

# The infamous Hobo Bag



*This has been my go-to bag since I first made it, back in 2006. The square base gives you plenty of nooks and crannies for tucking wallets, water bottles, and fresh fruit into, not to mention making laptop transportation easier. The handles are based on a sine curve, evenly distributing the downward force from the load inside along the handle's edge, allowing a thin but elegant shape near the top, and a hole easy to sling over your shoulder. The stripes appeared out of necessity - I was running out of the two colors I'd originally bought, and my LYS only had a complementary color, and so the third color was introduced. You use nearly all of the three skeins.*

## Materials:

3 skeins Rowan Felted Tweed (DK, 190 yds/50g, 5-6 sts/in.) – For my striped bag, I used 1 skein each of colors 133 – Midnight, 155 – Pickle, 167 – Maritime. Feel free to substitute a different yarn, adjusting needle size and being prepared for size variations.  
1 US size 4 24" circular needle  
1 set US size 4 DPNs  
Stitch holders (1 large, 1 small)

Gauge: approx. 5.5 sts/in stockinette in the round

Finished size: 28" long (from tip of handles to center bottom of bag), 36" circumference at widest point.

## Bag base and sides:

Using double pointed needles, CO 8 sts. Divide evenly onto 4 needles. Join into a loop by slipping the first stitch onto needle 4. Pull last st over first st and move the last stitch onto the Needle 1 (8 sts)

Round 1 (and all odd rows): Knit.

Round 2: [K1, M1], repeat to end (16 sts).

Round 4: [K1, M1, K3, M1], repeat to end (24 sts).

Round 6: [K1, M1, K5, M1], repeat to end (32 sts).

Round 8: [K1, M1, K7, M1], repeat to end (40 sts).

Round 10: [K1, M1, K9, M1], repeat to end (48 sts).

Continue in this manner, switching to circular needles when there are too many stitches to work comfortably on the DPNs, until you have 200 sts. Work should measure approx. 36 inches in circumference.

Work in stockinette (knit every row in the round) until body measures 8 inches long, or desired length before handles. Stripe if desired.



# The infamous Hobo Bag

## Handles:

Set up row 1: [k3 k2tog] 40 times (160 sts).  
Set up row 2: knit 1 round even (knit all stitches).

Place 80 stitches onto a stitch holder. Remaining stitches will be worked back and forth on needle.

Row 1: sl1, k1, k2tog, k2tog, k to last 6 sts, ssk, ssk, k2.  
Row 2: sl1, p to end.

Rows 3-10: Repeat rows 1 and 2 four more times (60 sts).

Row 11: sl1, k1, k2tog, k to last 4 sts, ssk, k2.  
Row 12: sl1, p to end.

Rows 13-30: Repeat rows 11-12 nine more times (40 sts).

Row 31: sl1, k1, k2tog, k to last 4 sts, ssk, k2.  
Row 32: sl1, p to end.  
Row 33: sl1, k to end.  
Row 34: sl1, p to end.

Rows 35-58: Repeat rows 31-34 six more times (26 sts).

Row 59: sl1, k1, k2tog, k until 4 remain, ssk, k2.  
Row 60: sl1, p to end.  
Row 61: sl1, k to end.  
Row 62: sl1, p to end.  
Row 63: sl1, k to end.  
Row 64: sl1, p to end.

Repeat rows 59-64 until 10 stitches remain.

Place sts on a stitch holder, and work the other side in the same manner. Using kitchener stitch, join the two handles. Line if desired.

## Key:

St(s) = stitch(es)

K = knit

P = purl

M1 = make one – with the left needle, pick up the horizontal piece of yarn between the stitch just worked and the next stitch to be worked. Knit this piece. If you knit through the front loop (as normal), you get a small hole which will make a decorative effect. If you knit through the back loop, you end up twisting the stitch, making a smaller, less noticeable increase. For an even more visible hole motif, YO instead of M1.

Sl1 = slip one – pass the stitch from the left needle to the right purlwise, without working the stitch.

k2tog = knit two together – insert the right needle into the front of the first two loops on the left needle, and knit them together as one.



# The infamous Hobo Bag

Ssk = slip, slip, knit – slip the first stitch on the left, then the second, both knitwise (insert needle as though to knit, then pass it to the right, twisting the stitch). Insert the left needle into the front of these two loops (now on the right needle) as though to knit, and knit the two stitches together. This reverses the overlap of stitches made by k2tog, and is worked in symmetrical decreases.

## About the Designer:

Katie Rose reads, writes, and knits in and around Boston, MA. You can find her problem-solving at Stitch House Dorchester, and in her spare time, working on a Ph.D in Russian Literature. Follow her knitting and rambling thoughts at [spinspin.wordpress.com](http://spinspin.wordpress.com).

