

Elissa's Creative Warehouse

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Indian Cross-Stitch Tote Bag



Tote bag knit in the round using Indian cross stitch pattern has a garter stitch base and stockinette stitch handles. Approximately 14 inches wide by 14 inches high. Because of the mesh stitch, bag can hold a lot.

Needle size: 18 -24" circular needle or double pointed needles, US size 5 or 6.

Gauge: 5 stitches per inch, 8 rows per inch over stockinette stitch. However, gauge is not critical in this pattern.

Yarn: 400 - 500 yards sport or DK weight cotton, linen or micro-fiber yarn. Yardage depends on how big you want to make the bag. It's important to choose a strong yarn that does not break easily and does not stretch readily. This one was done with 2 skeins of Ty Dye Dots from Knit One Crochet Too. I have also used EuroFlax.



Create bag base.

This piece is knit flat.

Cast on 60 stitches.

Row 1: Slip 1 (slide the stitch from left needle to right needle as if to purl), knit 59 stitches (the slipped edge stitch makes it easier to pick up stitches when you create the circle).

Repeat this row 15 times to create rows 8 garter stitch ridges.

Establish bag sides.

Here, you pick up the stitches for knitting in the round.

Place a marker to indicate the start of the round.

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

Pick up 60 stitches along cast-on long side of base. Place a marker.

Pick up 8 stitches along second short end of base. Place a marker.

Knit across the 60 stitches from the original long side. 136 stitches total.

Increase round.

First short end: Slip marker. Knit 8.

First long edge: Slip marker. Knit 2, knit into the front and back of the next stitch to create 2 stitches. Repeat 19 more times until you reach the next marker. There should now be 80 stitches between the markers at either end of the long edge.

Second short edge: Slip marker. Knit 8.

Second long edge: Slip marker. Knit 2, knit into the front and back of the next stitch to create 2 stitches. Repeat 19 more times until you reach the next marker.

Total: 176 stitches.

Modified Indian cross-stitch pattern.

Round 1: Purl all stitches, slipping the markers as you encounter them.

Round 2: Slip marker. Insert right needle into left needle knitwise. Wrap the yarn around the right needle twice and then pull through, keeping both wrapped stitches on needle. Repeat for all stitches in this round, slipping the markers as you encounter them.

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

Repeat across the round, slipping the markers as you encounter them.

Repeat these 3 rounds until you have 24 rows of cross-stitch stitch.

Top band

First round: Purl all stitches, slipping markers as you encounter them.

Second round (decrease round):

First short end: Slip marker. Knit 8.

First long edge: Slip marker. Knit 2, knit 2 together. Repeat 19 more times until you reach the next marker. There should now be 60 stitches between the markers at either end of the long edge.

Second short edge: Slip marker. Knit 8.

Second long edge: Slip marker. Knit 2, knit 2 together. Repeat 19 more times until you reach the next marker. There should now be 60 stitches between the markers at either end of the long edge.

Total: 136 stitches.

Third round: Knit all stitches.

Repeat third round 10 more times. Bind off VERY loosely. (I find it helpful to use a needle 2 or 3 sizes larger to do the bind 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 or slip-stitch to attach.