



### **Miragamo Bag**

(The pattern for this bag is based on a pattern stitch reverse-engineered by Kate Sonnick and friends, inspired by a knitted designer handbag coveted by many. See KnitLit's Fake-a-Gamo bag, for the bag that inspired the Miragamo Bag.)

Measurements: Approximately 17" wide by 15" high, unstretched (34" circumference)

Pattern Notes:

The bag is knit in-the-round, top-down.

The circumference of the bag is an 8-triangle pattern, in a multiple of 17 +1 stitches with a 16-row repeat.

Five 16-row pattern repeats create the length of the bag, so you can add/subtract a pattern repeat to create a longer/shorter bag.

The only seaming will be to finish the box bottom; folding over the top edge as a border; attaching the bag handles, and attaching the lining.

Materials:

Hempforknitting all hemp 6 (100% hemp; 165 yd/150m per 100g) 8-9 skeins \*\*yarn is double stranded  
30-inch US #7 or #8 circular needle

(2) stitch markers

Tapestry needle

Heavy duty thread

Embroidery thread color-matched to leather handles.

#### Notions:

(2) Grayson E. large rolled leather handles with silver buckles, about 18-1/2" long.

These are big handles for a big bag. (Grayson E. leather accessories for GGH Muench)

Plastic needlepoint canvas for stiffening top border and bag bottom, and backing where handles are attached.

Fabric/heavy canvas lining (see [www.nonipatterns.com/rectangular.php](http://www.nonipatterns.com/rectangular.php) for an excellent tutorial.)

#### Gauge:

Gauge isn't critical, but this is knit double stranded so it's important that the needle size is comfortable.

Each triangle is about 4.5 inches wide by 3 inches high with two strands of yarn held together.

Do make a large enough swatch to get to Row 15 to see what needle size works best for you, and to practice knitting 11-stitches together, double-stranded. (See stitch notes, below)

#### Stitch Notes:

Garter stitch in the round:

Round 1: knit all sts

Round 2: purl all sts = these two rows equal one garter ridge

Double wrap: wrap yarn twice loosely around needle knitwise. On following row, drop wrap purlwise to form an elongated stitch.

See KnitLit Kate at <http://fakeagamo.blogspot.com> for stitch information on the original Fakeagamo, and a great tutorial for knitting eleven stitches together. (I personally chickened out and used a crochet hook to pull the yarn through the eleven stitches. It worked for me. This stitch happens in Row 15 of the pattern sequence, so you need to be comfortable with the maneuver.)

#### Directions:

CO 144 sts. Place marker; join for knitting in the round being careful not to twist...

Work 16-garter stitch rounds (8 ridges).

Work 2-rows knit only, as the turning row for the top border band.

Work 16-garter stitch rounds (8 ridges), ending on a knit row. (These 34 rows will be the top border/band.)

Begin triangle pattern.

(As well as marking the beginning of the round, I found it helpful to actually clip a marker to the first K stitch of the first round of the triangle pattern. The triangle pattern is symmetrical around the K stitch. If the pattern doesn't begin symmetrically, it won't end that way either. Alternatively, you can clip a marker to EACH of the center K stitches to more easily check the pattern symmetry.)

#### Triangle pattern:

Row 01: (row marker here) k1, p17 8x (144sts) (Mark first K stitch, which is the center of the first triangle)

Row 02: yo, k1, yo, k17 8 times (160sts)

Row 03: k3, p17 8 times (160sts)

Row 04: k3, skp, k13, k2tog 8 times (144sts)

Row 05: k3, p15 8 times (144sts)

Row 06: yo, k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, yo, k15 8 times (176sts)

Row 07: k7, p15 8 times (176sts)

Row 08: knit whole row (176sts)

Row 09: k7, p15 8 times (176sts)

Row 10: k1, yo, k5, yo, k1, skp, k11, k2tog 8 times (176sts)  
Row 11: k9, p13 8 times (176sts)  
Row 12: yo, k1 9 times, yo skp, k9, k2tog 8 times (240sts)  
Row 13: k19, p11 8 times (240sts)  
Row 14: k19, k11 loosely double wrap each stitch (not YO) 8 times (240sts)  
Row 15: p19, drop all 11 wraps purlwise; turn and knit all 11 stitches together, turn, p1 8 times (160sts)  
Row 16: k17, skp, k1, k2tog 8 times (144sts)

Work four additional triangle pattern repeats for a total of five.

At end of 5<sup>th</sup> pattern repeat, bind off first five triangles (90sts).

Work remaining 54 sts (three full triangles) in garter stitch for 14 garter ridges as the bottom of the bag.  
(14 garter ridges are approximately the width of the narrow side of the bag, or one triangle. Add more ridges as needed based on your gauge.)

Bind off.

#### Finishing:

Stitch rectangular bottom to three bound-off sides of bag with hemp yarn.

Measure interior of rectangular bag bottom and cut plastic needlepoint canvas as stiffener.

Make plastic canvas rectangle about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " smaller than interior measurements; stitch with heavy duty thread to hold in place.

Measure height of top border of bag, and bag circumference. Cut plastic canvas in two strips to match border height and bag circumference. Stitch strips together in a loop. Fold top border at turning row to interior side of bag, covering plastic canvas loop. Stitch border down securely at interior side of bag with hemp yarn. (To prevent stiffener from sliding, I also did a running stitch from interior to exterior through all three layers with hemp yarn, all the way around, one garter ridge up from the stitched border edge. The running stitches are lost in the garter ridge.)

Place handles on body of bag, marking position of handles at interior side. Cut small pieces of plastic canvas as backing for handles, with knitted fabric between handles and stiffener. Tack plastic canvas firmly with heavy duty thread. Before lining is added, attach handles to the exterior side of the bag with color-matched embroidery thread, sewing through knitted fabric and plastic canvas. (Neatness counts.)

This bag needs a lining since the knitted garter stitch fabric will stretch, and the yarn overs are pretty open.

(See the tutorial for lining a bag, above.) I discovered that it is better that the lining be about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " SHORTER than the interior length of the bag so that the contents of the bag are supported by the lining and NOT the knitted fabric. (If the bag stretches, the sculptural quality of the stitch is lost.)

At bag interior, stitch lining to lower edge of folded border with heavy duty color-matched thread.

#### Care and Feeding:

Hemp yarn gets softer and more pliable after washing. I did wash my bag before lining it, but I probably won't do so again. While the yarn did get softer, it also got a bit fuzzier. (No shrinkage occurred.) For this bag, I think the stiffer fabric makes the stitch pattern more distinct.