



ATX Linen Tote

A knitting pattern by Staci Perry, www.verypink.com



Getting Started.

Size: One size, bag bottom is 14" in diameter (36cm), length is 14", strap can be made any length

Needles: Set of 5 size US 4 (3.5mm) double-pointed needles, same size circular needles (see note below), or size needed to get correct gauge

Yarn: 2 hanks of Louet Euroflax Sport Weight yarn (each hank in a different color), 100% linen, 270 yards per 100 gram hank, or any Sport or DK weight linen or cotton yarn.

Additional Materials: 4 ring stitch markers, one clippie marker, tapestry needle for weaving in ends

Gauge: 6 stitches per inch in stockinette

Note on needles: You will need both DPNs and circular needles. In a perfect world, you'll want a set of 5 DPNs and circular needles in both 16" and 24". If you don't have both of those lengths of circular needles, no problem - you can knit this bag using just DPNs and one circular needle 24" or longer using the magic loop method.

Note on yarn colors: When you choose your yarn colors, one color will be for the bag bottom (main color, abbreviated "MC"), and the other color will be for the bag top (contrasting color, abbreviated "CC"). In my bag I used Navy for the MC and Caribbean Blue for the CC.

Note on modifying bag size: If you would like a shorter bag, I suggest shortening the bag at the 3" of MC at the bottom of the bag (after increasing, before starting stripe pattern) and/or the 4" of CC at the top of the bag, and leaving the striping pattern as it is. If you would like to make a wider bag, you can continue increasing until you reach the desired size - but you will probably need more yarn! This tote, in the size written, uses up nearly the entire two hanks of yarn.

Abbreviations:

BO - bind-off

CC - contrasting color (bag top)

DPNs - double pointed needles

K - knit

K2tog - knit two stitches together

Kfb - knit front and back increase

MC - main color (bag bottom)

P - purl

RS - right side

SSK - slip, slip, knit decrease

Sts - stitches

WS - wrong side

Video link Part 1, Intro: <https://youtu.be/QGjKA9cQ0JU>

Directions.

Video link Part 2, Bag Bottom: <https://youtu.be/QGjKA9cQ0JU?t=2m36s>

BAG BOTTOM

Using DPNs and MC, cast-on 8 stitches over 4 needles, 2 stitches on each needle. Knit one round.

Round 1: kfb all stitches (16 sts)

Round 2: Knit all stitches

Round 3: *kfb, K2, kfb* repeat between *s on each needle (24 sts)

Round 4: Knit all stitches

Round 5: *kfb, K4, kfb* repeat between *s on each needle (32 sts)

Round 6: Knit all stitches

Round 7: *kfb, K6, kfb* repeat between *s on each needle (40 sts)

Round 8: Knit all stitches

Round 9: *kfb, K8, kfb* repeat between *s on each needle (48 sts)

Round 10: Knit all stitches

See the pattern? Every even-numbered round is knit without increases, and every odd-numbered round is increased by 8 stitches, with a kfb at the first and last stitch of each needle.

Using a row counter to keep track of your even and odd-numbered rounds, continue in this manner.

- After 6 rounds you will have enough fabric to mark the beginning of your round with a clippie marker.
- Once you have 24 stitches on each DPN, you will have enough fabric to switch to 16" circulars. To switch to circulars, knit off the DPNs on to your circular in your right hand, and use ring stitch markers to mark the increase points (where the gaps between the DPNs were)
- Once you have 40 stitches between the markers, you will have enough fabric to switch to 24" circulars.

Continue increasing until you have 46 stitches between the markers, 184 stitches total.

Video link Part 3: <https://youtu.be/QGjKA9cQ0JU?t=15m3s>

BAG BODY

Continuing with MC, knit 3 inches (24 rounds) without increasing. On the first round you can remove two markers - leave the first marker marking the beginning of the round, remove the second, leave the third marker marking the halfway point, remove the fourth.

STRIPING PATTERN

Attach CC without breaking the yarn on the MC (you will carry both colors up through the stripes). Work the color pattern as follows:

Repeat twice:

- 1 round CC
- 3 rounds MC

Repeat 3 times:

- 1 round CC
- 2 rounds MC

Repeat 7 times

- 1 round CC
- 1 round MC

Repeat 3 times:

- 2 rounds CC
- 1 round MC

Repeat twice:

- 3 rounds CC
- 1 round MC

Break the MC yarn, and continue knitting all rounds of CC for 4 inches (32 rounds).

Video link Part 4, Straps: <https://youtu.be/QGjKA9cQ0JU?t=24m19s>

BAG STRAP

Knit 16, BO stitches until you have 16 stitches before the next marker (including the stitch on the right needle), knit to marker, remove marker, knit 16, BO stitches until you have 16 stitches before the next marker (including the stitch on the right needle). 32 live stitches for each handle.

Setup for first half of strap: Knit 16, remove marker, knit 16, turn work. Knit one WS row and begin decrease rounds:

Row 1: SSK, K to last two stitches, k2tog

Rows 2-4: Knit

Repeat these 4 garter stitch rows until 12 stitches remain. At this point, you can knit the strap as long as you like (half of the total length on this side of the bag, half of the total length the other side). I knit each of my halves 13" long (33cm), which was 53 garter stitch ridges total, including decrease rounds. Once you reach the desired length, break yarn and slip these stitches to a stitch holder or scrap yarn.

Second half of strap: attach CC to the 32 live stitches for second half of strap to work a RS row. Work Rows 1-4 as described above, making an identical strap.

Finishing.

Video link Part 5, Finishing: <https://youtu.be/QGjKA9cQ0JU?t=31m47s>

Slip the 12 live stitches from each half of the strap to 2 DPNs. Using a third DPN, work Kitchener stitch to graft the two halves of the strap together, RS facing you as you do this. Weave in all ends and secure with knots (as I demonstrate in the video).

No real blocking is necessary with this yarn! Machine wash on gentle cycle using a mild soap (like a wool wash), and machine dry following the directions on the yarn label. Once you pull the bag out of the dryer, the yarn will have softened, and your stitches will look really uniform and pretty.

The top of the bag will curl, which is intentional. You can use a steam iron to flatten it out a bit. If you prefer a finished edge, you can single crochet around the top of the bag and up each side of the strap.

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