

## Late 13<sup>th</sup> c Appliqué

There are a few examples of drawstring pouches from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, including the seal bag from 1280, shown here. The seal bag does not have any hanging cords, but pictorial sources show that drawstring purses were used by both men and women, with the purses worn at about hip height.

The seal bag uses both intarsia (where a piece is sewn into a matching hole) and appliqué (where the piece is sewn on top of the ground).



Early 15<sup>th</sup> c Swedish. Dalhelm Church Småland Wool appliqué and embroidery with gilt strip on wool ground  
(Harris p202)

A similar style can be seen in a 15<sup>th</sup> c Swiss woolen cover, which also yielded the deer image used for the design. Although much later, the design style in keeping with the earlier piece.



Seal bag 1280. Wool appliqué and embroidery on wool ground  
(Staniland p34)

Simple appliqué would be appropriate for this the LOG version of this purse. This could be further embellished with couching. The stars could be worked in appliqué too, or embroidered, as for the lion detailing on the seal bag.

### Materials:

- Red wool for the pouch, with yellow and off-white felted wool (or melton cloth) for charges. Wool treated by boiling would also work well.
- Plain linen for lining
- Gold or yellow couching cord (or fine gilt leather strip)

### Notes:

This would be best worked in a hoop or frame. Ensure the stitches are close together and perpendicular.

### Finishing:

The holes for the draw cords may need strengthening with embroidered eyelets to avoid wear on the wool. The sides of the bag could be strengthened with tablet woven edges and the base should be finished with two or three tassels in yellow wool. The draw cords could also end in tassels. The hanging cords should allow the bag to rest at hip height.

*Late 13thc Appliqué design*

