HARVEST

PUMPKIN BACKPACK

Complete Digital Knitting Pattern



DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY — NO PHYSICAL ITEM WILL BE SHIPPED

Chunky pumpkin-shaped backpack with rounded flap, leafy crown, stem and adjustable knitted straps

1. Digital Download Notice

This file is a knitting pattern for making the pictured pumpkin-inspired backpack. It is not a finished backpack, and no physical item will be shipped.

All finished measurements in this pattern are calculated design targets. Your result can vary with yarn fibre, exact yarn thickness, tension, blocking, strap reinforcement and how the bag is loaded.

Important: Print or view the pattern at a comfortable scale. No pattern piece in this file must be printed at exact size; all construction is worked from written stitch and row counts.

Pattern at a glance

Skill level	Advanced beginner to intermediate
Main method	Body worked in the round; flap, leaves, tabs and straps worked flat; stem worked in the round
Shape	10 sculpted pumpkin ribs with a narrowed top opening
Closure	Rounded flap + knitted I-cord button loop + large button
Straps	2 adjustable knitted straps with 30 mm tri-glide sliders and knitted lower anchor loops
Decor	8 green leaves + 1 upright stem attached to the flap crown
Orientation	Gutter 10 immediately before BOR is the rear reference; centre back and centre front run through opposite raised ribs

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2. Finished Measurements

Measurements below describe the intended finished proportions when the stated gauge is matched and the pumpkin ribs are shaped evenly.

Feature	Design target
Body width	about 30–32 cm / 11.8–12.6 in
Body height to rim	about 25–27 cm / 9.8–10.6 in
Body depth when rounded	about 17–19 cm / 6.7–7.5 in
Top opening circumference	about 45–47 cm / 17.7–18.5 in
Flap	about 23 cm wide × 11–12 cm deep
Leaf, each	about 9–10 cm long × 5–6 cm wide
Stem	about 6 cm tall × 2.5 cm diameter
Long shoulder strap, each	about 2.6–2.8 cm wide × 70–74 cm long before adjustment
Upper strap tab, each	about 5 × 5 cm
Lower anchor loop strip, each	about 2.6–2.8 cm wide × 10–11 cm long before folding

Sizing note: This is a compact backpack silhouette. The rounded pumpkin body is deliberately wider through the middle than at the opening.

3. Materials and Tools

Item	Amount / specification
Orange yarn	Bulky / #5 yarn, approximately 350–420 g total
Green yarn	Bulky / #5 yarn, approximately 60–80 g total
Main needles	6.5 mm circular needle, 40–60 cm cable; matching DPNs or magic-loop setup for the small base
Accessory needles	5.0 mm straight/circular needles; matching DPNs for stem
Hardware	1 wooden or wood-look button, 30–35 mm; 2 metal tri-glide sliders, 30 mm

Item	Amount / specification
Strap reinforcement	About 1.5 m of 20–25 mm cotton twill tape or grosgrain ribbon, recommended for a functional backpack
Stem filling	A very small amount of polyester stuffing or clean yarn scraps
Notions	Tapestry needle, locking stitch marker, removable markers, pins/clips, scissors and measuring tape

Choose a smooth, firm bulky yarn that shows knit stitches clearly. A wool/acrylic blend or sturdy acrylic works well for the structured ribbed look. Very soft chenille yarn is not recommended for this design because it hides the purl gutters and may stretch at the straps.

4. Gauge

Main body / flap	13 sts × 18 rounds/rows = 10 cm / 4 in in stockinette on 6.5 mm needles
Straps / leaves / tabs / stem	15 sts × 20 rows/rounds = 10 cm / 4 in on 5.0 mm needles

Gauge is measured relaxed and lightly blocked, without stretching the fabric. Exact gauge affects the finished size, flap reach and strap length. If your gauge is looser, use a smaller needle; if tighter, use a larger needle.

Do not flatten the pumpkin ribs: When blocking, shape the body by hand and keep the purl gutters recessed. Heavy pressing can remove the sculpted pumpkin effect.

5. Abbreviations

BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CO	cast on
DPN(s)	double-pointed needle(s)
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
kfb	knit into front and back of the same stitch; 1 stitch increased
m1L	make 1 left: lift the bar between stitches from front to back and knit through the back loop
m1R	make 1 right: lift the bar between stitches from back to front and knit through the front loop
p	purl
p2tog	purl 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
Rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sl1	slip 1 stitch purlwise
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, return both to left needle and knit together through back loops; 1 stitch decreased

st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side
wyib	with yarn in back
wyif	with yarn in front

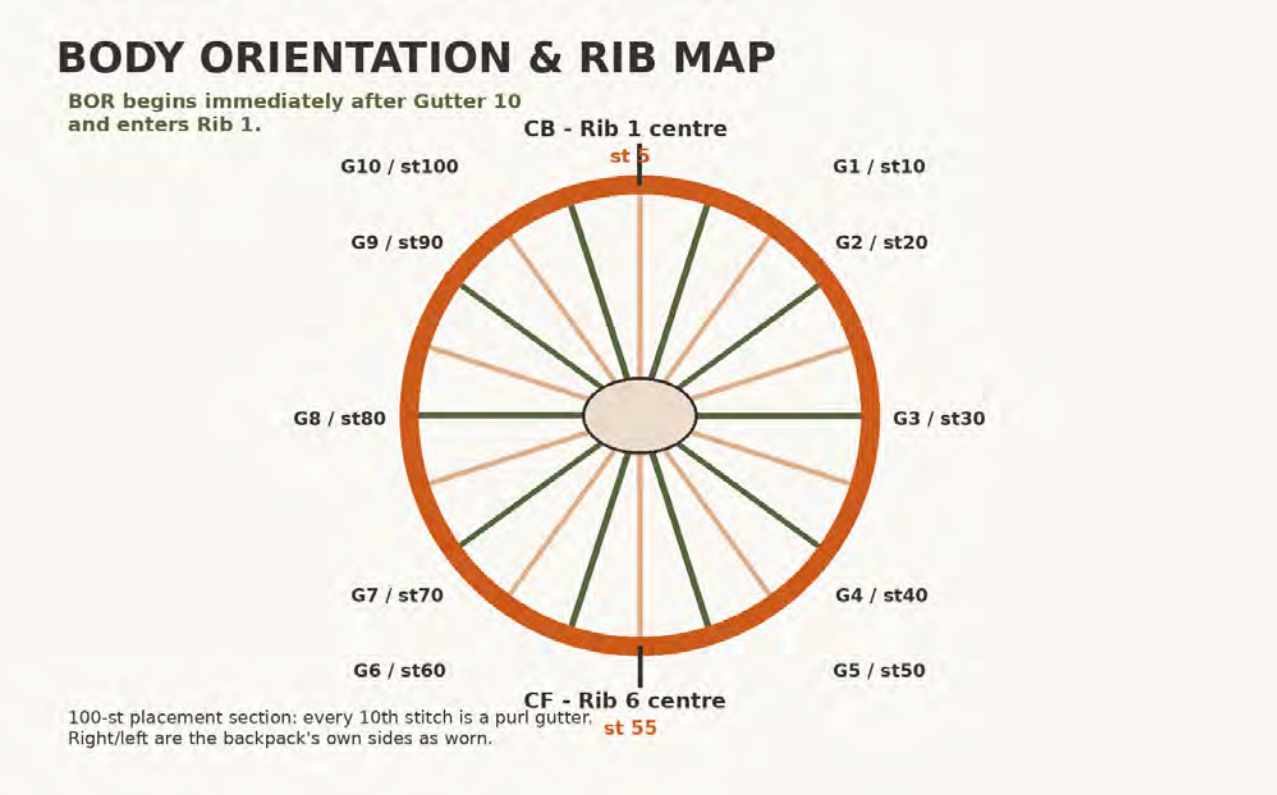
6. Construction Overview

The body starts at the centre of the base and is worked upward in the round. Ten repeated wedges create ten pumpkin sections, with one purl gutter between sections. The top is decreased to a smaller opening, then finished with a firm garter rim.

The rounded orange flap is knitted flat and edged with a separate I-cord. Eight green leaves and one stuffed ribbed stem are sewn to the outer flap near the hinge so the crown lifts with the flap and does not block the opening.

Two long knitted shoulder straps are secured beneath square upper tabs on the back. Two short knitted anchor loops sit lower on the back/side quadrants. Each long strap runs through a tri-glide, through its lower loop, and back through the tri-glide for adjustment.

Orientation rule: Right and left mean the backpack's own right and left as it is worn. Gutter 10 is the purl stitch immediately before BOR and remains the rear reference gutter. In the 100-st body section, centre back (CB) is the centre of raised Rib 1 at st 5, and centre front (CF) is the centre of opposite raised Rib 6 at st 55. Keep the same BOR marker for the entire body.



Use this orientation for all placement instructions.

7. Complete Written Pattern

A. Pumpkin body — make 1

Use orange yarn and 6.5 mm needles. Start on DPNs or with magic loop; change to the circular needle when the stitch count is comfortable. CO 10 sts, distribute evenly, join to work in the round without twisting, and place BOR marker.

Rnd 1: kfb in every st around. **[20 sts]**

Rnd 2: (k1, p1) 10 times. **[20 sts]**

Rnd 3: (kfb, p1) 10 times. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 4: (k2, p1) 10 times. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 5: (k1, kfb, p1) 10 times. **[40 sts]**

Rnd 6: (k3, p1) 10 times. **[40 sts]**

Rnd 7: (k2, kfb, p1) 10 times. **[50 sts]**

Rnd 8: (k4, p1) 10 times. **[50 sts]**

Rnd 9: (k3, kfb, p1) 10 times. **[60 sts]**

Rnd 10: (k5, p1) 10 times. **[60 sts]**

Rnd 11: (k4, kfb, p1) 10 times. **[70 sts]**

Rnd 12: (k6, p1) 10 times. **[70 sts]**

Rnd 13: (k5, kfb, p1) 10 times. **[80 sts]**

Rnd 14: (k7, p1) 10 times. **[80 sts]**

Rnd 15: (k6, kfb, p1) 10 times. **[90 sts]**

Rnd 16: (k8, p1) 10 times. **[90 sts]**

Rnd 17: (k7, kfb, p1) 10 times. **[100 sts]**

Rnd 18: (k9, p1) 10 times. **[100 sts]**

Rnds 19–52: (k9, p1) 10 times on every round. **[100 sts each rnd]**

From Rnd 18 through Rnd 52 there are exactly 10 raised ribs separated by 10 purl gutters. Every 10th stitch is a purl gutter. Gutter 10 is st 100 immediately before BOR and remains the rear reference gutter. Centre back (CB) is the centre of raised Rib 1 at st 5; centre front (CF) is the centre of opposite raised Rib 6 at st 55.

Rnd 53: (k3, k2tog, k4, p1) 10 times. **[90 sts]**

Rnd 54: (k8, p1) 10 times. **[90 sts]**

Rnd 55: (k3, k2tog, k3, p1) 10 times. **[80 sts]**

Rnd 56: (k7, p1) 10 times. **[80 sts]**

Rnd 57: (k2, k2tog, k3, p1) 10 times. **[70 sts]**

Rnd 58: (k6, p1) 10 times. **[70 sts]**

Rnd 59: (k2, k2tog, k2, p1) 10 times. **[60 sts]**

Rnd 60: (k5, p1) 10 times. **[60 sts]**

Top rim

Rnd 61: purl all sts. **[60 sts]**

Rnd 62: knit all sts. **[60 sts]**

Rnd 63: purl all sts. **[60 sts]**

Rnd 64: knit all sts. **[60 sts]**

BO all 60 sts knitwise, loosely enough that the opening remains flexible. Weave in the base cast-on tail by running it through the original 10 cast-on loops and drawing the tiny centre opening closed.

Reference-matching shape: The 10 purl gutters are the visible pumpkin valleys. Do not sew them closed. Optional internal shaping cords in Section 9 can deepen the ribs without filling the bag.

B. Rounded flap — make 1

Use orange yarn and 6.5 mm needles. Work flat. The cast-on edge is the straight hinge edge that will be sewn to the back half of the opening.

CO 30 sts.

Row 1 (RS): k30. **[30 sts]**

Row 2 (WS): p30. **[30 sts]**

Row 3: k30. **[30 sts]**

Row 4: p30. **[30 sts]**

Row 5: k1, ssk, k24, k2tog, k1. **[28 sts]**

Row 6: p28. **[28 sts]**

Row 7: k1, ssk, k22, k2tog, k1. **[26 sts]**

Row 8: p26. **[26 sts]**

Row 9: k1, ssk, k20, k2tog, k1. **[24 sts]**

Row 10: p24. **[24 sts]**

Row 11: k1, ssk, k18, k2tog, k1. **[22 sts]**

Row 12: p22. **[22 sts]**

Row 13: k1, ssk, k16, k2tog, k1. **[20 sts]**

Row 14: p20. **[20 sts]**

Row 15: k1, ssk, k14, k2tog, k1. **[18 sts]**

Row 16: p18. **[18 sts]**

Row 17: k1, ssk, k12, k2tog, k1. **[16 sts]**

Row 18: p16. **[16 sts]**

Row 19: k1, ssk, ssk, k6, k2tog, k2tog, k1. **[12 sts]**

Row 20: p12. **[12 sts]**

Row 21: BO all 12 sts knitwise. This is the centre of the rounded free edge.

C. Flap I-cord trim — make 1

Use orange yarn and 5.0 mm DPNs. CO 3 sts.

Rows 1–72: k3; do not turn. Slide the 3 sts to the opposite end of the DPN, bring the working yarn firmly across the back and k3 again. **[3 sts each row]**

BO 3 sts. Target length about 36 cm. Sew the I-cord around the left side, rounded free edge and right side of the flap. Leave the straight cast-on hinge edge untrimmed.

D. Button loop — make 1

Use orange yarn and 5.0 mm DPNs. CO 3 sts.

Rows 1–18: work I-cord exactly as for the flap trim. **[3 sts each row]**

BO 3 sts. Fold the cord into a loop. Sew both ends securely to the WS at the centre of the flap free edge, directly behind the 12-st bind-off edge. The loop should project about 4 cm below the flap before it is placed over the button.

E. Green leaves — make 8 identical pieces

Use green yarn and 5.0 mm needles. Work flat. CO 3 sts. The cast-on point becomes the outer leaf tip; the final 3-st bind-off edge is the narrow base hidden beneath the stem.

Row 1 (RS): k1, m1L, k1, m1R, k1. **[5 sts]**

Row 2 (WS): p5. **[5 sts]**

Row 3: k1, m1L, k3, m1R, k1. **[7 sts]**

Row 4: p7. **[7 sts]**

Row 5: k1, m1L, k5, m1R, k1. **[9 sts]**

Row 6: p9. **[9 sts]**

Row 7: k9. **[9 sts]**

Row 8: p9. **[9 sts]**

Row 9: k9. **[9 sts]**

Row 10: p9. **[9 sts]**

Row 11: k1, ssk, k3, k2tog, k1. **[7 sts]**

Row 12: p7. **[7 sts]**

Row 13: k7. **[7 sts]**

Row 14: p7. **[7 sts]**

Row 15: k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1. **[5 sts]**

Row 16: p5. **[5 sts]**

Row 17: k1, ssk, k2tog. **[3 sts]**

Row 18: p3. **[3 sts]**

Row 19: BO all 3 sts. Weave in the tip tail; leave the base tail about 25 cm long for sewing.

F. Ribbed stem — make 1

Use green yarn and 5.0 mm DPNs. CO 12 sts, join in the round and place BOR marker.

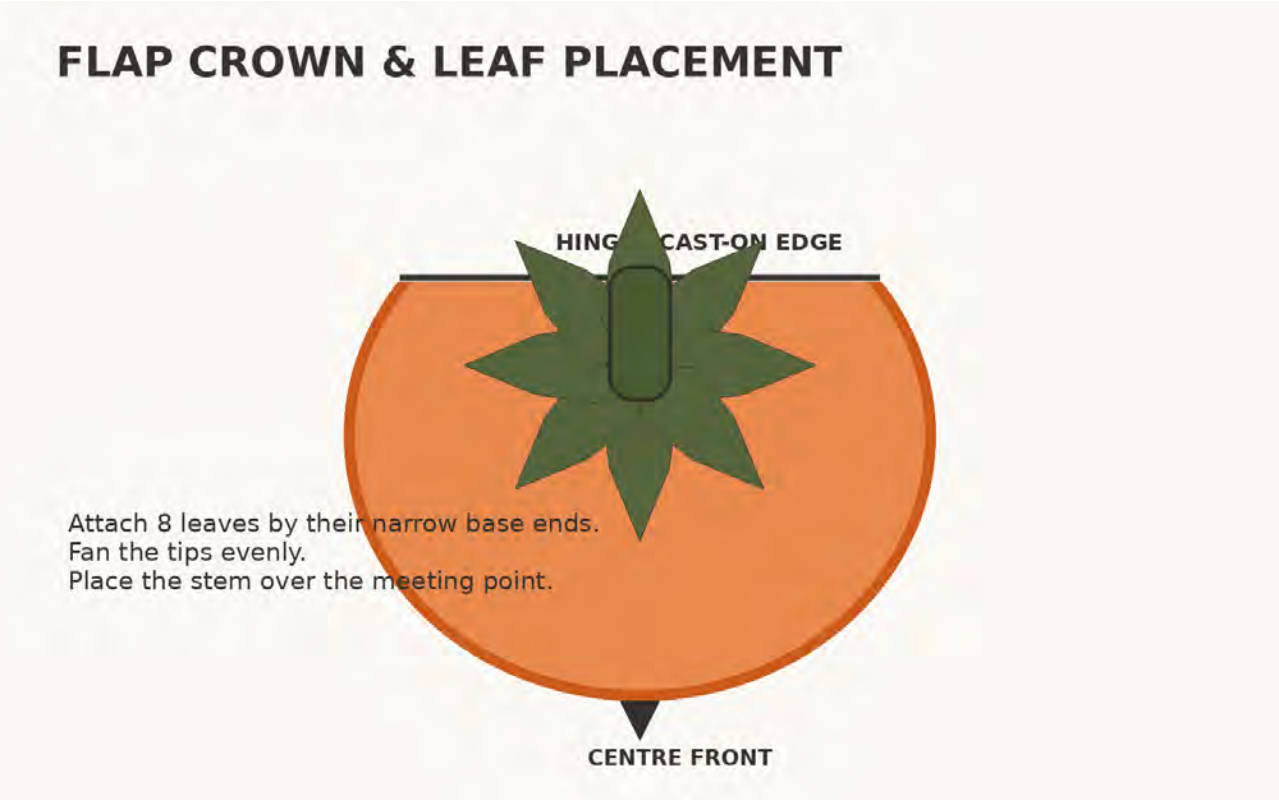
Rnds 1–12: (k2, p2) 3 times. **[12 sts each rnd]**

After Rnd 12, insert a small amount of stuffing or clean yarn scraps. Fill only enough for the stem to stand; keep the base soft enough to sew flat to the flap.

Rnd 13: (k2tog, p2tog) 3 times. **[6 sts]**

Rnd 14: k2tog around. **[3 sts]**

Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 3 sts, draw closed and secure. Leave the cast-on tail for sewing the stem base.



Crown layout on the RS of the flap. Centre front is the free rounded edge.

G. Long shoulder straps — make 2

Use orange yarn and 5.0 mm needles. A hidden twill-tape or grosgrain backing is strongly recommended to reduce stretch in use. CO 4 sts.

Row 1 (RS): sl1 purlwise wyib, k3. **[4 sts]**

Row 2 (WS): sl1 purlwise wyif, p2, k1. **[4 sts]**

Rows 3–144: repeat Rows 1–2 in order. **[4 sts each row]**

BO 4 sts. Target length is about 70–74 cm and width about 2.6–2.8 cm. Make the second strap to the same measured length. If using reinforcement tape, cut two pieces matching the relaxed knitted strap length and hand-sew one to the WS of each strap along both long edges.

H. Upper strap tabs — make 2

Use orange yarn and 5.0 mm needles. CO 8 sts.

Rows 1, 3, 5, 7, 9: k8. **[8 sts each row]**

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8, 10: p8. **[8 sts each row]**

BO 8 sts. Leave a long tail for sewing. These square tabs cover and reinforce the top ends of the long shoulder straps.

I. Lower anchor loop strips — make 2

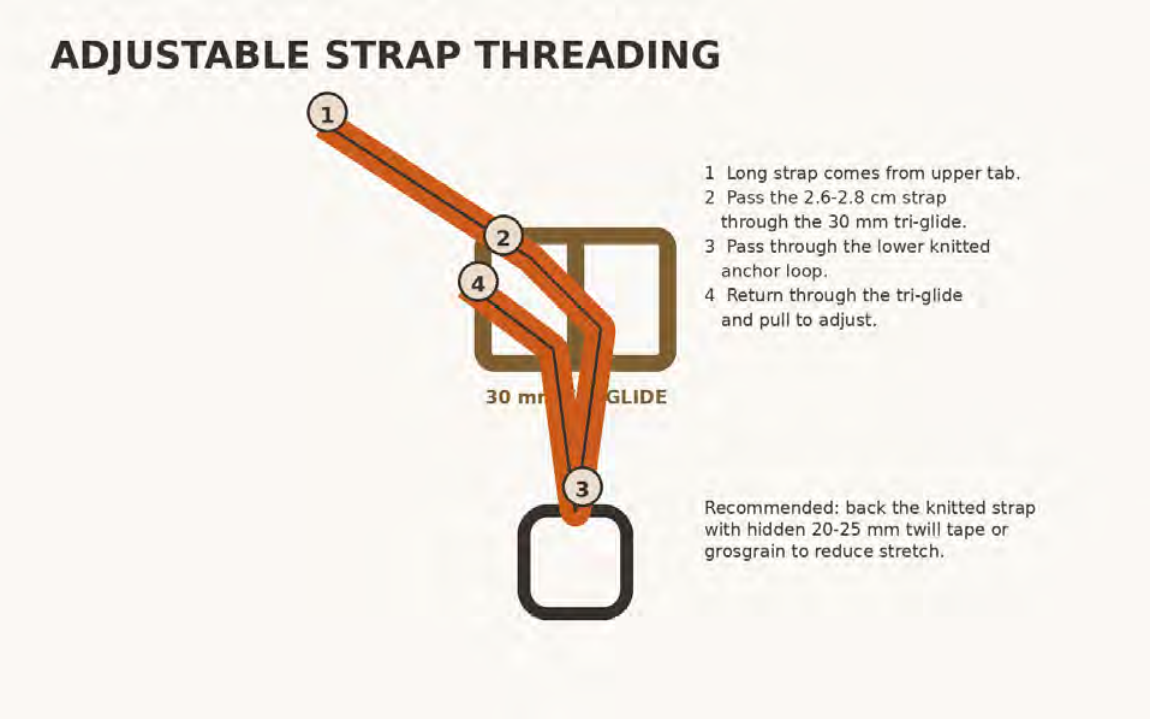
Use orange yarn and 5.0 mm needles. CO 4 sts.

Row 1 (RS): sl1 purlwise wyib, k3. **[4 sts]**

Row 2 (WS): sl1 purlwise wyif, p2, k1. **[4 sts]**

Rows 3–22: repeat Rows 1–2 in order. **[4 sts each row]**

BO 4 sts. Each strip should measure about 2.6–2.8 cm wide × 10–11 cm long. Fold each strip into a U-shaped loop during assembly; both ends are sewn firmly to the body while the central loop remains free for the long strap to pass through.

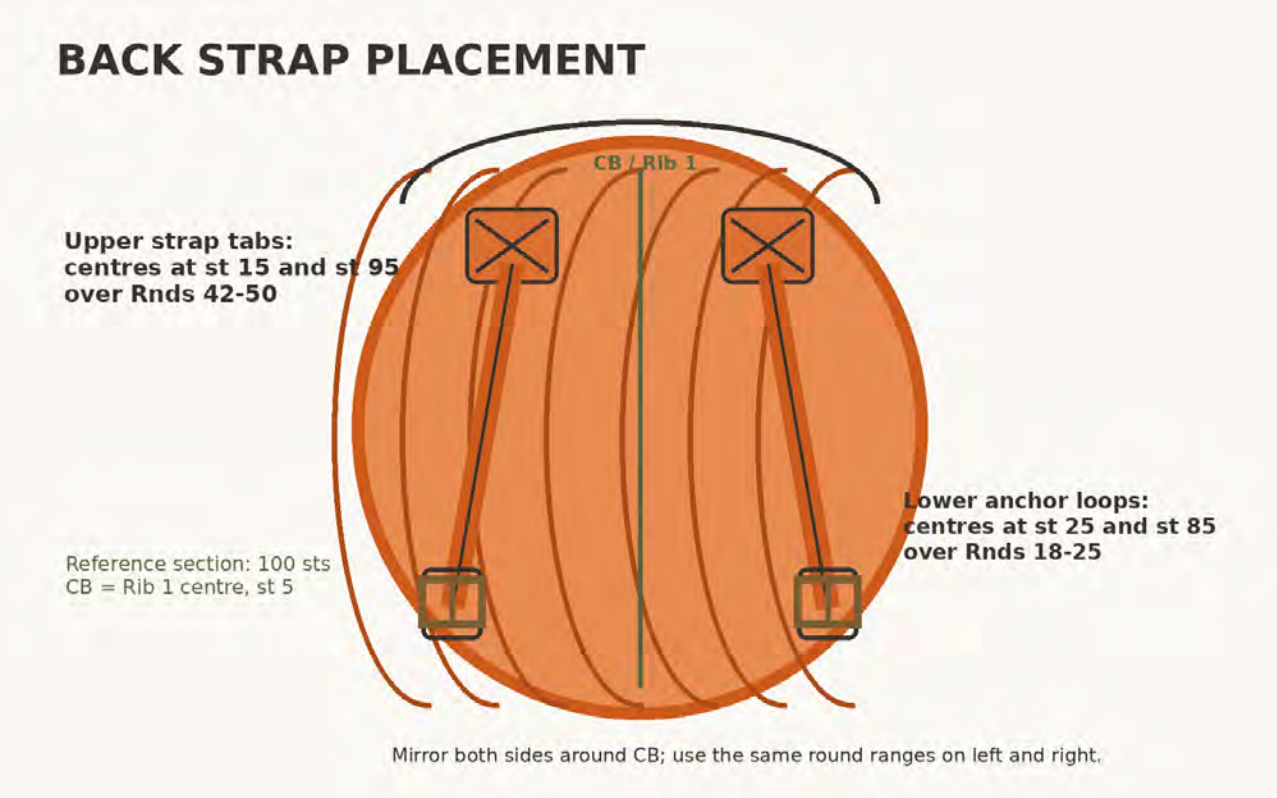


8. Placement Maps

Body landmarks

Use the 100-st body section between Rnds 18–52 for placement. Every 10th stitch is a purl gutter. Gutter 10 is st 100 immediately before BOR and remains the rear reference gutter; use the stitch coordinates below for the raised-rib centre lines and hardware placement.

Centre back (CB)	Centre of raised Rib 1, st 5. Gutter 10 / st 100 immediately before BOR remains the rear reference gutter
Centre front (CF)	Centre of opposite raised Rib 6, st 55
Upper strap tabs	Centre at st 15 and st 95; vertical range Rnds 42–50
Lower anchor loops	Centre at st 25 and st 85; vertical range Rnds 18–25
Front button	Centre at CF / st 55, target Rnd 37; fine-tune by closing the flap without stretching and marking through the loop
Flap hinge	At the 60-st rim, CB is the centre of the first k5 rib, approximately st 3. Sew the 30-st cast-on edge across rim sts 49–60 plus sts 1–18



Back view: tabs and lower loops are mirrored around centre back.

Flap crown placement

Lay the finished flap RS up with the cast-on hinge edge at the top and the rounded button-loop edge at the bottom. Mark the centre width of the flap about 3 cm below the hinge edge. This is the stem centre.

- Leaf 1: point toward CF / 6 o’clock.
- Leaf 2: point toward about 7:30.
- Leaf 3: point toward about 9 o’clock.
- Leaf 4: point toward about 10:30.
- Leaf 5: point toward about 12 o’clock.
- Leaf 6: point toward about 1:30.
- Leaf 7: point toward about 3 o’clock.
- Leaf 8: point toward about 4:30.

Overlap only the narrow leaf bases beneath the stem. Keep the outer two-thirds of each leaf free so the points remain visible. Sew the stem last over the meeting point of the eight leaves.

9. Shaping and Structure

Pumpkin rib shaping — optional but recommended for the rounded reference look

The purl gutters already create ten ribs. For a deeper sculpted effect, add internal shaping strands after the body is complete and before the straps are mounted.

- Cut 10 orange yarn strands, each about 55–60 cm long.
- Working inside the bag, anchor one strand near the base at the lower end of a purl gutter.
- Run the strand upward inside the bag, catching only WS loops immediately beside that gutter every 3–4 rounds, ending around Rnd 52.
- Gently tension until the gutter pulls inward and the neighbouring knit section rounds outward. Secure without pulling the rim downward.
- Repeat for all 10 gutters using equal tension. The body must still open freely and sit flat at the base.

Do not over-cinch: The bag should look pumpkin-shaped without becoming closed or puckered. Equal tension across all 10 ribs matters more than maximum depth.

Stuffing

Do not stuff the backpack body, flap, leaves or straps. Only the green stem receives a small amount of filling so it stands upright. Keep the stem lightly filled rather than rigid.

Blocking and shaping

Lightly block the body to the target width and height. Shape the base round, press each raised knit section outward by hand, and pinch the purl gutters inward. Block the flap flat with a soft rounded edge. Shape the leaves individually with pointed tips. Follow the yarn manufacturer's heat and care instructions.

10. Assembly Instructions

Step 1 — Finish the body

Weave in body yarn tails. Add the optional 10 internal shaping strands if desired. Lightly block and dry completely before mounting the flap or straps.

Step 2 — Finish the flap before attaching it

Sew the I-cord trim around the two side edges and the rounded free edge. Sew the button loop to the WS at the exact centre of the free edge. Pin all 8 leaves to the RS using the crown map, sew only the narrow bases securely, then sew the stem over the meeting point. Bury all leaf and stem tails on the WS of the flap.

Step 3 — Attach the flap hinge

Place the body with CB facing you. At the 60-st rim, CB is the centre of the first k5 rib, approximately st 3. Match the 30 flap cast-on stitches across rim sts 49–60 plus sts 1–18. Pin first, check that the flap falls symmetrically over CF, then sew the hinge edge firmly with orange yarn. Do not stitch the side edges of the flap to the rim.

Step 4 — Place the front button

Close the flap naturally without stretching it. Pull the I-cord loop straight down and mark the centre of the button through the loop. Target CF / st 55 around Rnd 37, then fine-tune the exact position from the unstretched loop. Sew the 30–35 mm button through several body stitches with strong matching thread or yarn. Recheck that the loop closes without strain.

Step 5 — Install upper strap ends and tabs

Lay the body back-up. Centre one long strap end and upper tab at st 15 and the other at st 95, with about 2 cm of each strap end extending under its upper tab. Position tabs across Rnds 42–50. Pin both sides and confirm equal spacing from CB / Rib 1 centre at st 5.

Sew around each tab as a square, then sew an X from corner to corner through the tab, strap end and body. If using hidden reinforcement tape, include the reinforced strap end in this seam. Avoid pulling so tightly that the pumpkin rib collapses.

Step 6 — Install lower anchor loops

Fold each 22-row strip into a U with a free central loop about 3.5–4 cm deep. Centre one lower anchor loop at st 25 and the other at st 85, spanning approximately Rnds 18–25. Sew the two ends of each strip firmly to the body while leaving the central loop open.

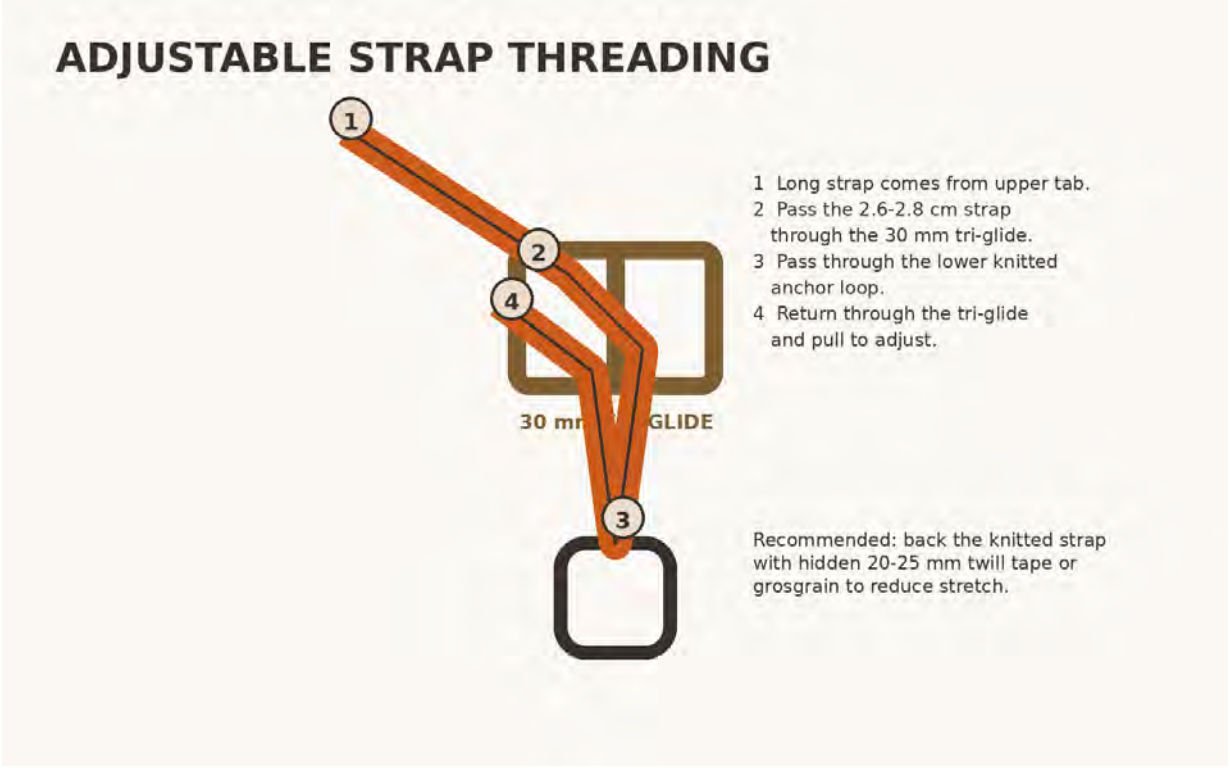
Step 7 — Add the sliders and thread straps

For each side, take the free end of the long strap down toward the lower anchor. Pass it through the 30 mm tri-glide, then through the knitted lower anchor loop, then back up through the tri-glide. Pull the tail to adjust. Repeat on the opposite side in mirror image.

Adjust both straps to equal wearable length. Fold the final 2 cm of each free strap end to the WS and stitch it down as a small stop so the end cannot accidentally pull completely through the slider.

Step 8 — Final finishing

Bury all remaining tails inside the body. Remove placement markers and pins. Open and close the flap several times by hand to confirm that the leaf crown moves with the flap and the stem does not obstruct the opening. Check that no reinforcing tape or yarn tails are visible from the outside.



11. Final Visual Checklist

- Exactly 10 pumpkin ribs are visible and the purl gutters are evenly spaced.
- The centre-front rib aligns with the button and centre of the flap.
- The flap hinge is centred across the back half of the opening and the flap sits level when closed.
- The I-cord trim follows the rounded flap edge without twisting or puckering.
- All 8 leaves are present, visibly fanned around the stem, with no missing or doubled placement.
- The stem stands upright and is centred over the leaf bases.
- The two upper tabs are mirrored and the two lower anchor loops sit at equal heights.
- Both long straps are the same finished length before adjustment and both sliders face the same way.
- The button loop closes over the button without pulling the flap off-centre.
- The base sits evenly, the opening remains usable, and no yarn tails, reinforcement tape, gaps or loose hardware are visible.

12. Troubleshooting

Issue	Practical fix
Pumpkin ribs look flat	Pinch the purl gutters inward by hand and add or slightly tighten the optional internal shaping strands. Keep all 10 at equal tension.
Base puckers	The cast-on centre may be over-tightened. Ease the centre tail slightly, reshape the first 17 rounds evenly, then secure again.
Body twists around BOR	Make sure the work was not twisted when joined. If the problem appears only at one gutter, check that the purl stitch remained in the same repeat position.
Opening feels too tight	The bind-off is likely too firm. Undo and re-bind off the 60 rim stitches with a larger needle or a looser hand.
Flap curls	Lightly block it flat, then sew on the I-cord trim. The trim adds weight and helps stabilize the curved edge.
Button loop is too loose	Move the button down slightly or tack the two loop ends closer together on the flap WS.
Button loop is too tight	Move the button up slightly or replace the 18-row loop with a 20-row I-cord loop.
Leaves lean or overlap too much	Re-pin before final sewing. Sew only the narrow leaf bases and keep the rest of each leaf free.
Stem falls over	Add a little more filling through the base if still accessible, or add two small anchoring stitches from stem sides into the leaf bases.

Issue	Practical fix
Straps stretch	Add the recommended hidden twill-tape/grosgrain backing. Do not rely on knitted fabric alone for heavy loads.
One strap sits higher	Check that upper tabs are centred at st 15 and st 95 and lower loops at st 25 and st 85, with matching round ranges.
Visible holes at sewn areas	Use smaller, more frequent whip stitches through full edge loops. Do not pull so tight that the knit fabric distorts.

13. Printing and Customer Notes

This pattern is supplied as a digital download for handmade creation. No physical item is included or shipped. Finished dimensions are design targets and may vary with yarn, tension, blocking, reinforcement and use.

For printing, use A4 paper at “Fit to printable area” or 100% scale. The diagrams are placement guides and are not full-size templates, so exact printer scaling is not required.

Unless your purchase or seller license states otherwise, treat this pattern as intended for personal handmade creation. If you sell finished handmade bags, follow the applicable product, textile, labelling and child-safety requirements in your location.

Care note: Because the backpack includes a large button and metal hardware, it contains detachable/small-component hazards if parts become loose. Inspect attachment points regularly and follow local safety requirements for the intended user.

Quick make checklist

- Body: 1
- Flap: 1
- Flap trim I-cord: 1
- Button loop: 1
- Leaves: 8
- Stem: 1
- Long straps: 2
- Upper tabs: 2
- Lower anchor loop strips: 2
- Tri-glide sliders: 2
- Large button: 1

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