

## Market Wallet or Martebo Sack



This sack was made of linen, but can today be made of canvas or simple cotton fabric. It was popular from at least the 15th century until the 19th century and earlier for shopping and therefore also called the market wallet. This bag style is also known as martebo sack after a sculpture of a woman at the Martebo Church of Gotland in Sweden who is shown with such a sack slung over her shoulders. Items are being placed into the bag at one or both sides and the middle of the bag is twisted around and slung over the shoulder or around a stick.



## Construction

**There are three easy ways to make a market wallet:  
(For general sewing instructions, please [click here](#))**

**1. Instant wallet:**

You can create a market wallet just by buying a rectangular bedding pillow case that has an opening in the middle. You pretty much have an instant market wallet.

**2. Easy wallet:**

With minimal sewing, you can buy a rectangular bedding pillow case and sew the side opening shut. Then you cut a slit into the middle and hem the opening. You can also whip stitch the opening to keep the fabric from fraying and, if desired, decorate the opening with easy embroidery stitches or by sewing a ribbon around the opening.

**3. Individual wallet:**

Cut a rectangular piece of desired canvas fabric, about 15” by 50” and sew:

- a. Hem the short sides of the rectangle, because this will be your opening. If your fabric is fraying a lot and you want to use and wash it often, consider hemming the long sides as well, (or whip stitch or tick zack around the fraying edge). Because of the long seams, this task is best done with the sewing machine.
- b. Fold the short sides of the rectangle to the middle so that the wrong side is outside and pin the sides together. Sew the long sides together with a back stitch. Turn the inside out to the right side through the opening.
- c. If desired, the bag can be decorated, for example with ribbon around the opening, embroidery, and appliqué.

