

Janet Leigh

by Jodie Gordon Lucas

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Intermediate



My grandmother is a class act: beautiful, resourceful, practical, glamorous, and resilient. As a war bride, she followed her new husband across the country and then worked in a factory making B-29 wheels while he served in the Pacific theater. As a young mother, she worked hard to support her family in an era where that “simply was not done”. As a successful business woman, she earned many awards and traveled the world. As a grandmother, she taught her granddaughters her deeply held philosophy of life: live fully, even when it’s not easy; and, keep on living even when the odds are against you.

Like its namesake the Janet tote is feminine, beautiful, stylish and far tougher than you’d ever expect. Made of linen or silk it will wear forever while keeping its stunning good looks. The bag can be dressed up or down depending on your choice of yarn and fabric for the optional lining. Janet can be made in 4 different sizes with three different handle styles and is the perfect, classic accessory for a long and happy life.



Credit and thanks to: Inga Joana Mertens designer of the incredibly popular “[Inga’s Haekelbeutel](#)” and, Barbara G. Walker author of [A Treasury of Knitting Patterns](#) (*Traveling Vine* appears on p 219).

SIZES

small[medium, large, extra-large]

Block individual panels to 5[6, 7, 8] inches by 20[24, 28, 32] inches.

Completed bag (excluding handles) approximately: 7[8.5, 9.75, 11.25] wide, 14[17, 19.5, 22.5] tall, 7[8.5, 9.75, 11.25] deep

The size of the bag is determined by the weight of the yarn used.

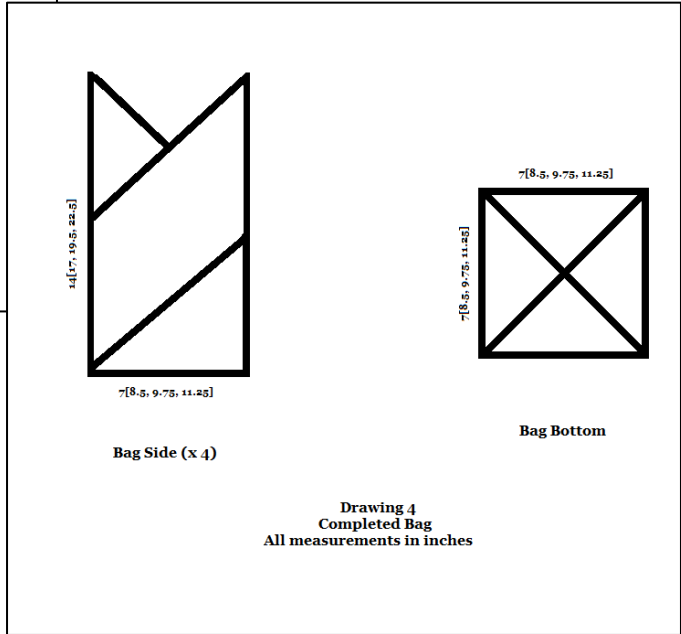
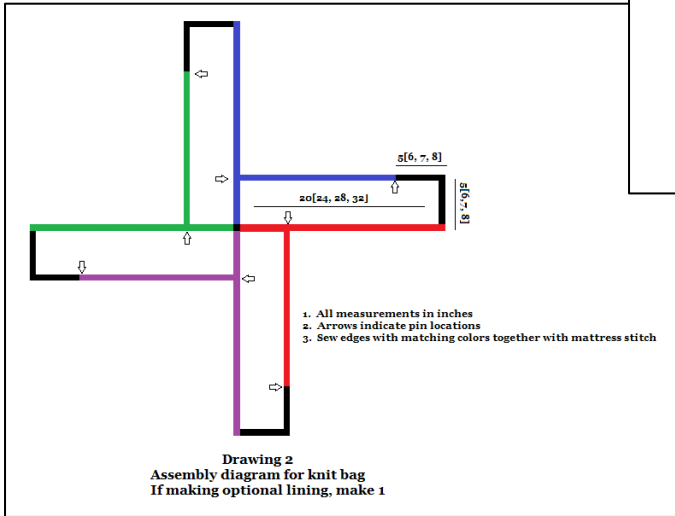
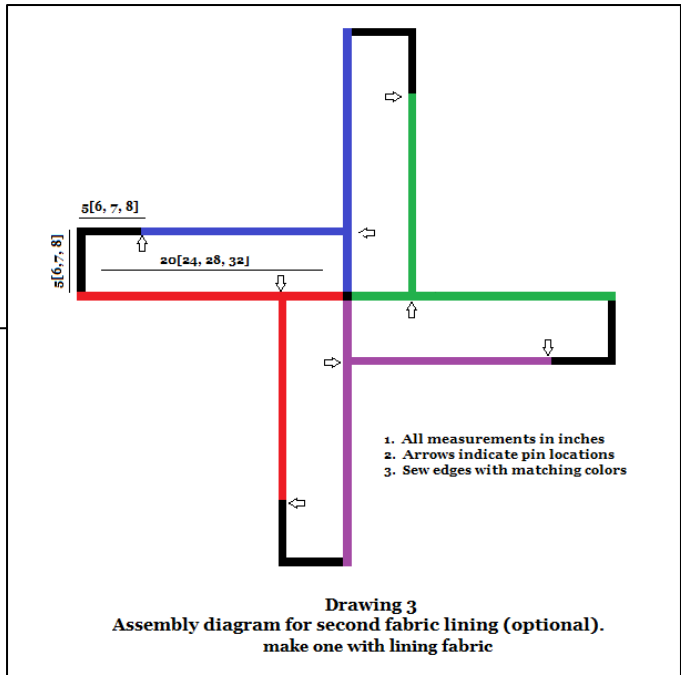
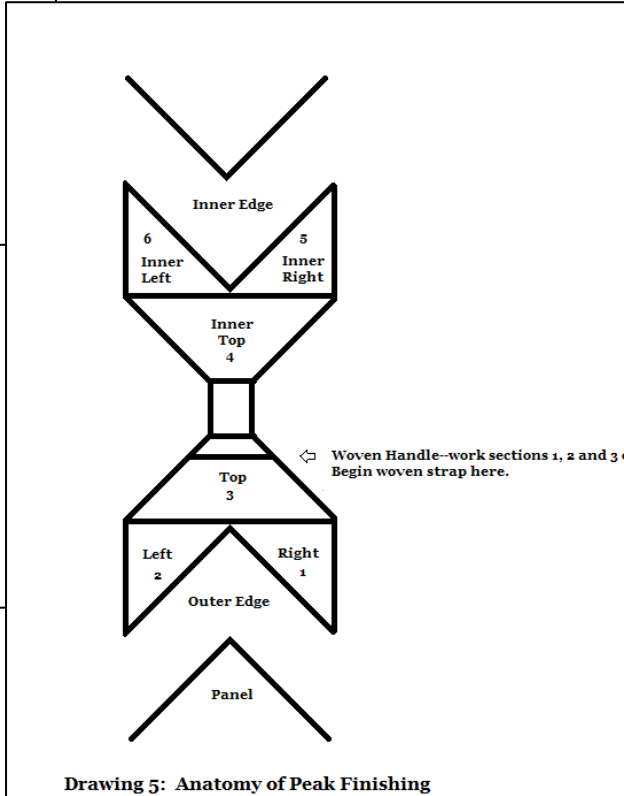
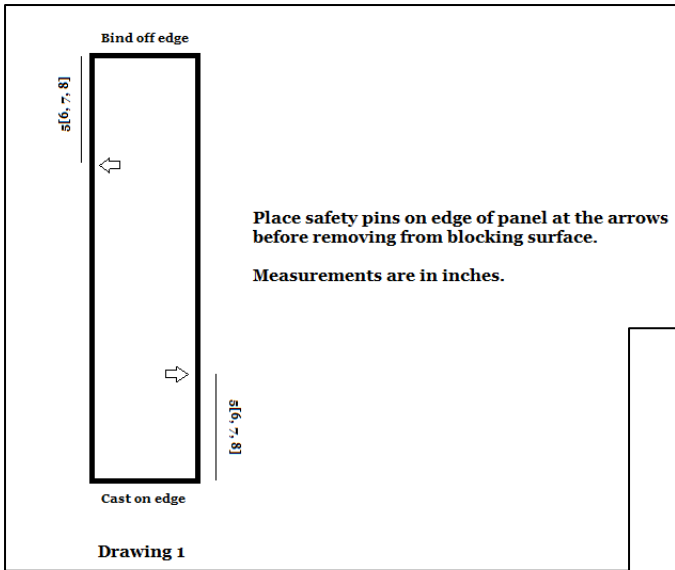
In general, light fingering [fingering, sport, worsted] will produce the gauge required to make size small[medium, large, extra-large].

Size	Yarn	Needles 1, 32 (or more) inch circular needle 1 set dpns (key loop / cord handle)	Gauge 4 inches in stockinette
Small	2 skeins Punta Del Este Yarns Montoya Beach Light. <i>The bag pictured used 80g / 525 yds.</i>	US #1.5/2.5mm	23 stitches 40 rows
Medium	1 skein Tess’ Designer Yarns Cascade Silk Sport. <i>The bag pictured used 120g / 532 yds.</i>	US #2.5/3.00 mm	21 stitches 32 rows
Large	4 skeins Cascade Yarns Ultra Pima. <i>The bag pictured used 310 g / 682 yds.</i>	US #3/3.25 mm	20 stitches 27 rows
Extra Large	7 skeins Katia Linen	US #5/3.75mm circular	18 stitches 23 rows

Notions:

measuring tape, blocking supplies, safety pins, sewing needles, stitch markers, stitch holders (for woven handle variation), 6 inch minimum diameter purse handles (for purchased handle variation), 1.5 yards of .25 inch diameter, white cotton rope (for cord handle variation), carabiner (if making optional key loop)

Note: An unlined bag stretches *considerably* in use. If making a size large or extra-large a fabric lining is strongly recommended. Directions and materials for lining can be found at the end of the pattern.



Panel (make 4)

Cast on 32 sts

Rows 1 and 3[RS]:Knit.

Rows 2 and 4[WS]:Purl.

Rows 5-17: Work Traveling Vine pattern.

Rep rows 5-17 12[13, 14, 15] more times.

Repeat rows 1 through 4.

Bind off loosely. Weave in ends.

Block panel to 5[6, 7, 8] by 20[24, 28, 32] inches.

When panel is dry and *before removing from blocking surface*, place safety pins in positions indicated in Drawing 1.

Arrange panels as shown in Drawing 2 matching appropriate corners to safety pin markers. In the drawing the different colors indicate edges which are sewn together. Sew edges together using mattress stitch. Weave in all ends.

Tip: Use plenty of safety pins to hold panels together for sewing. This assures that they stay exactly where you want them!

Outer Edge—all variations

Beginning at a peak: [Pick up and knit 32 stitches, evenly spaced, between the peak and the first valley, pm; pick up and knit 32 sts between the valley and the next peak, pm] four times, 256 sts. Final marker placed is the beginning of round marker.

Round 1: K all sts.

Round 2: [K1, m1, k to 3 sts before marker, k2tog, k2, ssk, k to 1 st before marker, m1, k1] 4 times.

Round 3: Rep rnd 1.

Rounds 4-9: Rep rows 2 and 3 3 times.

Proceed to the directions for the handle variation you are making.

Woven Handle Variation

For this handle variation you will first create the inner hem edge, excluding the peaks, for all four sides. You will then create points for pairs of adjacent peaks—working a woven handle strap between each point.



Inner Edges

Row 1[RS]: K11, p 42, turn.

Row 2[WS]: K42, turn.

Row 3 [RS]: K1, m1, k to 1 st before marker, m1, k2, m1, k to 1 st before final st, m1, k1, turn.

Row 4[WS]: P42.

Rep rows 3 and 4 at least 4 times or until inner edge is long enough to cover the stitches securing the lining to the bag.

Loosely bind off 42 sts, break yarn. Reattach yarn and k22, slip these 22 sts to a stitch marker, p 42, turn.

Repeat inner hem edge beginning with row 2 above 3 more times. On final rep reattach yarn and k11 to start of round marker then continue to “Peak Finishing One” below.

PEAK FINISHING ONE (see Drawing 5)

Right side (1):

Row 1[WS]: Beginning at a peak marker, p10, working behind the next stitch k1 into the top of the folded edge under the final two purls, k final stitch on needle, turn.

Row 2[RS]: K1, ssk, [sl1, k1] 4 times, wrap and turn.

Row 3[WS]: P10, turn.

Row 4[RS]: K1, ssk, [sl1, k1] 3 times, wrap and turn.

Row 5[WS]: P8, turn.

Row 6[RS]: K1, ssk [sl1, k1] 2 times, wrap and turn.

Row 7[WS]: P6, turn.

Row 8[RS]: K1, ssk, sl1, k1, wrap and turn.

Row 9 [WS]: P4, turn.

Row 10 [RS]: K1, ssk, k1, k4 sts picking up wraps, k 10, working in front of the next stitch k1 into the top of the folded edge under the final two purls, k final stitch, turn.

Left side (2):

Note: When slipping stitches remember to take yarn to the wrong side—which in this section will mean yarn forward—when slipping stitches.

Row 11[WS]: P1, p2tog, [sl1, p1] 4 times, wrap and turn.

Row 12[RS]: K10, turn.

Row 13[WS]: P1, p2tog, [sl1, p1] 3 times, wrap and turn.

Row 14[RS]: K8, turn.

Row 15[WS]: P1, p2tog, [sl1, p1] 2 times, wrap and turn.

Row 16[RS]: K6, turn.

Row 17[WS]: P1, p2tog, [sl1, p1], wrap and turn.

Row 18[RS]: K4, turn.

Top (3):

Row 19[WS]: P1, p2tog, p1, p4 sts picking up wraps, p7, turn, 14 stitches.

Row 20[RS]: [K1, sl1] 6 times, k2, turn.

Row 21[WS]: P14, turn.

Row 22[RS]: K2, [sl1, k1] twice, sl1, m1, k1, [sl1, k1] twice, k2, 15 stitches.

Row 23[WS]: P15.

Slip stitches to holder.

Work adjacent point to Row 23, continue to row 24.

Strap:

Row 24[RS]: Knit, 15 stitches.

Row 25[WS]: K1, p1, p second stitch, purl first stitch, slip both sts off] six times, k1.

Row 26[RS]: K2, [k second stitch from the back, k1 first stitch, slip both sts off the needle] six times, k1.

Rep rows 25 and 26 for 12 inches.

Graft end of strap to the stitches from the first point which were worked to row 23 and slipped to a stitch holder. Repeat process for second pair of adjacent points.

Cord and Purchased Handle Variations

For these variations, points are worked before working the inner edge. Each point is decreased to 4 stitches and then increased again so that the inside and outside of the point are identical. For the purchased handle variation you will thread the handle onto the strap after the outer point is completed prior to working the inner point. Each point is worked in its entirety before continuing to the next point.



Peak Finishing and Inner Edge

Round 1: K11, [p42, k22] three times, p42, k11, turn.

Round 2: [Work ****PEAK FINISHING TWO****, p40, k11] 4 times, 256 sts. *Note: at the end of this round you will continue to round 3 below without breaking the yarn.*

****PEAK FINISHING TWO**** (See Drawing 5)

Right Side (1):

Row 1[WS]: Beginning at a peak marker, p10, working behind the next stitch k1, k the skipped stitch, turn.

Rows 2 through 9: work as for Right Side Woven Strap Variation.

Row 10[RS]: K1, ssk, k1, k4 sts picking up wraps, k 10, working in front of the next stitch k1, k the skipped stitch, turn.

Left side (2):

Note: When slipping stitches remember to take yarn to the wrong side—which in this section will mean yarn forward—when slipping stitches.

Rows 11-18: Work as for Left Side Woven Strap Variation.

Top (3):

Row 19[WS]: P1, p2tog, p1, p4 sts picking up wraps, p7, turn, 14 point stitches.

Row 20[RS]: K1, ssk, [k1, sl1] 4 times, k2tog, k1, turn, 12 point stitches.

Row 21[WS]: p1, p2tog, [sl1, p1] 3 times, p2tog tbl, p1, turn, 10 point sts.

Row 22[RS]: K1, ssk, [k1, sl1] 2 times, k2tog, k1, turn, 8 point sts.

Row 23[WS]: P1, p2tog, sl1, p1, p2tog tbl, p1, turn, 6 point sts.

Row 24[RS]: K1, ssk, k2tog, k1, turn, 4 point sts.

Row 25[WS]: Purl.

Row 26[RS]: Knit.

Rows 27-34: Repeat rows 25 and 26 four times (or more if desired).

FOR CORD HANDLE

Continue to row 35, Inner Top.

FOR PURCHASED HANDLES

Examine handle carefully. Some purchased handles may cause fraying in the knitted fabric. If this is a concern wrap a length of coordinating ribbon around the opening and either hot glue or sew into place.

Slip stitches onto scrap yarn and thread through handle without breaking yarn. Return stitches to needle and continue working at row 35. You will work with the working yarn threaded through the handle until the end of row 57.

Note: Be very careful with handle orientation. Check and double check orientation as you thread the point and before you finish the point.

Inner top (4):

Row 35 [WS]: P1, m1, p1, sl1, m1, p1, turn, 6 point sts.

Row 36[RS]: K1, m1, [sl1, k1] twice, m1, k1, turn, 8 point sts.

Row 37 [WS]: P1, m1, [p1, sl1] three times, m1, p1, turn, 10 point sts.

Row 38 [RS]: K1, m1, [sl1, k1] 4 times, m1, k1, turn, 12 point sts.

Row 39 [WS]: P1, m1, [p1, sl1] 5 times, m1, p1, turn, 14 point sts.

Inner right side (5):

Row 40 [RS]: K1, m1, sl1, [k1, sl1] twice, wrap and turn.

Row 41 [WS]: P7, turn.

Rows 42-45: Repeat Rows 40 and 41 twice

Row 46[RS]: Repeat Row 40, turn.

Row 47[WS]: P6, working behind the next stitch k next stitch on needle, k skipped stitch, slide both stitches off the needle, turn.

Row 48[RS]: K1, m1, k7, k4 picking up wraps as you go, k7, turn, 20 point sts.

Inner left side (6):

Note: When slipping stitches remember to take yarn to the wrong side—which in this section will mean yarn forward—when slipping stitches.

Row 49[WS]: P1, m1, p1 [sl1, p1] twice, wrap and turn.

Row 50[RS]: K7, turn.

Rows 51-56: Repeat rows 44 and 45, three times, 24 point sts.

Row 57[WS]: P1, m1, p6, p4 picking up wraps as you go, turn, 25 point sts, if working purchased handle variation, cut yarn, pull through handle opening and reattach.

Row 58[RS]: K11, working in front of the next stitch k1, knit skipped stitch, slip both stitches off the needle, return to rnd 2, 26 point sts.

Round 3: K all sts cinching gaps (see pattern notes) beside points and at peaks as needed, 256 sts.

Round 4: [K1, ssk, k to 1 st before marker, m1, k2, m1, k to 3 sts before marker, k2tog, k1] 4 times.

Rep rounds 3 and 4 three times or until inner edge is long enough to cover stitches securing lining to bag. Loosely bind off all stitches.

Optional Key Loop

With dpns pick up and knit four stitches along bind off edge at your preferred key loop location. Work these four stitches in I-cord for 6 inches. Break yarn leaving a 6 inch tail. Thread the tail onto a needle and pull the end through the 4 stitches on the dpn. Finally, fold the I-cord so that the one end tucks under the other at the hem. Sew into place and attach carabiner.

LINING

Materials and notions: 0.75[1.5, 1.75, 2] yards of 45 inch wide fabric, scissors, straight pins, sewing machine, thread to match bag, needle for hand sewing, iron and ironing board.

Note: Fabric is sold folded in half with the grain with milled edges aligned. These fabric quantities require folding the fabric so that the cut edges are roughly aligned and the new fold is perpendicular to the grain of the fabric. Press the fabric to set the new fold. Four, double-layered rectangles are cut parallel to this new folded edge.

Make a double lining so that no seams are visible through the lace. When sewing your lining:

- sew seams with right sides together
- use a three-eighths inch seam allowance;
- begin and end seams three-eighths of an inch from each corner; and,
- snip the seam allowance to the stitch line in the bottom corners and at the valleys so that fabric panels can pivot without bunching.

Cut 8 rectangles to 5[6, 7, 8] inches by 20[24, 28, 32] inches. Sew 4 panels together using the assembly diagram in Drawing 2. Sew the remaining 4 panels together using the assembly diagram in Drawing 3. Press all seams open.

Once the two lining bags are assembled, pin the top edges aligning peaks and valleys. Sew edge seam with a three-eighths inch seam allowance remembering to leave a 3 inch gap. Clip off the seam allowance at the peaks, snip the seam allowance to the stitch line at the valleys and grade (trim) the seam allowance along the remainder of the seam. Turn the lining right side out and hand stitch the opening. Press top edge.

Pin the lining into the bag matching peaks and valleys at the pick-up row for the outer edge. Sew the lining by hand to the knit bag. Do not to allow stitches to show from the outside of the bag.

FINISHING

Sew down inner edge

Sew inner edge into place with thread if the bag is lined or with yarn if the bag is unlined. For woven handle version make sure inner edge points meet in the center of the peak.

Point finishing and blocking

Sew the sides of the points for the cord and purchased handle variations. A whip stitch through the edge stitches on the front and back will give the illusion that the purl stitches along the remainder of the edge continue along the points. Remember to leave a space for the cord handle to pass through.

If the point isn't "pointy" enough, steam block this area only, pin into shape on a mat and let dry.

Cord handle

Using scrap yarn and dpns, cast on 9[9, 6, 6] stitches with the provisional cast-on of your choice. Work in the round stockinette stitch until the cord casing is 39 inches or to desired length. Slip all stitches onto a piece of scrap yarn.

Cut a length of one-quarter inch cotton rope one inch longer than the casing. Attach a safety pin to the end of the rope and pull through the casing. Carefully thread the covered rope through the loops at the points. Scrunch the covering so that you have several inches of rope showing at each end. Hold the two ends of the rope together. Insert a threaded sewing needle through one piece of rope one half inch from the end. Pull the thread through and insert the needle one half inch from the end of the opposite end of the rope. Continue making these long stitches between the two ends until the two ends are secure. After the final stitch, wrap the thread around the join to completely cover the stitches. Be sure the rope join has no obvious lumps or gaps. Secure and cut thread.

Remove the scrap yarn and slip the stitches on each end onto double points. Being sure that the cover has not twisted, graft the two ends together with Kitchener Stitch.



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