

FREE CROCHET PATTERN

Simple Crochet Tote Bag

A sturdy, easy tote worked in half double crochet rows, folded and seamed, with strong straps — made to carry books, groceries and your next project.



SKILL LEVEL Easy	FINISHED SIZE About 11.5 in wide × 13 in tall (29 × 33 cm), excluding straps	YARN WEIGHT Medium / Worsted
HOOK 5 mm (US H-8)	TIME About 6 hours	TERMS US terms

Gauge: 14 hdc and 10 rows = 4 in (10 cm). Gauge changes the size and yarn amount but not how the bag is made.

Materials

- ☐ Worsted-weight cotton yarn — About 350–400 yd (320–365 m) (Estimated — check your gauge and buy extra from the same dye lot)
- ☐ Contrast color (optional) — About 30 yd (27 m) (For the stripe)
- ☐ 5 mm (US H-8) crochet hook
- ☐ Stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

Abbreviations

ch — chain

sc — single crochet

st(s) — stitch(es)

hdc — half double crochet

sl st — slip stitch

rep — repeat

Notes before you start

- The body is one long rectangle, folded in half and seamed up the sides.
- The turning chain 2 does not count as a stitch. Work the first hdc of each row into the first stitch.
- Check your stitch count every few rows — edges easily gain or lose a stitch.

The pattern

Body

- ☐ **Foundation:** Ch 42.
- ☐ **Row 1:** Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Turn. **(40)**
- ☐ **Row 2:** Ch 2 (does not count as a st), hdc in each st across. Turn. **(40)**
- ☐ **Rows 3–65:** Repeat Row 2 until the piece measures about 26 in (66 cm) from the start. **(40)**

Optional stripe: Work 2 rows in the contrast color about 3 in (7.5 cm) from each short end. Once the bag is folded, the stripes sit just below the top edge on both sides.

Straps (make 2)

- ☐ **Foundation:** Ch 7.
- ☐ **Row 1:** Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Turn. **(6)**
- ☐ **Row 2:** Ch 1 (does not count as a st), sc in each st across. Turn. **(6)**
- ☐ **Following rows:** Repeat Row 2 until the strap measures about 22 in (56 cm). Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. **(6)**

Assembly

- ☐ **Fold:** Fold the body in half with the right side facing in, so the two short ends meet at the top. Pin the sides.
- ☐ **Seam the sides:** With a tapestry needle and matching yarn, whipstitch both side seams from the fold up to the top. Turn the bag right side out.

- ☐ **Top edge:** Join yarn at one side seam. Ch 1, sc in each stitch around the opening. Join with a sl st to the first sc. **(80)**
- ☐ **Attach the straps:** Sew one strap to the front of the bag and one to the back. Place each strap end about 3 in (7.5 cm) in from a side seam, overlapping the inside of the top edge by 1.5 in (4 cm), and check that the strap isn't twisted. Sew a square of stitches with an X through the middle.

Note: The straps carry all the weight, so sew through both layers several times to stop them stretching or pulling out.

Finishing

- ☐ **Ends:** Weave in all ends securely and trim.

Tips

- Choose cotton or a cotton blend — stretchy acrylic bags sag when loaded.
- If your rows drift wider or narrower, place a stitch marker in the first and last stitch of every row.
- Wash the finished bag in cold water and dry it flat to keep its shape.

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