Cute Crochet Bags: Breezy Mesh Mini Tote Pattern

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Finished Size and Skill Level

One size: approximately 8 in (20 cm) wide x 9 in (23 cm) tall, measured lying flat, not including handles.

Skill level: Beginner - chain, single crochet, working in the round.

Time: one weekend.

Materials

- Worsted-weight (#4) cotton or cotton-blend yarn - about 150 yds (137 m); one to two skeins.
- US H-8 (5.0 mm) crochet hook.
- Yarn needle, scissors, stitch markers.

Abbreviations, US Terms

- ch = chain
- st (sts) = stitch (stitches)
- sc = single crochet (UK: double crochet)
- sl st = slip stitch
- BLO = back loop only

Gauge

15 sc = 4 in (10 cm) with worsted cotton and a 5.0 mm hook. Gauge is not critical, but keep your stitches firm and even so the bag holds its shape.

Pattern Notes

- The bag is worked from the bottom up: an oval base, then straight sides in joined rounds.
- Join each round with a slip stitch to the first stitch of the round.
- Cotton yarn is recommended because it stretches less than acrylic and keeps the tote crisp.

Oval Base

Ch 27.

Round 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 24 ch, 3 sc in last ch; working along the opposite side of the chain, sc in next 24 ch, 2 sc in last ch (the same ch as the first sc). Join with sl st to first sc. (54 sc)

Round 2: Ch 1, sc in each st around, working 2 sc in the center st of each 3-sc end group. Join. (56 sc)

Round 3: Ch 1, working in BLO, sc in each st around. Join. (56 sc)

The back-loop round creates a crisp edge where the base meets the walls of the bag.

Body

Rounds 4-35: Ch 1, sc in each st around. Join. (56 sc)

Work 32 rounds even. The body should measure about 8 in (20 cm) from the base edge.

Handles, Make 2

Ch 61.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. Turn. (60 sc)

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in each sc across. Fasten off, leaving a 12-in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Each handle measures about 16 in (41 cm) long.

Assembly

Position one handle on the inside of the bag so the ends sit about 2.5 in (6 cm) in from each side edge and about 1 in (2.5 cm) below the top edge. Using the long tail and a yarn needle, sew each end down securely, stitching a small square with an X through it for strength. Repeat with the second handle on the opposite side.

Finishing

Weave in all ends. If you like, hand-sew a simple fabric lining cut to the bag's dimensions and stitch it to the top edge. Your mini tote is ready to carry.

MAKE THIS VERSION

Work the oval base and the handles exactly as written, but work the body in an open mesh stitch instead of plain single crochet.

Work Rounds 4-34 as mesh rounds: Ch 1, then repeat (sc in next st, ch 1, skip next st) 28 times around. Join with a sl st to the first sc of the round.

Each mesh round uses 28 sc and 28 ch-1 spaces: 28 repeats of the 2-stitch repeat fit exactly into the 56 stitches of the round, so the repeat works with no leftover stitches. Work 31 mesh rounds (Rounds 4-34). The mesh body measures about 8 in (20 cm) tall unstretched and stretches taller when filled, so the finished bag is the same size as the base bag when empty.

On the last body round, Round 35, work 1 sc in each sc and 1 sc in each ch-1 space around (56 sc) to give a firm top edge for sewing on the handles. Then work the handles and finish exactly as above.

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