

Gansey Patterned Bag



Materials: set of 3.75mm double pointed needles and 50gm ball of gansey wool

Instructions:

Cast on 88 stitches and work 5 rounds in knit 2 purl 2 rib

Now start to follow **chart 1**, working in the round:

The chart represents one half of the bag viewed from the right side (and in actual fact upside down, as you are starting with the welt at the top of the bag).

You **start at the bottom right of the chart**, and work each row of the chart twice to complete a round, always **working from right to left**

The **key** to the chart symbols is on the **next page**

Row 1 of the chart is simply another round of K2 P2 rib.







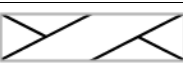
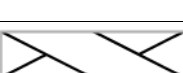






Ignore grey squares or blocks of squares – these just allow for increases in later rows.

When you have worked this round **rearrange your stitches** so that you have:

33 on needle 1; 26 on needle 2 (place a marker after stitch 9 on this needle); 29 on needle 3 (place a marker 2 from the end of this needle). You are now ready to set up and work the pattern, starting with **row 2** of **chart 1**.

Do not break off your yarn when you get to the end of Chart 1

Key to chart symbols

 knit	In the round: always knit When working flat: knit on right side rows, purl on wrong side rows
 purl	In the round: always purl When working flat: purl on right side rows, knit on wrong side rows
 no stitch	Grey squares and blocks simply mark where there are stitches on subsequent or previous rows, but not on the current one
M1	Make 1: increase by lifting the strand between the end stitches on the left and right needles. To avoid a hole, the strand needs a twist. The direction of twist gives a line slanting to either left or right. The instructions below set out one way of achieving this.
 M1 purlwise	Use the left hand needle to pick up the strand between the end stitches on the left and right needles from back to front, and purl into it.
 M1 right leaning	Use the left hand needle to pick up the strand between the end stitches on the left and right needles from back to front and knit into the front of it.
 M1 left leaning	Use the left hand needle to pick up the strand between the end stitches on the left and right needles from front to back and knit into the back of it.
 2/2 RC	Slip the next 2 stitches onto a cable needle and place at the back of the work, knit the next 2 stitches, knit 2 from the cable needle
 2/2 LC	Slip the next 2 stitches onto a cable needle and leave at the front of the work, knit the next 2 stitches, knit 2 from cable needle
 ssk	Slip the next 2 stitches individually knitwise from the left to the right needle. Slip them back together to the left needle and knit into the back of them. (This is equivalent to slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, but gives a smoother finish)
 K2tog	Knit 2 together
Chart 2 only:	
 P2tog	Purl 2 together
 sssk	Slip the next 3 stitches individually knitwise from the left to the right needle. Slip them back together to the left needle and knit into the back of them.
 P3tog	Purl 3 together
 slip	The first stitch of each row of the “shoulder strap” is slipped purlwise

When you have completed chart 1:

You are now ready to close the bottom of the bag. I've designed this to give practice in the **shoulder strap technique**.

Set up: at the end of the last round of chart 1 **slip the first stitch of the next round onto the right hand needle knitwise**; put the next 41 stitches onto one needle; put the next 8, which should be the 4 gusset stitches with a purl and a knit stitch at each side, onto a stitch holder for now; put the next 41 stitches onto one needle; this should leave 8 on a separate needle; these are the stitches you will use to work the "shoulder strap".

Instructions:

Hold the needle with the 8 stitches in your right hand.

Slip the first stitch of the left hand needle across knitwise – you now have 2 slipped stitches on the right hand needle, slip them back to the left hand needle together and knit into the back of them (ssk).

Next row: turn work, slip the first stitch, knit 1, purl 4, knit 1, purl the last stitch together with the first stitch on the next needle.

Now follow chart 2, slipping the first stitch of each row and working off one or two stitches from the side of the bag at the end of each row. As knitting stitches are not square I find that I need to work off 3 stitches for every 2 rows. You will need to adjust this if it does not work for your knitting.

Note: since you are now working flat:

wrong side rows start at the left hand side of the chart

stitches marked as knit are purled on wrong side rows

stitches marked as purl are knitted on wrong side rows

Repeat chart 2 till you have worked off all the side stitches, then graft the 8 stitches with the 8 on the stitch holder.

Chart 2

