

Monk's Travel Satchel

Design by Vicki Square



Joe Coca

The religion of Nepal is a mixture of Buddhism and Hinduism and the monks who traveled southwest China, Nepal, and Tibet traditionally carried large bags. Some were brightly colored, some were faded by time—but beautifully toned, nonetheless. The monks carried all their earthly goods in these bags, so pockets inside and out were a useful feature. Since I love the organization that pockets provide, I designed this bag with five separate spaces in addition to the spacious capacity of the main compartments.

★ FINISHED SIZE:

16" (40.5 cm) deep and 19" (48.5 cm) wide.



YARN:

Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece (80% cotton, 20% wool, 215 yd [197 m]/100 g): #005 cavern (A), 3 skeins; #880 twilight green (B), 2 skeins; and #930 candy apple (C), 2 skeins.

NEEDLES:

Size 4 (3.5 mm) circular (circ)—2 pair each 29" (73.5 cm) long (for border of the back of the bag). Size 4 (3.5 mm) set of 2 double-pointed (dpn)—I-cord. Size 5 (3.75) or larger—for binding off. Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

NOTIONS:

Size E/4 (3.5 mm) crochet hook; tapestry needle; long straight sewing pins with colored heads.

GAUGE:

22 sts and 34 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st. 22 sts and 36 rows = 4" (10 cm) in seed st.

SKILL LEVEL:

Intermediate. 

STITCH GUIDE:

Seed stitch: (multiple of 2 sts + 1)

All rows: *K1, pl; rep from * to last st, k1.

GUSSET/STRAP

With A and circ needle, CO 33 sts. Work in seed st (see Stitch Guide) for 74" (188 cm). Change to C and knit 2 rows. BO (1 garter ridge).

GUSSET POCKETS (make 2)

With A, CO 33 sts. Work in seed st for 7½" (19 cm). Change to C, knit 1 row. BO on WS of work.

FRONT

With B, CO 77 sts. Work in St st for 12" (30.5 cm). Change to seed st for 2" (5 cm)—front measures 14" (35.5 cm) from CO edge. Bind off.

BACK AND FLAP

With B, CO 77 sts. Work in St st until back measures 14"

(35.5 cm). Change to seed st and work 7" (18 cm) more for front flap. BO in patt.

BACK POCKET

With B, cast on 55 sts. Work seed st for 8" (20.5 cm). BO in patt. Finished pocket measures 8" (20.5 cm) long and 10" (25.5 cm) wide.

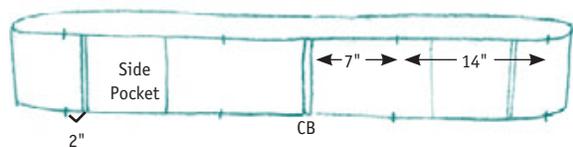
INSIDE POCKET

With C, CO 45 sts. Work in seed st for 4" (10 cm). Bind off in pattern. Finished pocket measures 4" (10 cm) long and 8" (20.5 cm) wide.

FINISHING

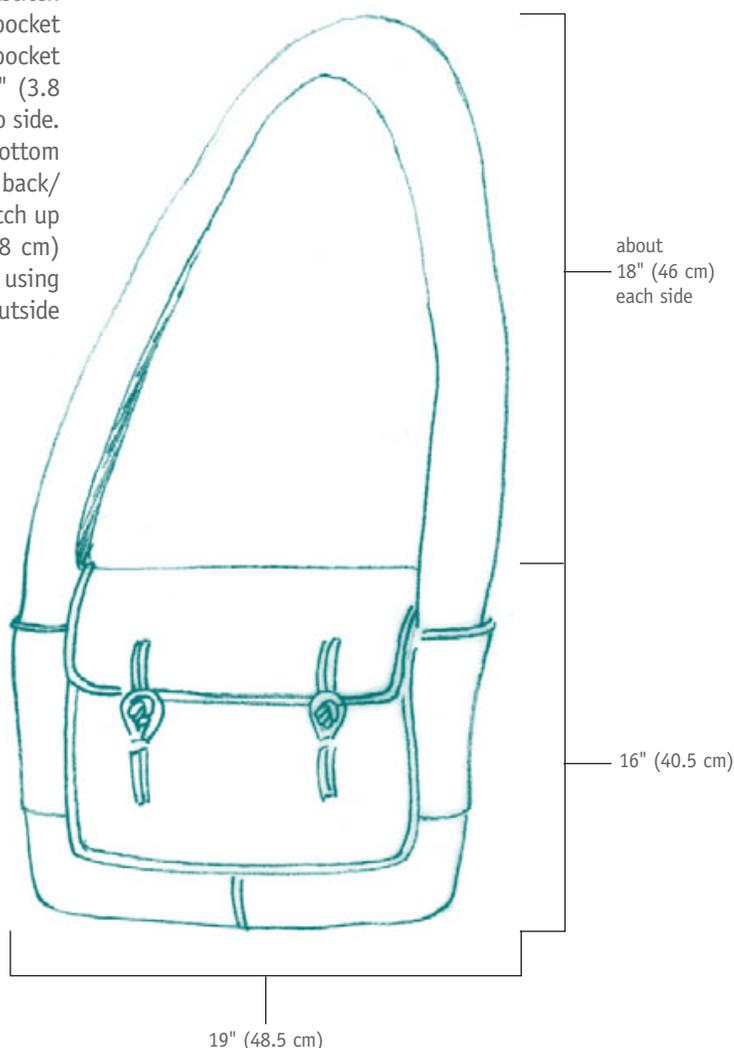
Bag front: With RS facing, using C and circ needle, and beg at upper right corner, pick up 1 st in each BO st across the seed st top; pick up 2 sts every 3 rows along selvedge edge; pick up st for st across bottom edge; and pick up 2 sts for every 3 rows along second selvedge edge. Turn work and knit to end. Turn work and BO using a needle 1 or 2 sizes larger than size used to work front. Break yarn leaving 6" (15 cm) tail, insert through last loop to secure. Using C yarn tail threaded on tapestry needle, join edging beg and end together using a short 1 row seam in backstitch (see box). **Bag back:** RS facing: Along selvedge edge measure 6" (15 cm) from seed stitch BO. Beg here, pick up sts all around bag, using 1 circ needle to pick up and second circ needle to knit, working border in one piece. Pick up 2 sts for every 3 rows along selvedge edges, and st for st along CO and BO edges. Turn work, knit 1 row. BO and finish as for bag front. Weave in all ends and steam block all pieces. Lightly press St st surface. Lay flat to dry completely. **Assembly:** With A, backstitch center bottom edge of seed stitch gusset/strap. Using straight pins as markers, place first markers 7" (18 cm) from center bottom both ways on both edges of gusset. Mark 14" (35.5 cm) from first marker both ways, both edges (see Figure A). Place gusset pockets with top edge 2" (5 cm) down (toward center back) from second marker. Pin in place. With A, backstitch lower edge of each gusset pocket in place (see box). Remove all pins. With RS tog, pin front of bag to gusset, matching lower corners to first markers, and top of bag to second markers. Using C and crochet hook, slip-stitch crochet

Figure A



(see box) pieces together, making sure that red edging is outside the seam. Remove pins. Place interior 4" (10 cm) × 8" (20.5 cm) seed st pocket on WS of back, with lower edge of pocket about 4½" (11.5 cm) above bottom edge of bag, and centered side to side. Pin in place. With C, backstitch around sides and bottom of pocket; backstitch vertical seam down center of pocket to create 2 pocket spaces. Place back 8" (20.5 cm) × 10" (25.5 cm) pocket on RS of back of bag, with lower edge about 1½" (3.8 cm) above bottom edge of bag, and centered side to side. Pin in place. Using B, backstitch around sides and bottom of pocket. Mark 14" (35.5 cm) from lower edge on back/flap piece. With RS of gusset and back together, match up 14" (35.5 cm) markers and lower corners at 7" (18 cm) markers. Pin in place. With B, join pieces together using slip stitch crochet, making sure that red edging is outside the seam. Remove pins.

I-cord closures: (make four I-cords, two of each length) With dpn, work I-cord (see box) for 10" (25.5 cm)—for knots. Work second set of I-cords until 6" (15 cm) long—for loops. Fold 10" (25.5 cm) I-cord in half, tie overhand knot in folded end; place on bag flap 3" (7.5 cm) from side edge. Whipstitch (see box) onto bag from WS, catching just the back side of I-cord sts. On RS of work, whipstitch over the end of I-cord, close to the knot. With pins, mark closure loop pieces for placement on front of bag and whipstitch onto bag from wrong side, catching just the back side of I-cord sts. On RS of work, whipstitch over end and 1½" (3.8 cm) up from end to form button loop. Remove all pins, weave in all ends to WS. ✨



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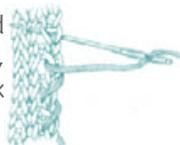
Slip Stitch Crochet (sl st)

Insert hook into stitch, yarn over hook and draw loop through stitch and loop on hook.



Whipstitch

With right side of work facing and working one stitch in from the edge, bring threaded needle out from back to front along edge of knitted piece.



I-Cord

With double-pointed needle, cast on desired number of stitches. *Without turning the needle, slide the stitches to other end of the needle, pull the yarn around the back, and knit the stitches as usual; repeat from * for desired length.



Backstitch Seam

Working from right to left, one stitch in from sel-edge, bring threaded needle up through both pieces of knitted fabric (Figure 1), then back down through both layers a short distance (about a row) to the right of the starting point (Figure 2). *Bring needle up through both layers a row-length to the left of backstitch just made (Figure 3), then back down to the right, in same hole used before (Figure 4). Repeat from *, working backward one row for every two rows worked forward.



Figure 1

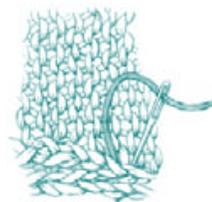


Figure 2

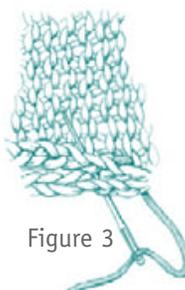
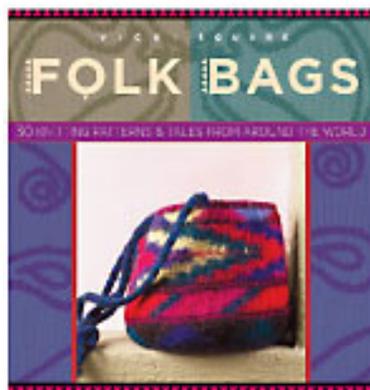


Figure 3



Figure 4

Illustrations by Gayle Ford



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