

MissCarlotta Goes to Market

This is a simple Market Bag pattern using dropped stitches and knit in the round up from the base. You will use two different sizes of circular needles.

Gauge is not overly critical so much as having a significant difference in needle size, to create the open drop stitch portions of your bag. I have used a size 7 needle as my main needle and a size 15 as the large needle.

You can easily scale your bag sizes by adding more or fewer stitches to the bag base. (I've made some normal grocery shopping size, and super Costco shopping size)

You will need approximately 200 yards of a washable yarn, such as a cotton.



Stitches Used:

K	Knit	P	Purl	YO	Yarn Over
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Start with the Base:

Cast on 30 stitches to your main needle.

Knit 12 rows in garter stitch (K every row)

At the end of 12th row, turn the work one quarter turn and pick up 10 stitches from the short side.

Turn the work one quarter turn again and Pick up 30 stitches (every stitch) on the opposite long row.

Turn the work one quarter turn. Place a marker. Pick up 10 stitches on the remaining short side.

You should now have a round of work on your needles picked up around all sides that is your bag base. (50 stitches picked up, 80 total stitches)

Knit 5 rounds, and stop at the marker on your last round. This will be your new starting point for the remaining rounds of the bag.

Build the sides:

ROW 1: For the next row you are going to be knitting off your main (smaller) needle and onto the larger size needle.

[K1, YO] repeat these two stitches the entire round.

ROW 2: Next Row you are going to knit off the larger needle and back to the main (smaller) needle.

[K1, drop the YO stitch] the entire round.

ROW 3-8: For the next 5 rounds you may use any combination of knit and purl you would like. These are the solid stripes between your yarn over mesh. (Knit a round, purl a round, seed stitch, etc)
Repeat Rows 1-8 four more times.

Bind off loosely or with your choice of stretchy bind off so your bag opening has some stretch.

Handles:

You can use a couple different handle designs to match your bag. I find that the garter handles are very stretchy and comfortable to use on the hand. The i-cord handles are less stretchy but pull on your hands a bit more when the bag is loaded.

Garter Handles (make 2):

Using your main needles Cast on 6 stitches.
K6 every row until your handle is 7 inches long.

I-cord Handles (make 2):

Using your Main needle Cast on 6 stitches.
Set up Row: K6
Repeat Row: Slide your work so that the yarn from the last stitch is on the inside, and the first stitch of your row is ready to be worked at the needle point. K6
Continue the repeat row until your handle is 10 inches long.

Seam your handles onto your bag securely.

Additional Comments:

When your bag gets dirty or stretched way out of shape, a trip through the wash will fix both problems. My regular grocery bags are so durable, I'm rather tired of the fact I knit them three years ago in plain light blue... and I still get nice compliments at the grocery on them. I hope you do too!

(Alternatively you can use one needle and do a double or triple yarn over and dropping all the YO loops in the following row)



Fill it up and Test it out!

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