Cute Crochet Bags: Granny Square 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

For this version, replace the Oval Base and Body sections above with granny square panels. The handles, assembly, and finishing steps stay the same, except the handles are sewn to the top border instead of to a plain body edge.

Make 8 granny squares, each about 4 in (10 cm) across. At the stated gauge of 15 sc = 4 in, each side of a square is about 15 stitches wide, so check every square against a ruler and add or omit a round until it measures 4 in across. Use one color for all 8 squares, or mix colors from your stash.

Join 4 squares into a front panel, 2 squares across and 2 squares down, and join the other 4 squares into a matching back panel. Each panel measures 8 in wide (2 squares x 4 in) and 8 in tall (2 squares x 4 in). Join the squares with a slip stitch seam or a whipstitch seam on the wrong side.

Join the front and back panels together along the two sides and the bottom with a single crochet seam, leaving the top open.

Top border: work in the round around the top opening. The top edge of each panel is 8 in wide, which is 30 sc at the stated gauge (8 in x 15 sc / 4 in = 30 sc), so work 30 sc across the front and 30 sc across the back, 60 sc in each round. Work 4 rounds of sc around the top opening. At the base body rate of 32 rounds = 8 in, 4 rounds measure 1 in, so the border adds 1 in and the finished bag measures about 8 in wide x 9 in tall, the same as the base bag.

Sew the handles to the inside of the top border, about 2.5 in in from each side edge, and finish as above.

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