CROCHET DRAWSTRING BAG: A BEAUTIFUL SIMPLE DRAWSTRING BAG IN NAVY AND DEEP VIOLET

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

One size: 11 in (28 cm) wide x 13.5 in (34 cm) tall, measured laid flat.

Before the surface crochet stripes are added, the bag measures about 12 in (30.5 cm) wide laid flat; the surface stitching pulls it in a little.

SKILL LEVEL

Easy. You need chains, single crochet, crossed single crochet, slip stitches, working in a seamless spiral, and basic surface crochet. The stitches are simple; the skills to watch are keeping the spiral straight with a stitch marker and counting the increase rounds.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. It is a simple one-color bag with no seaming, so most crocheters finish it in a few relaxed evenings.

MATERIALS

- Light weight (#3) yarn, Cascade Yarns Sarasota (60% cotton, 40% acrylic), held DOUBLE-STRANDED throughout the bag:
- Color A Navy: 500 yds (457 m)
- Color B Deep Violet: 70 yds (64 m), for the surface crochet stripes
- Total yarn: 570 yds (521 m)
- The source pattern gives yardage only, not ball counts. Sarasota has about 314 yds (287 m) per 100 g ball, so 500 yds is about 1.6 balls: buy 2 balls of Color A and 1 ball of Color B.
- If you use a single strand of aran or bulky weight yarn instead, the source says you will need about half the yardage, about 285 yds (261 m), although the finished measurements may change a little.
- I (5.5 mm) crochet hook, or the size needed to obtain gauge
- 6 yds (5.5 m) of 3 mm macrame cord for the drawstring, or other cord of your choice
- Wooden beads, optional, for the drawstring ends
- 2 stitch markers
- Tapestry needle

- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

ch: chain. ch sp: chain space. CSC: crossed single crochet. rep: repeat. sc: single crochet. sk: skip. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es).

NOTES

This pattern is written in US crochet terms. The bag is worked in a seamless spiral: do not join, chain, or turn unless the pattern tells you to. Use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of each round and move it up as you go. The chain 1 at the start of the bag does not count as a stitch. A standard single crochet can be used in place of the crossed single crochet if you prefer. Crossed single crochet (CSC): insert your hook, yarn UNDER, draw the yarn through the stitch (2 loops on hook), yarn over, draw through both loops. The yarn under after inserting the hook is the only difference from a standard single crochet. Surface crochet means slip stitching along the surface of the finished fabric. Gauge: your first 6 rounds should measure 3 in (7.6 cm) across. Check your gauge after Round 6: if the circle is wider than 3 in, go down a hook size; if it is smaller, go up a hook size.

BODY OF THE BAG

Work with Color A, held double-stranded, throughout the body of the bag.

To begin: Make a magic circle; ch 1 (does not count as a stitch).

Rnd 1: Work 6 sc in the magic circle. (6 sc)

Rnd 2: Work 2 sc in each st around. (12 sc)

Rnd 3: *2 sc in next st, sc in next st; rep from * around. (18 sc)

Rnd 4: *Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st; rep from * around. (24 sc)

Rnd 5: *2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * around. (30 sc)

Rnd 6: *Sc in each of next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 2 sts; rep from * around. (36 sc)

GAUGE CHECK: Measure across the circle. After 6 rounds it should measure 3 in (7.6 cm) across. If it is too wide, use a smaller hook; if it is too small, use a larger hook.

Rnd 7: *2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 5 sts; rep from * around. (42 sc)

Rnd 8: *Sc in each of next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * around. (48 sc)

Rnd 9: *2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 7 sts; rep from * around. (54 sc)

Rnd 10: *Sc in each of next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 4 sts; rep from * around. (60 sc)

Rnd 11: *2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 9 sts; rep from * around. (66 sc)

Rnd 12: *Sc in each of next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 5 sts; rep from * around. (72 sc)

Rnd 13: *2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 11 sts; rep from * around. (78 sc)

Rnd 14: *2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 38 sts; rep from * once more. (80 sc)

The base is now a flat circle. From here the sides grow straight up with no more increases.

Rnds 15-48: CSC in each st around. (80 CSC) Work 34 rounds in total.

Rnd 49 (drawstring holes): *Ch 2, sk 2 sts, CSC in each of next 3 sts; rep from * around. (48 CSC and 16 ch-2 sps)

Rnd 50: CSC in each st around, working 2 CSC in each ch-2 sp from the previous round. (80 CSC)

Rnds 51-52: CSC in each st around. (80 CSC)

Put a stitch marker in the final CSC and leave it there. Then sl st in the first 2 sts of the next round. Fasten off and weave in ends.

SURFACE CROCHET STRIPES

Work with Color B, held double-stranded.

Lay the bag flat, with the place where you fastened off face up and in the center. Count down 7 rounds from the top of the bag. Between the 7th and 8th rounds down from the top, surface crochet all the way around the bag. Your end point will be one round off from your starting point; simply add one diagonal surface stitch to connect them. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Count down 7 more rounds and repeat the same stripe. Keep going until you have 5 rounds of surface crochet in total.

DRAWSTRING

Cut 3 lengths of 3 mm macrame cord, each 2 yds (1.8 m) long. Hold them together and tie a loose knot about 6 in (15 cm) from one end to hold them for now. Braid the three cords together. Do not knot the finishing end yet.

Lay the bag flat, with the marked stitch at the top center of the side that is face down. Hold the drawstring cords at the unknotted end together and weave them in and out of the drawstring holes at the top of the bag. Start with the hole just to the left of center and insert from the outside of the bag toward the inside. Work clockwise, weaving in and out of each hole until you have used all 16 holes.

Test the strap length: holding the drawstring ends together so they do not slip out of the holes, take hold of the part of the drawstring that lies on the face-down side of the bag, directly across from your entry and exit holes. Pull until the bag is cinched and the drawstring ends fall about where you would want them on the front of the bag. Wear it as you would when finished. If it is too long, trim the ends as needed.

Join the braids: take two strands from one braid and one strand from the other braid and braid them together for about 1 in (2.5 cm); tie a knot to secure. Take the remaining strands and braid them together the same way; tie a knot to secure.

Add beads (optional): add a bead to each strand and tie a knot at the bottom to secure. Trim the excess cord.

FINISHING

Weave in all loose ends with the tapestry needle, hiding them inside the stitches so they do not show. Pull the drawstring to cinch the bag closed and check that it slides freely through all 16 holes. If a hole catches, ease the cord through it once or twice until it moves smoothly.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. Treat the bag gently: hand wash cold and lay flat to dry. Do not bleach. Reshape while damp.

TIPS FOR A NEAT BAG

- Keep the stitch marker moving. The bag is worked in a seamless spiral with no joins, so the marker is the only thing that shows where each round starts. Move it up every round.
- Count after every increase round. Rounds 1 to 14 grow by 6 stitches each round, except Round 14, which grows by only 2. If your count is off, check the round you just worked before going on.
- Check your gauge after Round 6. The circle should be 3 in (7.6 cm) across. A bag that starts too wide stays too wide for all 52 rounds.
- Keep the crossed single crochet even. The yarn under step is what gives the fabric its neat crossed look, so do it the same way in every stitch.
- Count the drawstring holes. Round 49 should give you 16 holes. If you have fewer, you skipped a repeat; if you have more, you worked an extra one.
- Test the drawstring before you knot it. Cinch the bag and try it on before you join the braids, so you can trim the cord to the length you like.

VARIATIONS

- Keep it plain: skip the surface crochet stripes and work the whole bag in Color A. You will use only the 500 yds (457 m) of Color A, and the crossed stitch texture does all the talking.
- Change the stripes: work the 5 surface crochet rounds in a different contrast color, or space them closer together for more stripes.
- Use a single strand: work the bag in a single strand of aran or bulky weight yarn with about half the yardage, about 285 yds (261 m). The finished measurements may change a little, so check your gauge after Round 6.
- Make it a gift bag: work the bag in a festive color and fill it with a small gift. The drawstring closes it with no extra wrapping.
- Swap the cord: use a crocheted chain cord, an I-cord, or a ribbon in place of the braided macrame cord. Any cord that slides freely through the 16 holes works.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Yarn and Chai: Simple Drawstring Bag, https://yarnandchai.com/simpledrawstringbag/

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