



Small Gusseted Bag



“Gansey” is the name given to the seamless, fine-knitted jumpers traditionally worn by fishermen and seamen around the British coast, up to the late 1950’s, to help keep them warm and dry at sea. They often had intricate patterning over all or part of the garment. These patterns were developed by individual knitters and passed down through families. Simple stitches were cleverly combined to create a huge variety of textured patterns that resembled aspects of the life of the fishing community.

The pattern on this small bag is adapted from one found on a gansey from a donor in the Rosemarkie area (pictured above). It includes diamonds and the double zig zag lines often called marriage lines. These patterns are part of our coastal heritage. Most ganseys have a diamond shaped underarm gusset for ease of movement, as they were generally close fitting. Side gussets have been included here as a feature.

This pattern is brought to you by the Moray Firth Gansey Project (2009-2012) which is researching gansey patterns traditionally used round the Moray Firth in the north east of Scotland, conserving old examples of these beautifully and cleverly constructed garments and recording local stories and traditions. The project will also make the patterns and knitting skills available to a new generation to use and enjoy through developing school and community knitting groups, and in a booklet and online pattern library. For more information, see our website www.gansey-mf.co.uk.



Materials: set of 4 double pointed needles size 2.75; approx 35gms gansey yarn or similar – the sample is knitted in a cotton yarn

Measurements: width: 13cm at top and bottom, 18cm at widest part of gusset; height 11cm

Symbols:

The chart shows one side of the bag

Blank boxes are stitches which appear as **knit** stitches on the right side of the work

O = stitches which appear as **purl** stitches on the right side of the work

Instructions

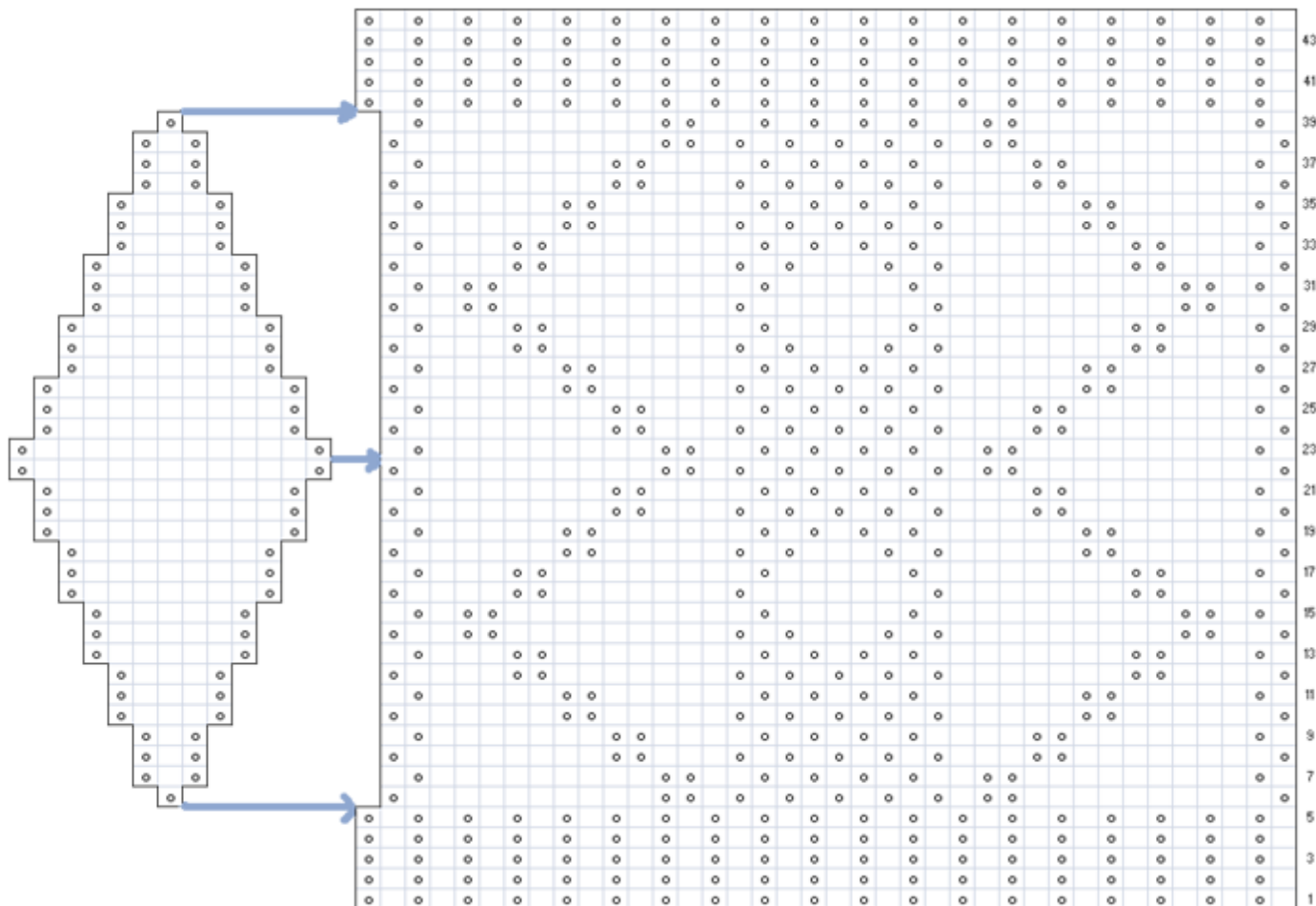
The bag is best worked in the round using a set of 4 needles or a small circular.

Cast on 76 stitches, and follow the chart starting with row 1 at the bottom right, repeating the pattern for the other side of the bag.

When working in the round every row will start at the right hand side.

The first 5 rows are worked in K1 P1 rib. Round 6 is where you start working the pattern and the gusset. For ease, the gusset is shown to the side of the chart. Work the increases on round 7 and every following 4th row till there are 11 K stitches between the P stitches outlining the gussets (96 stitches in total). Work 1 row then start the decreases.

***See note on working matching increases and decreases**



***Working matching increases:**

When working the gusset you can get a neater finish if you work your increases so that the stitches slope outwards on both sides and your decreases so that they slope inwards on both sides.

To get the **increases on the right side** of the gusset to **slope to the right**: pick up the horizontal bar between the purl seam stitch and the first gusset stitch by inserting the tip of your left hand needle from back to front, and knit into the front of it.

To get the **increases on the left side** of the gusset to **slope to the left** pick up the horizontal bar between the last gusset stitch and the purl seam stitch from front to back and knit into the back of it.

Working matching decreases:

To get the **decreases on the right** of the gusset to **slope to the left**, slip first two gusset stitches onto the right hand needle individually knitwise, then knit them together (SSK). NB: "slip 1, knit 1, pass slip stitch over" gives a very similar result.

On the **left side** of the gusset knit 2 together in the usual way, and the stitch will **slope to the right**.