



**Recycled Plastic Tote  
by, Katherine Heck  
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What inspired you to create the pattern? I was buried in plastic bags

**Materials:** plastic grocery bags (I used close to 100 bags)

Knitting Loom: regular gauge loom with at least 27 pegs. Markman farm regular gauge ADR knitting loom was used in sample.

Yarn: Plastic shopping bags (see instr. for prep) about 100 bags

Gauge: insert the number of stitches and rows worked on 4 x 4 inches swatch: about 8 stitches/15 rows on my sample, but gauge is not very important on this project.

Notions: waste yarn, crochet hook, stitch holder (optional)

Abbreviations: (see below)

BO

CO

RS

**Pattern Notes:**

This bag is knit on the wrong side. It is all done with e-wraps, so the purl will show on reverse. The handles are knit in one piece with the main section and the loose end attached much like you do the seam on a toe up sock. Sides are done separately and sewn on using a crochet hook to pull the loops through.

**Instructions:**

**Bag prep:**

Lay a bag out smoothing out the wrinkles a bit. Fold in it half vertically, then in half again. Cut the bottom 1-2 inches off and discard (This removes the bottom seam). Cut horizontally into strips about 1 ½ inch wide. I usually get about 5 useable strips (They are actually loops). None of these needs to be exact.

Now join your loops together. If you ever made chains out of rubber bands as a child this works the same way. Take the end of one loop and poke it through another loop. Then fold it back over and pull it through its own loop. It's much simpler than it sounds. You can make a big ball of this yarn up ahead of time and add to it as you need more.

**Knitting:**

CO pegs 2-13 with the waste yarn. E-wrap a couple rows.

**First Handle:**

1. Put the starting loop of your plastic yarn on peg 2, then E-wrap 3-13 and knit over.
2. Handle Decrease section begins. Move loops on pegs 2 to 3 and 13 to 12. treating these double loops as one, E-wrap 3-12
3. Move loop 3 to 4 and 12 to 11. e-wrap 11-4.
4. Move loop 4 to 5 and 11 to 10. E-wrap 5-10.
5. Move 5 to 6 and 10 to 9. E-wrap 9-6.
6. handle: E-wrap pegs 6-9 for 38 rows.
7. Increase section begins: E-wrap pegs 5-10 knitting over all pegs with 2 loops.
8. E-wrap 11-4
9. E-wrap 3-12
10. E-wrap 13-2
11. Find the first row of e-wraps using the plastic loops. Use the waste yarn to help. Place those loops on pegs 15-26. E-wrap 1-27 and knit over all pegs with 2 loops. You have now finished your first handle.

**Main body:**

1. E-wrap 1-27 about 30 inches. That was 96 stitches for me.
2. BO peg 1. E-wrap 2-13.

**Second Handle:**

1. Repeat Instructions # 2 to 10.
2. Take loops from pegs 2-13 and place them on pegs 15-26 (a stitch holder or even crochet hook will be helpful). Knit over pegs 2-15. Second handle is finished.
3. BO pegs 14-27.

**Side Panel( make 2):**

1. Cast on 12 pegs
2. E-wrap 45 rows
3. Bo all pegs

**Finishing:**

1. Remove waste yarn from the first handle.
2. With the E-wrap sides together stitch the sides to the main body. The main section forms front bottom and sides. I suggest sewing the bottoms first, lining up the centers and easing your way around the corners and up to the top edges. Use more bag loops for your thread. Unless you have a very large eyed needle (and I didn't) you can use a crochet hook to pull the loops through the stitches.
3. Weave in the ends of your sewing loops.