

Materials:

Cross stitch pattern

Cross stitch fabric, floss, and needles

Fabric to finish the bag and for lining

Sewing thread and needles

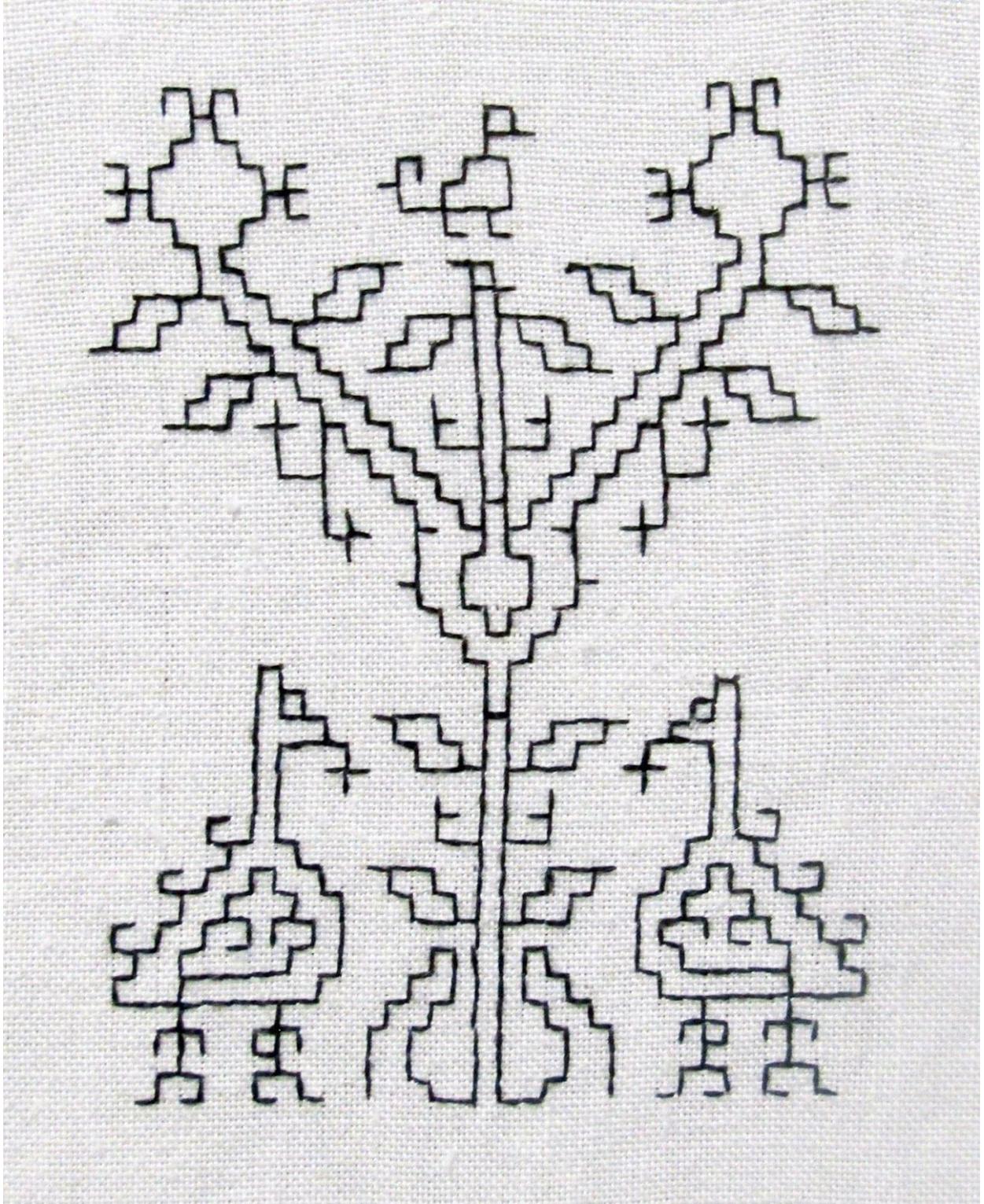
Cording for drawstring closure

Aglets, if preferred

Choose the cross stitch pattern - Yes, this fits in the SCA time frame, it just wasn't called cross stitch. Historical references available upon request

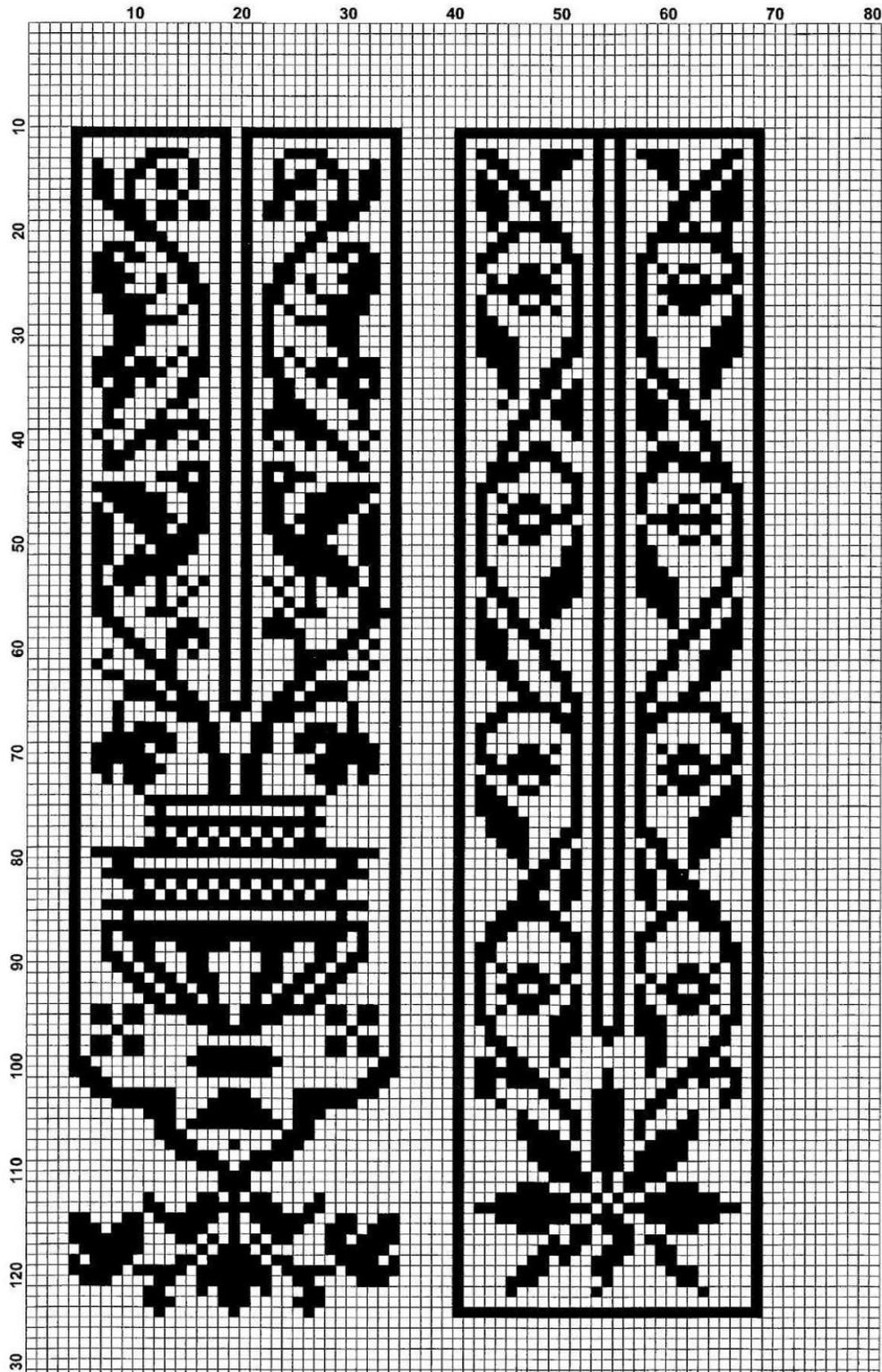
The choices here are endless. Consider your skill level and take flight. Decide if you want the entire bag done in cross stitch or just an inserted piece. Google blackwork. I google searched blackwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum and found delightful things. Mary, Queen of Scots did this type of stitching before having her head lopped off. I chose a pattern for the group I play with, but there are many, many more.





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<http://lynette.housezacharia.com/CrossStitch> mka Debbie Coyle
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The pattern you choose may dictate the shape of your bag. If you want the entire bag to be stitched, the pattern will guide the shape of the bag.

Choose the fabric for cross stitching

Consider your skill level. Aida cloth is the easiest to use as the squares are well defined. The Caid Cross pattern above is on Aida cloth. You can also use an evenweave linen. This will be

more challenging since the squares will not be easily noticeable. In history, blackwork and such stitching would have been done on linen, as Aida cloth is fairly modern.

Choose the fabric

If you are not using stitching to cover all of the bag, decide what fabric you will use to construct the rest of the bag. Linen is a good choice, or silk. I used dupioni silk.

Decide what fabric you want to use for the lining. You really do want to line the bag. It will make for a much nicer finished product and cover the back of the stitching. Linen or silk can be used. You should pick fabric that compliments the stitched piece and suits your budget as well as your taste.

Choose the closure

If you choose a fold over type of closure, decide upon the broach or pin you will use to hold it shut. If you choose a drawstring closure, decide upon the cording you will use for the drawstring. You can weave a narrow inkle band, use ribbon, or rat tail cording. Consider how you want to finish the ends of the cording. Aglets make a nice finish, or fancy buttons, or you can just leave it plain.