CROCHET MESSENGER BAG: BEAUTIFUL STRIPED SATCHEL IN 3 BRIGHT COLORS

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

Front piece: 13.5 in (34 cm) wide x 12 in (30 cm) long. Back and flap piece: 13.5 in (34 cm) wide x 24 in (61 cm) long. Sides and bottom piece: 3 in (8 cm) wide x 37.5 in (95 cm) long. The finished bag is big enough to hold a binder 3 in wide. The second half of the back piece is the flap, left free and unworked when the bag is joined.

SKILL LEVEL

The source pattern gives no skill level. The crochet uses one overlapping double crochet stitch pattern, repeated in every piece, with color changes every 2 rows. The lining and strap need basic sewing, including a blanket stitch around the lining edge.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. It is a large bag in three pieces plus a sewn fleece lining, so most crocheters finish it over several relaxed evenings. That time estimate is NOT a source fact; do not quote it as one.

MATERIALS

- Worsted/aran weight yarn, 750 yds in total: 250 yds each of 3 colors. The source pattern uses Red Heart Soft. The colors shown are Teal (Color A), Dark Leaf (Color B), and Berry (Color C).
- US H, 5.0 mm crochet hook
- Fleece or other non-raveling fabric for the lining. NOTE: the source materials list gives 47 in by 17.5 in of fabric, while the lining steps start with a 41 in by 17.5 in piece. Both numbers are kept here exactly as the source gives them; see verification.md.
- 2 yds of 1 in wide polyester/nylon strap/webbing, or a strap of your choice
- One 2 in button
- Crochet thread, size 5 or 10
- Sewing thread
- Sharp tapestry/yarn needle
- Strap adjuster, optional
- Stitch markers

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

ch: chain. dc: double crochet. sc: single crochet. st(s): stitch(es). RS: right side. WS: wrong side.

NOTES

This pattern is written in US crochet terms. The stitch pattern is worked in overlapping double crochet: the double crochet stitches are worked over the chains and into the tops of the stitches from two rows previous, so the chains from the row below are enclosed inside the double crochet stitches. Colors change every 2 rows. Drop the unused color to carry it along the side. The front piece is 44 rows, the back and flap piece is 88 rows, and the sides and bottom piece is 134 rows. The flap is the second half of the back piece.

GAUGE

The source pattern gives no gauge. No gauge is stated here. Check your own piece against the finished measurements as you work: the front piece should measure 13.5 in wide x 12 in long when its 44 rows are done.

FRONT PIECE (13.5 in wide x 12 in long)

Row 1: With Color A, ch 50. Dc in the 4th ch from the hook, then dc in the next ch. *Ch 2, skip 2 ch, dc in the next 2 ch. Repeat from * until the last ch remains, dc in the last ch. Turn. (48 sts and ch)

Row 2: Ch 1 and sc in the 1st st. Ch 2, skip the next 2 sts. *Working over the chains and into the unworked foundation chains below, dc in each of the next 2 foundation chs. (The chains from Row 1 are enclosed within these dc sts.) Ch 2, skip the next 2 sts. Repeat from * until the last st remains. Sc in the last st (top of ch 3), finishing the st with Color B. Drop the first color to carry along the side. Turn. (48 sts and ch)

Row 3: Continuing with Color B, ch 1 and sc in the 1st st. *Working over the chains and into the top of the sts from two rows previous, dc in each of the next 2 sts. Ch 2, skip the next 2 sts. Repeat from * across, ending the last repeat at the dc pair with the last st remaining. Sc in the last st. Turn. (48 sts and ch)

Row 4: Ch 1 and sc in the 1st st. Ch 2, skip the next 2 sts. *Working over the chains and into the top of the sts from two rows previous, dc in each of the next 2 sts. Ch 2, skip the next 2 sts. Repeat from * until the last st remains. Sc in the last st, finishing the st with Color C. Drop the last color to carry along the side. Turn. (48 sts and ch)

Rows 5-43: Repeat Rows 3 and 4, switching colors every 2 rows. If using 3 colors, Row 43 should be made with Color A. (48 sts and ch in every row)

Row 44: Continuing with Color A, ch 1, sc in the 1st 3 sts. *Working over the chains and into the top of the sts from two rows previous, dc in each of the next 2 sts. Sc in the next 2 sts. Repeat from * until the last st remains. Sc in the last st. Break yarn and weave in ends. (48 sts)

Front piece total: 44 rows, 48 sts and ch in every row.

BACK AND FLAP PIECE (13.5 in wide x 24 in long)

Rows 1-88: Repeat the directions for the Front Piece above, switching colors every 2 rows, with Row 88 the same as Row 44 above (the finishing row). If using 3 colors in the same pattern as the Front, Rows 87 and 88 should be made with Color B. (48 sts and ch in every row)

Back and flap piece total: 88 rows, 48 sts and ch in every row. The second half of this piece, Rows 45 to 88, is the flap.

SIDES AND BOTTOM PIECE (3 in wide x 37.5 in long)

Row 1: With Color A, ch 14. Follow the stitch pattern directions as above. (12 sts and ch)

Rows 2-134: Repeat the stitch pattern, switching colors every 2 rows, with Row 134 the same as Row 44/88 above (the finishing row). If using 3 colors in the same pattern as the Front, Rows 133 and 134 should be made with Color A. (12 sts and ch in every row)

Sides and bottom piece total: 134 rows, 12 sts and ch in every row.

ASSEMBLING THE CROCHET PIECES

Using the color or colors of your choice, single crochet the Front and Back/Flap pieces to either side of the Sides/Bottom Piece. While crocheting, hold the WS of the pieces together, with the Front or Back facing you and the Sides/Bottom facing away from you. Use stitch markers or paperclips to hold the pieces together so the stitching is even. Leave the flap portion (the second half of the Back) free and unworked.

LINING

Starting with a 41 in x 17.5 in piece of fleece or other non-raveling fabric, fold one end of the fabric up 14 in from the bottom, so that 13 in is left at the top. The bottom becomes the pouch or bag lining, and the single layer top becomes the flap lining. Sew a line 1/2 in from the edge on both sides of the pouch, so that the seams are 16.5 in apart. Then fold the corners as shown in the source photos, so that the seam is in the middle of the triangle, and sew across the fabric where it is 3 in wide. This creates the flat bottom of the pouch. Insert the lining in the bag and trim off the excess on either side of the flap. Remove the lining from the bag.

HANDLES

If your strap is polyester or nylon, melt the raw edges of the strapping using a lighter or match. If it is natural fabric that frays, fold over and sew the ends securely. Sew the ends of the handle to either side of the outside of the pouch, along the seam line. If you are using a strap adjuster, length is not as important (as long as it is not too short), but if not, be sure the strap is the right length before sewing it on. Cut the strap and add the strap adjuster according to the package directions if desired.

ASSEMBLING THE LINING AND BAG

Sew around the entire opening and flap of the lining with the blanket stitch, using the tapestry or yarn needle and crochet thread. Skip over the handles. Try to make the stitches about as far apart as the crochet stitches. Place a stitch marker in the center of the end of the crocheted flap. Insert the lining in the bag. Single crochet all around the open edges evenly, being sure to go through a blanket stitch with each single crochet stitch. You can skip a blanket stitch occasionally if necessary to make sure it all lines up. Use stitch markers to hold the corners and halfway points together. When you come to the stitch marker in the center of the end of the flap, sc in the marked st. Then ch 10 (or the length needed to get around the button you chose). Sc in the same

st and then continue around the opening as before. Sew the button to the front of the bag so that it lines up with the loop. Sew through the lining, handle, and crochet pieces on both sides to secure the handles all the way through the bag.

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. That guidance is NOT a source fact; do not quote it as one.

TIPS FOR A NEAT BAG

- Count every row. Every front and back row has 48 stitches and chains, and every sides and bottom row has 12 stitches and chains. If your count is off, check the row you just worked before going on.
- Keep the color changes on the same 2 row rhythm. The colors change every 2 rows, and the finishing rows land on Color A for the front, Color B for the back and flap, and Color A for the sides and bottom.
- Mark the flap. The second half of the back piece is the flap, so mark where Row 44 ends and the flap begins before you join the pieces.
- Hold the pieces with markers or paperclips while you join them. The sides and bottom strip is long, and markers keep the single crochet seam even on both sides.
- Check the lining fit before you sew it in. Put the lining in the bag, trim the excess at the flap sides, and take it out again before the blanket stitch edge is worked.

VARIATIONS

- Change the colors: work the bag in any 3 colors you like, keeping 250 yds of each, or work it in a single color throughout.
- Change the strap: use a leather strap or a crocheted strap instead of webbing, keeping the same 2 yd length as a starting point.
- Add a strap adjuster: the source pattern lists one as optional, so the strap length can be adjusted after the bag is made.
- Use a different button: the button loop is ch 10, or the length needed to get around the button you chose, so a larger or smaller button still works.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Tamara Kelly, Moogly: Mesmerizing Messenger Bag, https://www.mooglyblog.com/mesmerizing-messenger-bag/

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