



MAKE A PILGRIM BAG

Or, A Historically Accurate Place to Hide Your Phone

By Kat Zamboni, Shire of Roxbury Mill

Agenda

- What is a pilgrim bag?
- Squarish double bag
- Trapezoid shape
- How were they decorated?
- Hand-sewing v. machine sewing
- Sew-Along

What is a pilgrim bag?

- A scrip was a small medieval bag or purse, which was used to carry food, utensils, or money. Scrips could vary in size and shape, and the flaps were decorated according to the wearer.
- Numerous medieval illustrations show pilgrims with scrips that have a shoulder strap.
- Material
 - Wool (best with a linen lining, because wool will stretch)
 - Linen
 - Leather
 - SCA Compleat Anachronist - Leathercraft for Common Usage in the [SCA Marketplace](#)
- See [Medieval and Renaissance Material Culture: Pilgrims' Bags](#)

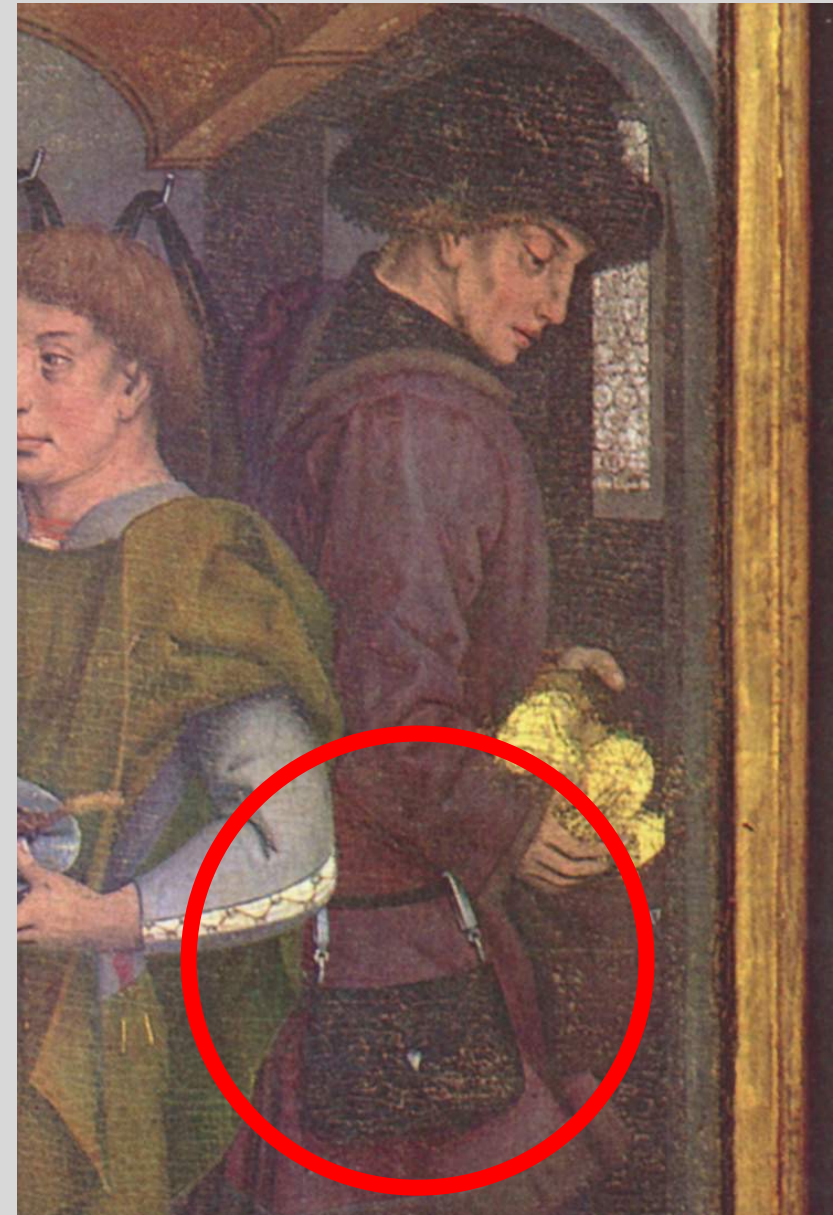
Squarish Double Bag



- [Pilgrims](#)
- 1120-30
Stone
Cathedral of Saint-Lazare, Autun
- The picture shows a detail of the tympanum in the Cathedral of Saint-Lazare



[Meal of the Pilgrims](#) by
Friedrich
Herlin, 1466



Die Pilgertasche

(Leinen, mit Wollstoff gefüttert,
Jacobsmuschel und Schlüsselreplik))



Kathedrale Santiago de Compostela ?



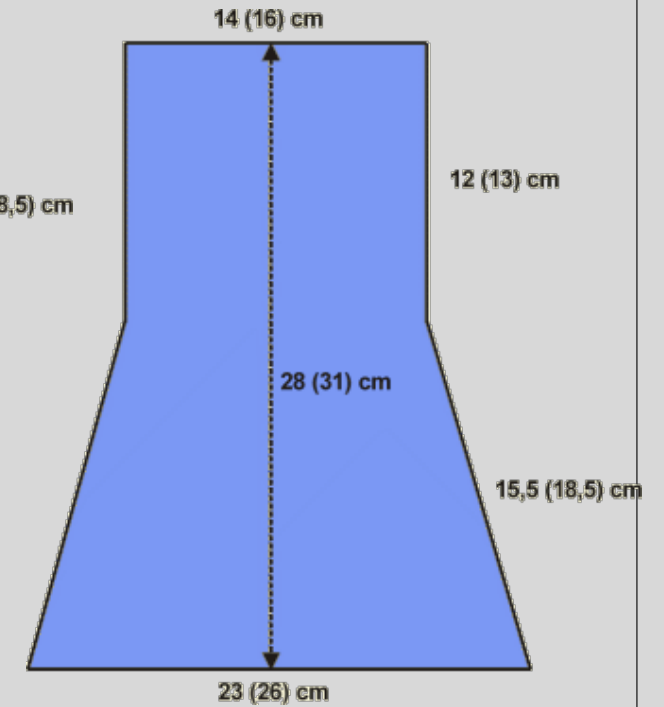
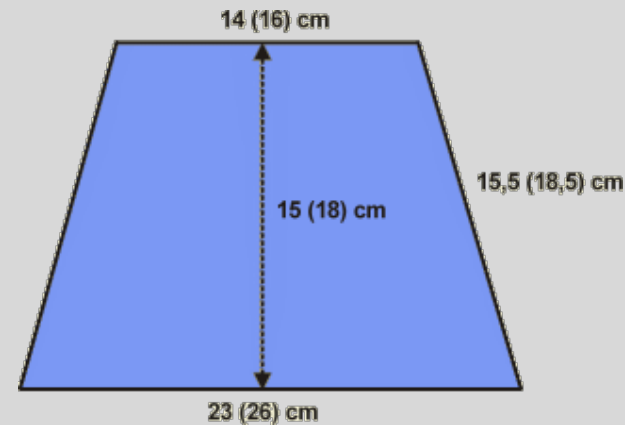
Museum Hameln

Trapezoid Shape

- [Mittelalterliche Umhängetasche](#)
- [Trapezoidal Bag](#)
- [A Pilgrim's Alms Satchel](#)



the Gibeonites suing for peace with Joshua, from leaf 10 of the [Macejowski Bible](#), Poland, ~1250 C.E.



How were they decorated?

- Embroidery

- See [Cunnan: Embroidery](#) for SCA links and resources.
- Easier to embroider if you do it before sewing the bag together.
- Find designs on [scribal coloring pages](#) or from history such as [celtic knots](#) or embroider [calligraphy letters](#).

- Embroidered trim and badges

- Embroider on a separate piece of fabric or create a trim and hand sew it to the bag, and then you can remove the trim or badge before washing the bag or move it to a new bag.

- Beads and shells

- [12 Basic Bead Embroidery Stitches](#)
- [Beadwork Embroidery](#)

- Fabric painting

- [Painting on linen info and resources](#)
- SCA Compleat Anachronist - Techniques of Medieval and Renaissance Painting in the [SCA Marketplace](#)

- Tassels

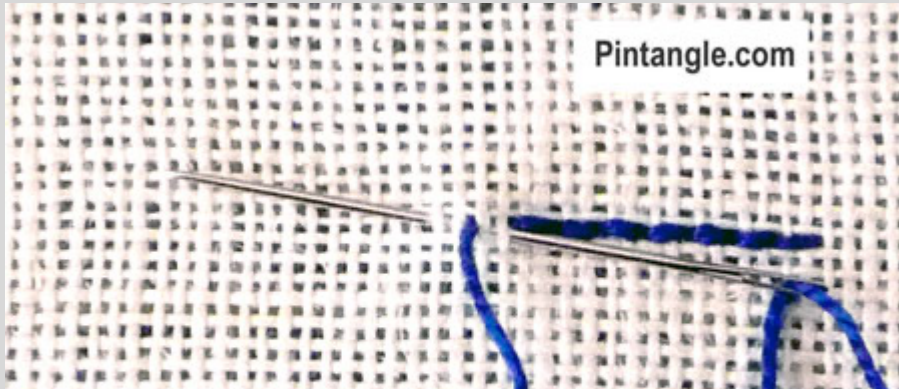
- [How to Make Tassels](#)



[Woman's cap](#)
1500-1525
Italian, Venice

Hand sewing v. Machine sewing

- For a functional bag, machine sewing can be stronger.
- If you are entering an A&S event, you should use historical methods, which means hand-sewing.
- My preferred method for SCA non-entries: machine sew the hidden stitches, and hand sew anything visible.
- Hand stitches
 - Backstitch is the strongest. See the [Crafty Maria tutorial](#) for pictures and stories about backstitches.



Sew-Along

Note: In sewing, clothing can be off by ½ inch and be fine. Bags can be off by as much as 1 inch and be fine.

1. Gather equipment and supplies.

1. Fabric: 60 inches by 14 inches – Cut 1

2. Fabric: 60 inches by 5 inches – Cut 1

3. Contrasting thread

4. Needle

5. Thread scissors

Sew-Along, cont.

2. Fold the smaller fabric in half along the long length. Baste down the long length.
 3. Safety pin the ends together to make a loop. Set aside.
 4. Spread the large piece of fabric out on the table.
 5. Fold over the short edges twice to create a ½" hem and baste. (You may not need to if the selvage is the edge.)
 6. Fold over both ends to almost meet in the middle, with two inches separating them.
 7. Baste around the edges.
 8. Drape the bag over the strap so the strap supports the middle of the bag with a pocket on each side.
 9. Adjust the safety pin on the strap until the bag feels right, resting on your hip. Measure the length of the strap.
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9. Sew the basted seams tightly so the seams can bear weight.
 10. Finish the raw edges and turn the bag inside out so the seam edges are hidden.
 11. Turn the strap inside out and hand sew into a loop. Be careful about the length to match your earlier measurement.
 12. Sew the strap to the bag. Insert a piece of leather or felted wool between the strap and bag to stiffen it if you wish.