lining, and just catching the back of the bag stitches to make a more secure edge. You can easily just sew the cast on stitches to the lining if you prefer. And depending upon your yarn and lining fabric, you

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may want to change the thread to yarn. Yarn takes a larger needle, and I like to want to first check on a scrap of lining fabric to be sure the needle holes won't damage the lining.



Finally, I sewed the handle to the inside of the bag using yarn for added strength. You can use thread if you prefer. The placement of the handles is up to you. I have mine on opposite sides of the bag (one inside the front right and one inside the back left). Be careful not to twist the handle as you sew it securely.



For the flower, I crocheted an Irish Rose and sewed it to the front of the bag. Then I sewed a navy button in the center.

### Customization Suggestions

1. Change the yarn. This bag was made with worsted weight hand spun doubles, hand-dyed with Kool-Aid® using 2 packages of black cherry and one of orange.  
If you use a bulkier yarn, the bag may be larger; and a finer yarn, the bag may be smaller.
2. Change the needle size. If you change the yarn, you may need to anyway in order to get the knitted fabric to look the way you want. For a tighter weave, use smaller needles, and for a looser weave use larger ones.
3. Change the size by changing the number of cast-on stitches. With garter

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and stockinette stitches, just cast on the number of stitches you want. If your cast on stitches are too few to make a circle on circular needles, you'll need to consider switching to double pointed needles. You can make a smaller "tube" than with circular needles.

4. Change the stitches. I suggest the row you turn down for the edging (Row 6 in the above directions) is a purl row. It tends to roll easier. The garter stitch at the beginning of the bag also helps the top lie flat.

You could easily substitute ribbing or another stitch of your choice here. If your pattern has a certain repeat, be sure your cast on stitches conform. For example, Knit 1 Purl 1 ribbing needs to be an even number of stitches such as 100 stitches. Knit 2 Purl 1 ribbing needs to be a multiple of 3 stitches (99 stitches for example).

I used stockinette stitch for the bag, but here again you could substitute a stitch of your choice. Your total number of stitches also needs to be a repeat of the pattern you choose.

And, you can change the garter stitch at the end. I wanted the thicker bottom for durability, so chose garter. It also resulted in a wider bag at the bottom in this yarn. Or maybe it was just my knitting! ☺

5. Change the handle. You can change the stitch, the handle size, or even use a different yarn. If you're so inclined, use a purchased handle. Or make 2 handles. And of course, the placement of the handles is up to you.
6. Embellishments. Use a different flower, or none, or something else. You could sew on buttons or sequins, or whatever strikes your fancy.
7. Knit with more than one color of yarn. You could change colors randomly or follow or create a regular design.

Have fun with your pattern, and enjoy knitting!

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