

Tobacco Bags



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Isaac Stevens described the Red River Metis as having “a tobacco pouch strung to their sashes, in which tobacco is cut mixed with “kinni-kinnich” and a ‘fire bag’ containing steel, punk, and several flints.”¹

These pouches were normally made of black velvet heavily beaded, with a rounded bottom and double draw-string closure.



Tobacco bag, Kelowna Museum

¹ Isaac Stevens. “The Red River Hunters”, *Museum of the Fur Trade Quarterly*, vol. 9 (1): 5.

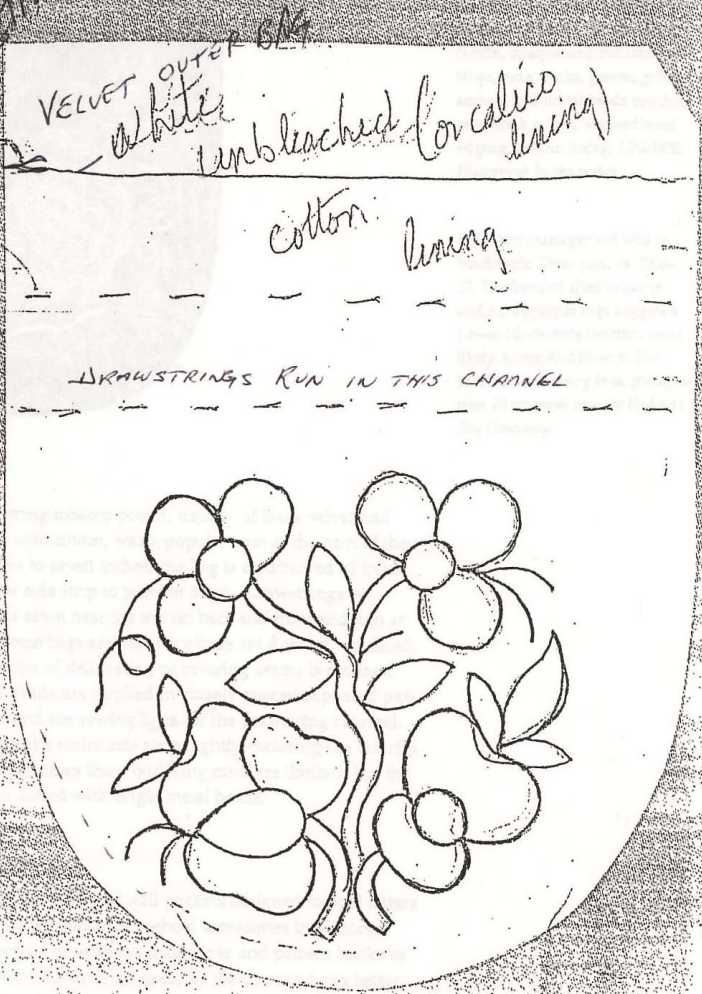


The beaded tobacco bag shown above exhibits the X motif and has a balanced asymmetric design. All the motifs are connected by stems. Note the “out of place” orange bead at the base of the flower on the upper-left. (Beading design by Jennine Krauchi, beaded by Lawrence Barkwell.)

Template for the bag which appears on page two. The bag size is 4.75” x 6”. Slits are left in the outer bag at each side between the dotted lines. Beading along the dotted parallel lines holds the outer and inner bags together forming a run for the drawstrings. The drawstrings are threaded through and back from opposite sides. The outer bag is made of velvet, with a calico lining bag inside, these are sewn together at the top.

TEMPLATE TOBACCO BAG

Tobacco Bag
Fold 4 times



strings
drawstrings



University of Oregon: Museum of Natural and Cultural History 15.3 x 10.5 cm - Cat. #2-7588



University of Oregon: Museum of Natural and Cultural History 18.5 x 13.5 cm - Cat. #2-7592





McCord Museum, ME 988.136.13



Métis, 1875-1900, Velvet, cotton cloth, glass beads, metal beads, silk embroidery floss, cotton thread, 13.8 x 17.7 cm, Gift of M. Julien F. Gaudet
ME988.136.16, © McCord Museum



Crow tobacco bag, "red finger" made with white deerhide and red stroud or melton cloth, design ca. 1860. Made by Gary Johnson ca. 1999. (Louis Riel Institute photo collection, photo by Gary Johnson).



Tobacco Pouch, seed beads couched on black velvet (6.5" x 5")
Heard Collection 1881-1896, BM 1949



