

Chunky Cable Handbag

by Jennifer Adams Donnelly exclusively for Knit Picks

Notes:

- The bag is knit in the round from the top down.
- Cable pattern is given both in words and as a chart. Both versions are the same, and it's up to you which you would like to follow. If you are new to knitting cables, I encourage you to work from the chart so you can get familiar with the format.
- Use Sierra double-stranded throughout.

Other Abbreviations:

CL5: Left leaning 5-stitch cable twist. Slip the next three sts to a cable needle and hold to the front of the work. The first two of these are knits, the third is a purl. Knit the next two sts. Then, slip the held purl st back onto your left needle, and purl it as usual. Last, knit the two remaining knit sts off the cable needle.

CL2: Left leaning 2-stitch cable twist. Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold to front of work. Knit the next st, then knit the st on the cable needle.

CR2: Right leaning 2-stitch cable twist. Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold to back of work. Knit the next st, then knit the st on the cable needle.

Directions:

Begin Bag Body

CO 60 sts. Use cable cast on for a nice finished top edge. Leave your yarn tail hanging for a no-frills marker, or place a stitch marker to show begin/end of round.

Instructions in Words:

Rows 1-4: [K1, P1] 30 times.

Row 5: Set-up row [K9, P3, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P3] 2 times.

Row 6: [K9, P3, CR2, P3, CL5, P3, CL2, P3] 2 times.

Rows 7-9: [K9, P3, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P3] 2 times.

Row 10: [K9, P3, CR2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, CL2, P3] 2 times.

Rows 11-13: [K9, P3, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P3] 2 times.

Row 14: [K9, P3, CR2, P3, CL5, P3, CL2, P3] 2 times.

Rows 15-17: [K9, P3, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P3] 2 times.

Row 18: [K9, P3, CR2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, CL2, P3] 2 times.

Rows 19-21: [K9, P3, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P3] 2 times.

Row 22: [K9, P3, CR2, P3, CL5, P3, CL2, P3] 2 times.

Row 23: [K9, P3, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P3] 2 times.



Finished Sizes:

9" wide x 7" high x 3½" deep

Yarn:

KnitPicks *Sierra* (70% Wool, 30% Superfine Alpaca; 110 yds/100gms):
Grape 23793, 2 hanks

Needles:

Size 13: 16" circular.
Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

Notions:

Stitch Marker (optional)
One premade canvas craft tote, 9"x 9"x 3"
One set bamboo purse handles
One set handle hardware
One magnetic purse snap
Sturdy sewing thread in a color that matches yarn
Extra knitting needle, sz. 2, 3 or 4
Yarn needle
Large sewing needle

Gauge:

10 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch, unblocked.
Check your gauge before you begin.

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Row 24: K all sts.

Instructions with Chart:

Rows 1-4: [K1, P1] 30 times.

Begin working from cable chart. Work cable chart twice per round. Work chart rows 1-8 twice, then work rows 1-3 once more, 19 rows total.

Key: Knit
 Purl
 Left leaning 5-stitch cable twist. Slip the next three sts to a cable needle and hold to the front of the work. The first two of these are knits, the third is a purl. Knit the next two sts. Then, slip the held purl st back onto your left needle, and purl it as usual. Last, knit the two remaining knit sts off the cable needle.

Left leaning 2-stitch cable twist. Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold to front of work. Knit the next st, then knit the st on the cable needle.

Right leaning 2-stitch cable twist. Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold to back of work. Knit the next st, then knit the st on the cable needle.

Begin Bag Bottom

K1, Loosely BO 8 sts from side, BO 21 sts across long side, and BO 8 sts from second short side. K across remaining 23 sts. Turn and purl across. Work 7 more rows back and forth in st st, for a total of 9 rows. BO loosely, break yarn.

Seaming

Using a single strand of yarn, sew flap to bag bottom on 3 open sides. Use 1 full st as a seam allowance. This bulk will add weight and stability to bag base. Do not block.

Finishing

The canvas tote is used inside out to create a perfect, prefinished bag lining with minimal sewing. Cut the webbing handles off your tote bag, as close to the fabric edge as possible. Don't worry about the short pieces that remain.

Fit Lining

Slip your tote into your knitted bag, aligning the bag bases. The tote bag should stick out over the top of the knitted bag by about 2 inches. Fold the excess tote bag depth over to the inside of the tote so that the folded edge is even with the top of the knitted bag. Gently pull the canvas tote out of the knitted bag and turn it inside out. Neaten the folded edge so it is even all around.

Set Magnetic Snaps

Follow the manufacturer's instructions to attach the magnetic purse snap to your canvas liner at the centers of the long sides, about one

half inch down from the folded edge. Attach the snaps to the inner layer of your canvas bag- not through the cuffed fold. This way, the wrong side of the snap attachment is between canvas layers and will not rub against and abrade your knitted bag.

Sew Lining

Slip your liner back into your knitted bag and align the bags- the center of the large center cable should line up with the magnetic snaps, and the side centers should align. Using sturdy sewing thread and a large sewing needle, slip stitch the bags together at the top edge. Your cable cast on gives the knitted bag's top edge a twisted, rope-like top edge. Stitch just below this line, leaving about 1/4" of the knitted bag sticking up over the top of the canvas liner.

Attach Handles

Some handle sets come with metal hinges already attached, some do not. Attach your metal hinges if necessary. Determine the placement of your handle hinges; the bottom edge of the bamboo handles should butt against the top edge of the knitted bag.

Hold a small knitting needle between the bag and the hinge. Using a double strand of your sturdy sewing thread, sew over both the hinge and knitting needle. Sew through all layers, making 5-7 stitches across the hinge width. Make a knot and break your thread, hiding the knot and thread ends between the layers. Then, slip the knitting needle out. Thread a yarn needle with a single strand of yarn, and stitch over your thread stitches, sewing through the knitted layer only. The extra looseness created by sewing over the knitting needle allows you to stitch over the thread to hide it for a nicely finished appearance.

Blocking

Use only light steam or mist blocking if necessary after all steps are complete.

Congratulations, your bag is done!

Abbreviations							
		cm	centimeter(s)	P, p	purl	skp	sl, k, pssso: 1 st dec
"	inches	cn	cable needle	p2tog	purl 2 sts together	sl	slip
()	rep inst bet ()'s as many times as noted afterward	CO	cast on	pat	pattern	sl st	slip stitch(es)
*	rep inst foll single * as directed	cont	continue	pm	place marker	sl1k	slip 1 kwise
**	rep inst bet **'s as many times as noted after	dec	decrease(es)	pop	popcorn	sl1p	slip 1 pwise
[]	rep inst bet []'s as many times as noted after	dpn	double pointed needles	pr	previous row	SSK	sl, sl, k these 2 sts tog
alt	alternate	fl	front loop(s)	prev	previous	sssk	sl, sl, sl, k these 3 sts tog
approx	approximately	foll	follow(s)(ing)	pssso	pass slipped stitch over	st st	stockinette stitch
beg	begin/beginning	Inst	instructions	pwise	purlwise	sts	stitch(es)
bet	between	K, k	knit	R	row	tbl	through back loop
BO	bind off	k2tog	knit two sts together	rem	remain(ing)	tfl	through front loop
CA	color A	kwise	knitwise	rep	repeat	tog	together
CB	color B	LH	left hand	Rev st st	reverse stockinette stitch	WE	work even
CC	color C	lps	loops	RH	right hand	WS	wrong side
		m	meter	rnd(s)	round(s)	wyib	with yarn in back
		M1	make one stitch	RS	right side	wyif	with yarn in front
		MC	main color	sk	skip	yd(s)	yard(s)
		mm	millimeter(s)	sk2p	sl 1, k2tog, pass slipped stitch over	yfwd	yarn forward
		ndl(s)	needle(s)			yo	yarn over
		oz	ounce			yon	yarn over needle
		P up	pick up and purl			yrn	yarn around needle