Crochet Backpack: Full Size Herringbone Backpack Pattern

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

For the CrochetRooms gated PDF. Summarized in our own words from the verified source design by HanJan Crochet. See Sources for the original pattern link. This summary describes the construction and materials; it does not copy the original pattern text.

Finished Size

13.5 inches wide by 13 inches long by 3 inches deep, or 34 cm by 33 cm by 7 cm. Made in one universal size.

Skill Level

Intermediate. Suitable for an advanced beginner who is comfortable with half double crochet and simple seaming. Estimated crochet time: 3 to 4 hours, depending on your pace.

Materials

4.5 mm hook, size G plus, or the hook needed to meet gauge

Worsted weight, category 4, 100 percent cotton yarn

Paintbox Simply Cotton Aran, 93 yards or 85 meters per 50 gram ball, approximately 8 balls or 400 grams in total

Scissors

Tapestry needle

Stitch markers

3 D rings

1 metal clip clasp

1 bag strap of your choice, approximately 120 cm or 47 inches long, with a metal clasp at each end

Gauge

15 stitches by 19 rows to 4 inches by 4 inches, or 10 cm by 10 cm, measured over the main stitch pattern. Make a gauge swatch first and change hook size if needed to match gauge, so the finished bag keeps its stated size.

Abbreviations, US terms

ch: chain

sc: single crochet

hdc: half double crochet

Hhdc: herringbone half double crochet

RS: right side

st: stitch

sts: stitches

rep: repeat

Herringbone Half Double Crochet, in plain words

Yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and pull up a loop, so you have 3 loops on the hook. Pull the first loop straight through the second loop, as in a slip stitch. Yarn over and pull through the 2 loops left on the hook. Practice this stitch on a swatch before you start the panels.

How the Backpack Is Built, Overview

The bag is made from 2 matching panels, one for the front and one for the back, plus a side and bottom section that gives the bag depth. Hardware and a strap are added at the end to turn the seamed bag into a wearable backpack.

Step 1: Make 2 matching panels

Start each panel with a foundation chain that gives a starting width of 51 stitches in half double crochet. Work the first row in plain half double crochet.

Then begin the textured set pattern. The set pattern is a simple 2 row repeat based on herringbone half double crochet worked into the row 2 rows below, with chain spaces and skipped stitches creating the moss texture, and single crochet stitches framing the edges.

Keep repeating the 2 row set pattern until the panel reaches the full panel length given in the source design, about 70 rows of set pattern work, then work a closing row that pairs single crochet with herringbone stitches to even out the top edge.

Make a second panel exactly the same way. Block both panels lightly if needed so they match in size and lie flat.

Step 2: Work the side and bottom section

Take one panel and rotate it so you can work along its edges. Work single crochet along the first long edge, across the short bottom edge, and along the second long edge. In the source design this edge section totals 193 stitches: 71 stitches along each long side and 51 stitches across the bottom.

Work a few more rows of single crochet over this edge section, 4 rows in total including the first edge row, to form the depth of the bag. This section will become the sides and bottom when the panels are joined.

Step 3: Join the panels

Place the panels with right sides facing you. Join the side and bottom section of one panel to the matching edges of the other panel using a flat slip stitch seam, or whip stitch them together if you prefer that finish. Leave the top open. Turn the work so the seam sits neatly and the bag holds a three dimensional shape. Weave in loose ends from the seaming as you go.

Step 4: Add the D rings and clasp

Sew 3 D rings to the back of the bag using the same yarn as the bag. Place one D ring at each bottom corner and one at the top center, just below the point where the bag folds over to form the flap.

Attach the metal clip clasp through the front of the bag and secure it in place. Check the placement carefully and test the clasp before you finish, so the flap closes neatly and stays closed.

Step 5: Attach the strap and finish

Clip one end of the bag strap to one bottom corner D ring. Thread the strap through the top center D ring. Clip the other end of the strap to the opposite bottom corner D ring.

Weave in all remaining ends securely. A backpack gets daily pulling and movement, so take extra care with the ends near the D rings and the clasp.

Finishing Options

Lining is optional in the source design. You may add a simple fabric lining for extra durability and a neat interior.

You may also work the bag in stripes or color blocks, or add applique embellishments, once you are comfortable with the set pattern. The original is worked in one solid color, Soft Fudge, which shows the herringbone texture clearly.

If you prefer a cinch closure instead of a flap and clasp, see the second source in Sources for a panel based cinch backpack idea, and adapt only the closure, not the sizing, without checking gauge first.

Care

Hand wash gently in cool water and lay flat to dry. Do not hang a wet crochet bag, since water weight can stretch the straps and the body.

Credit

Design concept, sizing, gauge, materials, and construction method summarized from HanJan Crochet, Herringbone Crochet Backpack Pattern. Visit the original pattern page for the stitch tutorial, diagrams, and full designer notes.

CrochetRooms - for personal use. Do not copy, redistribute, or sell this pattern as your own.