

CROCHET BAGS AND PURSES:

7 FREE

*Crochet Bag
Patterns*

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Crochet Bags and Purses: 7 FREE Crochet Bag Patterns



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7 FREE Crochet Bag Patterns

CAN YOU EVER HAVE TOO MANY BAGS, TOTES, AND CROCHET PURSES? I don't think so. There is a crocht bag for everything. Going to the market? Grab the perfect crochet market bag. Headed out for the weekend? Pack an extra pair of clothes and other necessities in an extra large crochet tote or great messenger bag.

In this updated free eBook, we have put together a collection of great crochet bags, from crochet purse patterns to a great crochet shopping bag. Here is *Interweave Crochet* Editor Marcy Smith to tell you about the original patterns.

The **Farmer's Market Tote** by Judith L. Swartz is a classic mesh market bag. This crochet tote bag has an extra-sturdy closed bottom to keep things secure, as well as a sturdy, long shoulder handle. It's an easy-to-make bag that will serve many uses.

The **Handy Utility Cases** by Judith L. Swartz keep your various electronic devices safe. It's easy to modify to fit the size of your particular device. This is a great learning project for young crocheters. These projects are perfect stash-busters and will make great stocking-stuffers. The pattern includes directions for personalizing the bags with cross-stitch.

The **Chevron Shoulder Bag** by Grace Talcott is a fun bag for tweens. This bag features a great ripple stitch that is perfect for taking beginning crocheters to the next level. Just pull your favorite colors from your stash and start stitching!

The **Slouchy Purse** by Drew Emborsky goes to the office as easily as it goes to lunch. This crocheted purse is just right for a phone, notebook and a few other essentials. The ribbed-look stitch is sturdy and the slouch adds stylish dash. The short handle is great, but it's easy to lengthen if you prefer.

The **Larger Than Life Bag** by Cecily Keim is a serious go-to crochet-meeting bag. Showcase your favorite yarns in the motifs. A fabric lining and handle keeps the motifs from stretching out.

The **Message in a Flower Bag** by Jill Wright is a messenger bag made sturdy with felting. Unspun yarn is then used to needle-felt a design onto the flap. Make the pretty pansies shown or make up your own design.

Marcy

To this great collection, we are adding a fabulous new crochet bag that will introduce you to felting, embroidery, and colorwork.

The **Messenger Bag** by Julie Armstrong Holetz is a funky felted crochet messenger bag with plenty of unique personality. The construction of this crochet bag is very simple; it's your color choices that make it special. Work the bag as directed or try working it in one color, cutting out the holes, and lining the flap with a single contrasting color.

So choose your favorite pattern and add another great crocheted bag to your collection. We would love to see your work; share your pictures in the *Crochet Me* Member Gallery.

Best wishes,

Toni

Toni Rexroat
Editor, *CrochetMe.com*

P.S. Do you have friends who love crochet bags and would appreciate free crochet bag patterns? Forward this link to them so they can download their own free copy of **Crochet Bags and Purses: 7 Free Crochet Bag Patterns** from *Crochet Me*.

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CROCHET BAGS AND PURSES:
7 FREE CROCHET BAG PATTERNS
*A CrochetMe eBook edited by
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Farmer's Market Tote

by JUDITH L. SWARTZ

Originally published in *Getting Started Crochet* (Interweave, 2006)

LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD A WEEK'S WORTH OF PRODUCE from the country stand yet small enough to tote a baguette; this lightweight power shopping bag is collapsible and can be folded up small to keep it handy. The linen yarn provides strength without bulk, and the loose stitches keep the bag flexible.

FINISHED SIZE Circumference: about 26½"; length: about 17", excluding handles; handles: about 18" each, in length, untied.

YARN Euroflax Athens (100% wet-spun linen; 200 yd [183 m], 100 g; ): Moss Lake, 3 skeins.

HOOK Size G/6 (4 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

NOTIONS Safety pins, for marking rounds; yarn needle, for weaving in ends.

GAUGE 18 stitches and 12 rounds = 4" with size G/6 (4 mm) hook in half double crochet.

SKILL LEVEL Easy.

NOTE

- This piece is worked in the round in a spiral fashion up to the handles. So instead of joining rounds with a slip stitch, the beginning of the round is marked but worked over. The result is no line where the rounds meet, but the pattern is slightly askew due to the spiral effect. Linen yarn tends to stretch, so the handles are made to knot at the top, allowing for adjustability.

Bag

Ch 4, join with sl st to form ring.

Rnd 1: Ch 2 (does not count as stitch), work 10 hdc into center of ring—10 hdc. Use safety pin in last stitch to mark the end of round. Move pin at the end of each round.

Rnd 2: Work 2 hdc in each hdc—20 hdc.

Rnd 3: *Work 1 hdc in first hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—30 hdc.

Rnd 4: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 2 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—40 hdc.

Rnd 5: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 3 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—50 hdc.

Rnd 6: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 4 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—60 hdc.

Rnd 7: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 5 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—70 hdc.

Rnd 8: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 6 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—80 hdc.

Rnd 9: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 7 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—90 hdc.

Rnd 10: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 8 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—100 hdc.

Rnd 11: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 9 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—110 hdc.

Rnd 12: *Work 1 hdc in each of first 10 hdc, work 2 hdc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around—120 hdc.

At this point the crocheted circle should measure about 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (23.5 cm) in diameter and about 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (72.5 cm) around.

Rnds 13–16: Work 1 hdc in each hdc.

Begin Mesh Pattern

Rnd 1: *Ch 3, skip 3 hdc, 1 sc in next hdc*; repeat from * to * around.

Rnd 2: Ch 5, work 1 sc in first ch-3 sp, *ch 5, work 1 sc in next ch-3 sp*; repeat from * to * around.

Rnd 3: Ch 5, work 1 sc in first ch-5 sp, *ch 5, work 1 sc in next ch-5 sp*; repeat from * to * around.

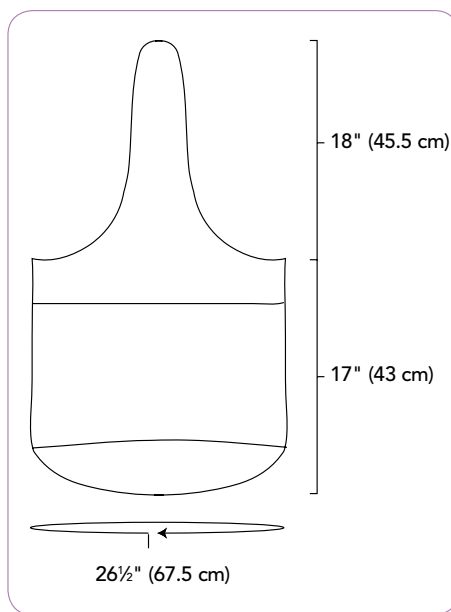
Rnd 4–19: Repeat Round 3 sixteen more times for a total of 19 rounds (counting from Round 1).

Rnd 20: *Ch 3, work 1 sc in next ch-5 sp*; repeat from * to * around.

Rnd 21: *Work 3 hdc in first ch-3 sp, work 1 hdc in next sc*; repeat from * to * around.

Rnd 22: Work 1 hdc in each hdc—120 hdc.

Rnd 23–27: Repeat Round 22.



Handles (worked flat, back and forth)

Count 60 stitches from beginning marker and place a second safety pin to mark halfway point on bag. With right side facing and beginning where yarn is still attached, work as follows:

Row 1: Ch 2 (does not count as stitch), work 1 hdc in each of next 40 hdc, turn work.

Row 2: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 35 hdc, turn work.

Row 3: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 30 hdc, turn work.

Row 4: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 27 hdc, turn work.

Row 5: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 24 hdc, turn work.

Row 6: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 22 hdc, turn work.

Row 7: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 20 hdc, turn work.

Row 8: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 19 hdc, turn work.

Row 9: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 18 hdc, turn work.

Work as for Row 9, working 1 stitch fewer in each row until 12 stitches remain. Work even in hdc on 12 stitches until narrow part of handle measures

11" (28 cm), and about 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (44.5 cm) from beginning of handle.

Shape Handle Top

Row 1: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 10 hdc, turn work.

Row 2: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 8 hdc, turn work.

Row 3: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 6 hdc, turn work.

Row 4: Ch 2, work 1 hdc in each of next 4 hdc. Fasten off.

For second handle, right side of work facing, attach yarn at halfway marker, beginning in the same stitch, repeat handle shaping to match.

Finishing

Weave in loose ends.

Rnd 1: Attach yarn at left-hand lower edge of either handle and work 1 round in single crochet as follows: ch 1, work 1 sc in same space, *work 1 sc in each of next 20 hdc, work 75 sc along handle curve and edge, work 4 sc across top of handle, work 75 sc along side and curve of handle*; repeat from * to * one more time, join with sl st to top of ch 1 at beginning of round.

Note: It's okay to adjust the number of sc stitches made as you work around the handles. The goal is to keep the handle sides smooth and even and not puckered or ruffled, so add or subtract sc stitches from the numbers given above, if needed.

Rnd 2: Chain 1, work 1 single crochet in each single crochet, join with slip stitch to top of chain 1, fasten off. Tie handles together at desired length.

JUDITH L. SWARTZ is the author of the popular *Hip to Crochet*, *Hip to Knit*, and *Dogs in Knits* (all Interweave Press), and former editor of *Interweave Crochet* magazine. She lives in Spring Green, Wisconsin.



JOE COCA

Handy Utility Cases


by **JUDITH L. SWARTZ**

Originally published in *Getting Started: Crochet* (Interweave, 2006)

THESE HANDY LITTLE CASES, designed to hold your cell phone and iPod music player, are quick to make. They require a little bit of construction, still done with crochet. Embroidery is only a suggestion. Keep them in your purse or tote or on yourself with the optional straps.

FINISHED SIZES

Cell Phone Case: Width: 3½"; Length: 6".
Music Player Case: Width: 3"; Length: 4½".

YARN Jaeger's Trinity (40% silk, 35% cotton, 25% polyamide fiber; 218 yd [200 m], 50 g; ): #440 fuchsia (cell phone case), #438 denim (trim on cell phone case), 1 skein each; #436 chartreuse (music player case), #440 fuchsia (trim on music player case), 1 skein each.

HOOK Size G/6 (4 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

NOTIONS Large snaps, size 4 (1 for each case); sewing needle and thread; safety pins; yarn needle for working in ends

and embroidery; small piece of sew-on Velcro, for music player case; 1 set of D rings, ¾" (2 cm) wide (optional), for cell phone case.

GAUGE 17 single crochet and 18 rows = 4" with size G/6 (4 mm) hook.

SKILL LEVEL Beginner.

CELL PHONE CASE

FRONT

Using the hook size needed to obtain correct gauge and fuchsia, loosely chain 16 stitches.

Row 1: Starting in second chain from hook, work 1 single crochet in each chain to end, turn work—15 single crochet.

Row 2: Chain 1, work 1 single crochet in each single crochet, turn work. Repeat Row 2 until work measures a total length of 6" (15 cm). Fasten off.

Back

Work as for Front to a total length of 7½" (19 cm). The extra length will serve as the closing flap. If needed, smooth out both pieces with a light touch of steam. Allow to dry before continuing. Fasten off.

Strap (optional)

With 2 strands of denim and same hook used for project, loosely chain

150. Work 1 slip stitch in each chain. Fasten off. Weave in loose ends. With 1 strand of yarn threaded on tapestry needle, attach 1 D ring at each upper side edge as shown in photo. Tie straps to D Ring using overhand knot.

Finishing

With a single strand of denim threaded in yarn needle and using cross-stitch, follow chart (Figure 1, page 8) to embroider "hello" on Front and Back, if desired. Each square represents one stitch. With yarn needle, weave in loose ends to wrong side of work. With wrong sides of work facing together (right sides facing out), pin Front to Back with safety pins, carefully matching side and lower edges. Beginning at upper corner of Front with same hook used for project and single strand of denim, work one row of single crochet evenly around side and bottom edges, working through both layers. Continue single crochet evenly around single layer of the remainder of back (to create flap), slip-stitch last stitch to beginning stitch and fasten off. With sewing needle and thread, sew snap to center of flap edge and upper edge of Front.



JOE COCA

Row 1: Starting in second chain from hook, work 1 single crochet in each chain to end, turn work—13 single crochet.

Row 2: Chain 1, work 1 single crochet in each single crochet, turn work. Repeat Row 2 until piece measures 4½" (11.5 cm). Fasten off.

BACK

Work as for Front to a total length of 6" (15 cm). The extra length will serve as the closing flap. Fasten off. If needed, smooth out both pieces with a light touch of steam. Allow to dry before continuing.

Finishing

With single strand of fuchsia threaded on yarn needle and using cross-stitch, embroider "tunes" on Back following chart (Figure 2, page 8). Weave in loose ends on wrong side of work. With

wrong sides together (right sides facing out), pin Front to Back with safety pins, carefully matching side and lower edges. Beginning at upper corner of Front with same hook used for project and single strand of fuchsia, work one row of single crochet evenly around side and bottom edges, working through both layers. Continue single crochet evenly around single layer of remainder of back (to create flap), slip-stitch last stitch to beginning stitch and fasten off. With sewing needle and thread, sew snap to center of flap edge and upper edge of Front.

Belt Loop (optional)

To make belt loop, with 2 strands of chartreuse and same size hook used for project, chain 6.

Row 1: Beginning in second chain from hook, work 1 single crochet in each chain to end, turn work—5 single crochet.

Row 2: Chain 1, work 1 single crochet in each single crochet, turn work.

Repeat Row 2 until belt loop measures 3" (7.5 cm) from beginning. Fasten off. Place the top edge of loop about ¾" (2 cm) down from the folded top edge of case and about ⅜" (1 cm) from right-hand case edge. Pin belt loop in place. Using 1 strand of chartreuse threaded on yarn needle, whipstitch (see Glossary) the top of belt loop to the case back. Sew ¾" (2 cm) square of Velcro at lower edge of loop and to corresponding spot on back of case.

Music Player Case

FRONT

Using the hook size needed to obtain correct gauge and 2 strands of chartreuse held together, loosely chain 14 stitches.

JUDITH L. SWARTZ is the author of the popular *Hip to Crochet*, *Hip to Knit*, and *Dogs in Knits* (all Interweave Press), and former editor of *Interweave Crochet* magazine. She lives in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

Tip: Simple embroidery is a great way to add a special touch to your finished crochet pieces. Use cross-stitch to make block letters.

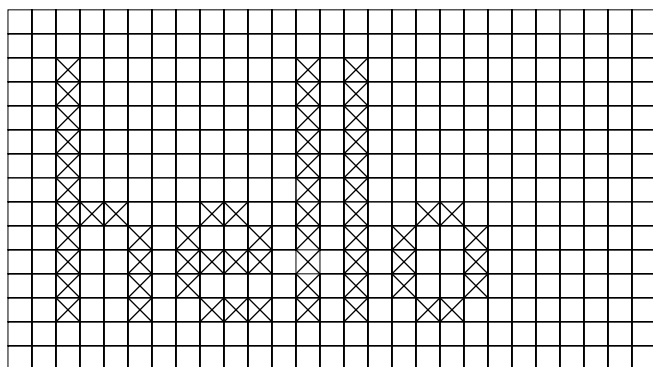
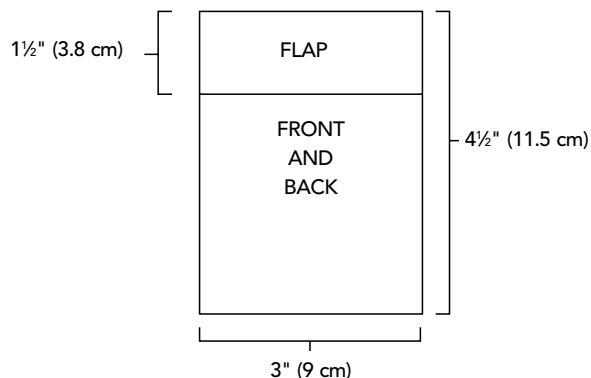


Figure 1

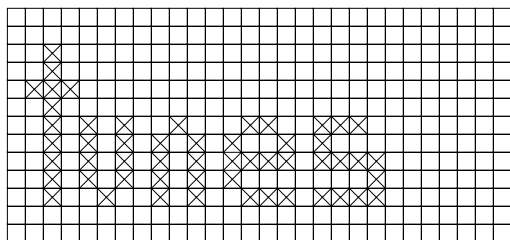
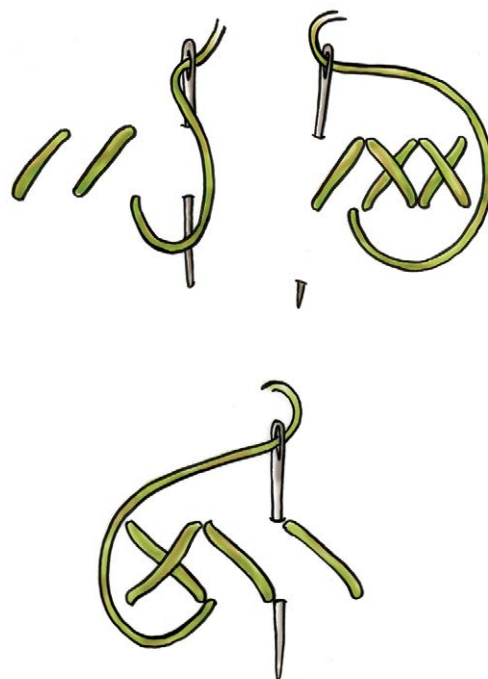
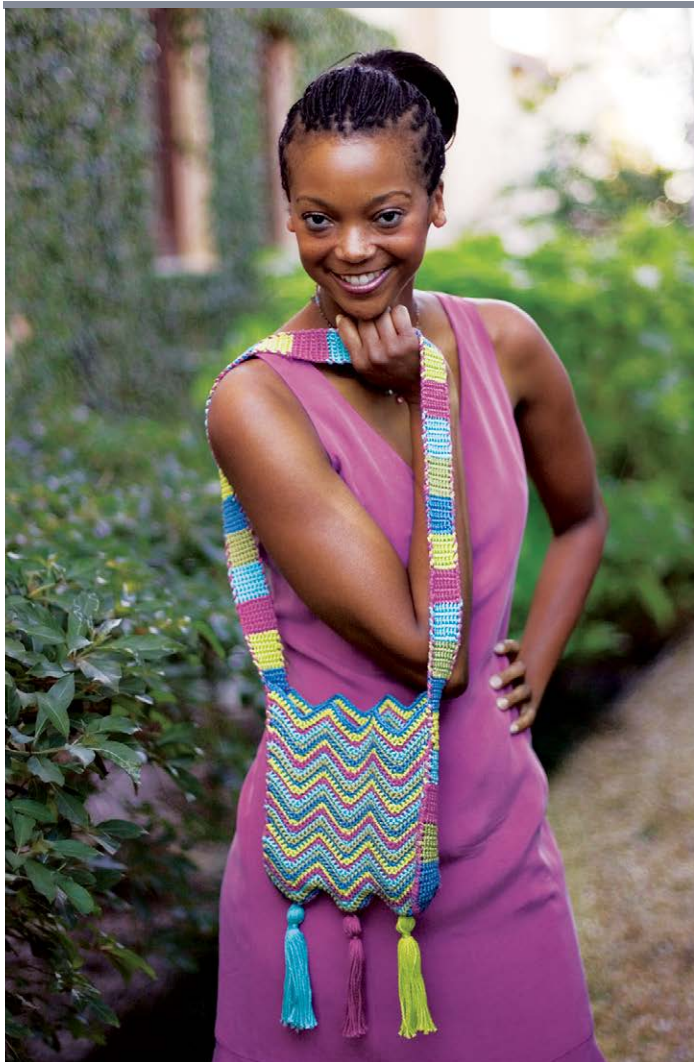


Figure 2

1 single crochet stitch
1 cross-stitch



Cross-stitch



Chevron Shoulder Bag

by **GRACE TALCOTT**

Originally published in *Interweave Crochet*, Spring 2006

ZIGZAGS OF VIBRANTLY COLORED STRIPES punctuated with tassels make a pointed statement in this enchanting accessory. Ethnic inspiration translates into a current interpretation while silky pima cotton adds a natural luster to this stunning bag.

FINISHED SIZE 7" (18 cm) wide and 8" (20.5 cm) tall, excluding strap and tassels.

YARN Classic Elite Provence (100% cotton; 205 yd [186 m]/3 oz [100 g]; **5**): #2648 slate blue (A), #2682 asparagus (B), #2664 Aegean sea (C), #2632 mad magenta (D), and #2681 bright chartreuse (E), 1 skein each.

HOOK F/5 (3.75 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

NOTIONS Tapestry needle.

GAUGE 28 sts and 17 rows = 4" (10 cm) in chevron patt; 5 sts and 5 rows = 1" (2.5 cm) in sc.

SKILL LEVEL Easy.

Stitch Guide

Chevron patt: (multiple of 16 sts + 2)

Row 1: (RS) 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, * sc in each of next 7 ch, sk 1 ch, sc in each of next 7 ch, 3 sc in next ch; rep from *, ending 2 sc in last ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, 2 sc in first sc, *sc in each of next 7 sc, sk 2 sc, sc in each of next 7 sc, 3 sc in next sc; rep from *, ending 2 sc in last sc, turn.

Rep Row 2 for patt.

FRONT/BACK (MAKE 2)

With A, ch 50.

Row 1: With A, work Row 1 of chevron patt st across row.

Row 2: With B, work Row 2 of chevron patt across row.

Row 3: With C, work Row 2 of chevron patt across row.

Row 4: With D, work Row 2 of chevron patt across row.

Row 5: With E, work Row 2 of chevron patt across row.

Rep Rows 1–5 five more times, then rep Row 1. Fasten off. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, weave in loose ends.

GUSSET/STRAP

With A, ch 3, turn.

Row 1: 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 sc in last ch, turn—4 sts.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Row 3: Ch 1, 2 sc in first st, sc in each of next 2 sc, 2 sc in last sc, turn—6 sts.

Row 4: Rep Row 2 three times.

Row 5: 2 sc in first st, sc in each of next 4 sc, 2 sc in last sc, turn—8 sts.

Rows 6–8: Rep Row 2.

Rep last 8 rows 4 more times, changing color on every Row 1, in the foll order: B, C, D, E—there are now 5 color sections. Cont in this manner, working Rows 1–8 in colors as established, until strap measures 48" (122 cm), ending with 3 rows worked in A. **Shape end:**

Row 1: Ch 1, sc2tog (see Glossary), sc in each st across until 2 sts rem, sc2tog, turn—2 sts dec'd.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn. Rep Rows 1 and 2 until 3 sts rem, ending with Row 1. **Next row:** Ch 1, sc2tog, sc in last st. Fasten off.

Finishing

With RS of gusset/strap facing, RS of front or back facing, and a double strand of color D, whipstitch (see Glossary) all seams, starting at the bottom edges. Gusset begs and ends at the edge

of the first and last bottom points of the bag. Cont to whipstitch around the edges of the strap. Fasten off. Weave in loose ends. **Tassels:** Make 1 tassel in each color C, D, and E. With yarn threaded through crown of tassel, attach a tassel to each point.

GRACE TALCOTT remembers learning crochet at summer camp when she was a small child.

Tassel

Cut a piece of cardboard 4" wide by the desired length of tassel plus 1". Wrap yarn to desired thickness around cardboard. Cut a short length of yarn and tie tightly around one end of wrapped yarn (Figure 1). Cut yarn lps at other end. Cut another piece of yarn and wrap tightly around lps a short distance below top knot to form tassel neck. Knot securely, thread ends onto tapestry needle, and pull to center of tassel (Figure 2). Trim ends.

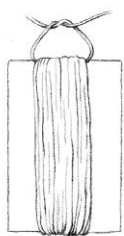


Figure 1



Figure 2





Slouchy Purse

by **DREW EMBORSKY**

Originally published in
Interweave Crochet, Spring 2007

INSPIRED BY THE POPULAR HOBO PURSES, this crocheted version juxtaposes the classic look of ribbed stitches with the casual soft and slouchy shape that is so hot this season.

FINISHED SIZE 13" wide and 10" high, excluding strap.

YARN Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Worsted (85% wool, 15% mohair; 190 yd [174 m]/4 oz [113 g]; **(4)**): #M162 mulberry, 2 skeins.

HOOK Size H/8 (5 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

NOTIONS Yarn needle.

GAUGE 17 sts and 11 rows = 4" in patt.

SKILL LEVEL Beginner.

Purse

Ch 89.

Row 1: (RS) Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, turn—88 sc.

Row 2: Ch 2 (counts as dc), sk first st, dc in front lp only (flo) of each st across, turn.

Row 3: Ch 1, sc in back lp only (blo) of each st across, turn.

Rows 4–35: Rep Rows 2 and 3 sixteen times.

Do not fasten off. **Side seams:** With RS tog, fold piece in half lengthwise, into a 13" × 10" rectangle. Ch 1, then, working through both thicknesses, sc top edges tog. Fasten off. Turn the piece so you are working along the foundation row; then, working through both thicknesses, attach the yarn through the first and last ch of the row. Ch 1, sc foundation edges tog. Fasten off. Weave in loose ends. Turn RS out.

Strap

Row 1: With RS facing, join yarn with sl st to the right of the side seam at open edge of purse, ch 1, work 2 sc to the right of the seam, 1 sc at the seam, 2 sc to the left of the seam, turn—5 sc.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn. Rep Row 2 until strap measures 17" from beg. Fasten off, leaving an 8" tail.

Finishing

With yarn threaded on needle, whip-stitch (see Glossary) strap to other side of purse opening. Weave in loose ends. Attach yarn to any row-end st around

purse opening, sc evenly along opening, cont along edge of strap, sl st to beg sc. Fasten off. Rep for other side of opening and strap. Find top center of strap and fold in half lengthwise, with folded edge at the top. Working through both thicknesses, join yarn with a sl st 4 sts to the right of center; work 8 sc over 2" to secure fold. Fasten off. **To stabilize opening:** Turn bag inside out, stuffing strap inside bag. Beg at outside edge near strap and just below sc edging, sew front and back tog for about 2". Fasten off. Rep on other side of opening. **Closure loop:** Leaving an 8" tail, ch 2, sc

in 2nd ch from hook, turn, *ch 1, sc blo in st just made, turn; rep from * 8 more times. Fasten off, leaving an 8" tail.

Button: Leaving an 8" tail, ch 3.

Rnd 1: Work 8 sc all in 3rd ch from hook; do not join.

Rnd 2: *Sc blo in next st and each st around.

Rep from * 2 more times. **Next rnd:** [Sc2tog] 4 times (see Glossary). Fasten off, leaving an 8" tail. Pull end of yarn tail through middle of button and out the bottom. **To create slouch shape:** Attach button to front of purse by finding center point and folding top

half twice, accordion-style. Use tails to secure button to top of folds, threading tails through both thicknesses of folds and tying off on the inside of purse. Rep for closure loop on back of purse opening. Weave in loose ends.

DREW EMBORSKY'S quirky title as *The Crochet Dude* and his kitschy tongue-in-cheek designs have propelled him from an unknown fiber artist to the cutting edge of the fiber design world. Visit www.thecrochetdude.com.





KATHRYN MARTIN

Larger than Life Bag

by **CECILY KEIM**

Originally published in
Interweave Crochet, Spring 2007

ALWAYS A SHOW-STOPPER, this oversized bag is ready to haul yarn, books, and projects, and it can be a dramatic exhibit of your personality and skill. Lined with matching fabric, the bag features the Willow Block from *200 Crochet Blocks for Blankets, Throws, and Afghans* by Jan Eaton (Interweave Press, 2004).

FINISHED SIZE 22" wide, 4" deep, and 14" high, not including strap.

YARN Koigu Kersti Merino Crepe (100% wool; 114 yd [104 m]/1¾ oz [50 g]; **3**): #K1220 rusty red (MC), 3 skeins. 1 skein of each for contrast colors: #K1515 blue, #K0000 off-white, #K1520 lime green, #K2370 apricot, #K2260 purple, #K1141 pink, #K1125 rose.

HOOK Size H/8 (5 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

NOTIONS Yarn needle, 1½ yd of 45" wide fabric for lining; matching thread and 18" zipper; sharp handsewing needle.

GAUGE Finished block measures 6½" square. 16 sc = 4".

SKILL LEVEL Intermediate.

NOTES

- When assembling the bag, you will need to choose a right side and a wrong side of your work.
- Each block motif consists of three colors: Color A for the center, Color B for the middle, and Color C for the outside. Choose any color combination you like for each block, changing colors on Rnds 3 and 6.

Block (see stitch diagram, page 15)

Make 12 blocks total—6 for each side of bag. With A, ch 4. Sl st in first ch to form ring.

Rnd 1: Ch 3 (counts as dc), 15 dc into ring, sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to join—16 dc.

Rnd 2: Ch 4 (counts as dc, ch 1), *dc in next dc, ch 1; rep from * 15 times, sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-4 to join. Fasten off.

Rnd 3: Join B to any dc from previous rnd with sl st, ch 3 (counts as dc), *2 dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next dc; rep from * 15 times, sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to join—48 dc.

Rnd 4: Ch 1, sc in sl st, *ch 5, sl st in 5th ch from hook, sk 2 dc, sc in next

dc, ch 2, sk 2 dc, sc in next dc, ch 3, sk 2 dc, sc in next dc, ch 2, sk 2 dc**, sc in next dc*; rep from * to * 2 times, then rep from * to ** 1 time, sl st in beg sc to join.

Rnd 5: Sl st in next ch-5 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), (4 dc, ch 3, 5 dc) in same sp, *sc in the next ch-2 sp, 5 dc in next ch-3 sp, sc in next ch-2 sp**, (5 dc, ch 3, 5 dc) in next ch-5 sp*; rep from * to * 2 times, then rep from * to ** 1 time, sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to join. Fasten off.

Rnd 6: Join C to any corner ch-3 sp with sl st, ch 1, (sc, ch 3, sc) in same ch sp, *ch 5, dc in next sc, ch 3, sk 2 dc, sc in next dc, ch 3, sk 2 dc, dc in next sc, ch 5**, (sc, ch 3, sc) in next ch-3 sp*; rep from * to * 2 times, then rep from * to ** 1 time, sl st in beg sc to join.

Rnd 7: Sl st in ch-3 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in same ch-3 sp, *5 dc in next ch-5 sp, 3 dc in next ch-3 sp, 3 dc in next ch-3 sp, 5 dc in next ch-5 sp**, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next ch-3 sp*; rep from * to * 2 times, then rep from * to ** 1 time, sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to join. Fasten off. **Panel assembly:** With RS tog, use matching yarn and a

yarn needle to whipstitch through the closest lp of each st on each block. Create two separate panels of six blocks each as shown in photo.

BORDER:

Rnd 1: Sc around all panel edges, working (sc, ch 2, sc) in each corner and dec in each ch sp where the blocks are joined by: sc in ch sp, sc2tog (see Glossary) working in same ch sp, and then in next ch sp.

Rnd 2: Sc around all edges working (sc, ch 2, sc) in each corner.

Side and Bottom Band

With MC, ch 15.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch and each ch across, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Note: To create a more solid fabric, the turning chain (tch) will not function as a dc. Be careful not to work into the tch, this will create unintended incs.

Row 3: Ch 2, dc in each st across, turn.

Row 4: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Row 5: Rep Row 2.

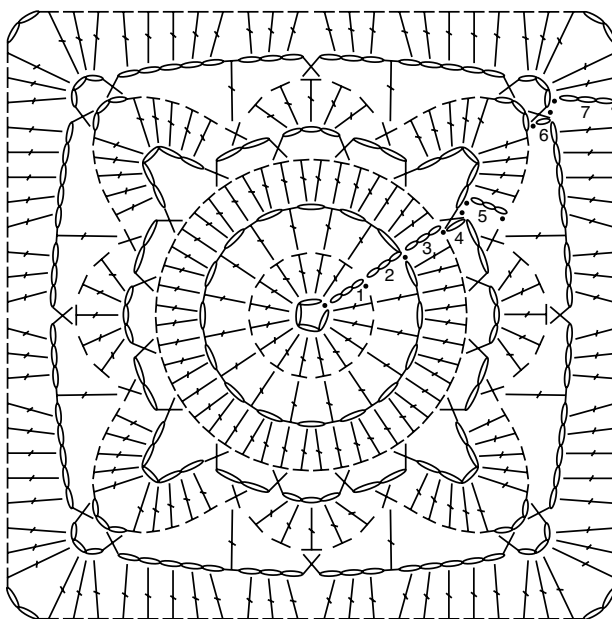
Row 6: Rep Row 3.

Row 7: Rep Row 4.

Rows 8–137: Rep Rows 5–7 forty-three times.



Block Diagram



Key

- chain (ch)
- slip st (sl st)
- X single crochet (sc)
- T double crochet (dc)

Band border: With MC, work 1 sc into the side of each sc row and 2 sc into the side of each dc row—182 sc total. **Seam band to panels:** Hold WS tog and work sl st into the outside lp of the sc of each piece to seam the pieces tog, cont sl st seam along the side, 2 sc into the ch sp at corner, seam along the bottom, 2 sc into the ch sp at the corner, sl st seam along the side. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Lining and Finishing

Cut a 36" × 26¼" rectangle across the width of the lining fabric. Press folds as shown in Figure 1 (see page 16). Fold the fabric in half, widthwise, with RS tog and align the short edges (the top of the bag). Beginning at one edge,

stitch for 4¾", change to a basting stitch for the next 17" (zipper opening), then change back to a regular stitch for the rest of the seam. Press the seam open and center the zipper face down over the seam allowances within the basted area. Stitch the zipper in place and remove the basting stitches. Stitch the remaining side edges together using a ½" seam allowance. Press all seams open. **Straps:** Cut two 4½" × 40" fabric strips. Fold strips in half lengthwise with RS tog and stitch the long edges using a ¼" seam allowance. Turn RS out, center the seam, and press flat. Rep for the second strap. Pin a strap to each side of the bag lining about 4" in from the side seam and 2" from the zipper and stitch in place (Figure 2, page

16). Box the lining's upper and lower corners as foll: Turn lining WS out. At one lower corner, fold the side seam down flat against the bottom of the bag, creating a point. Stitch 2" from the point, forming a triangle (Figure 3, page 16). Repeat for the remaining three corners. Sew lining into bag, whipstitching (see Glossary) into middle of (not around) crochet stitches along the top of the bag.

CECILY KEIM indulges in audiobooks and television shows while she crochets in Los Angeles, California. She shares her thoughts on crochet and everything else at www.suchsweethands.com.

Figure 1

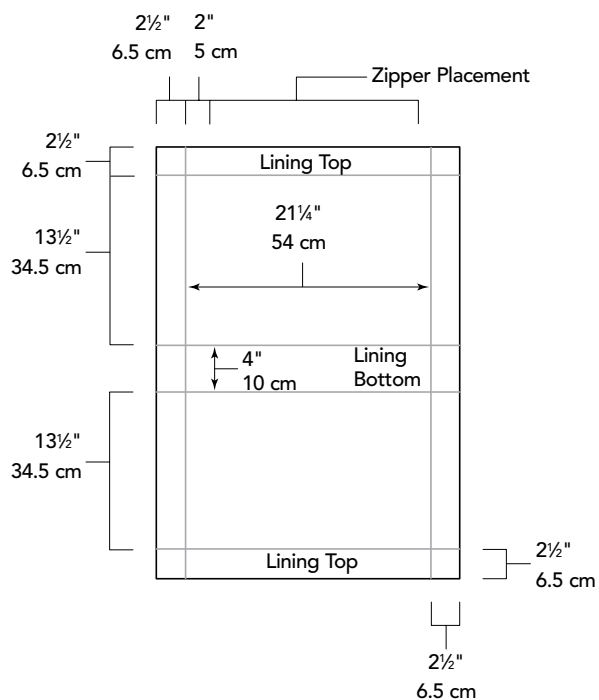


Figure 2

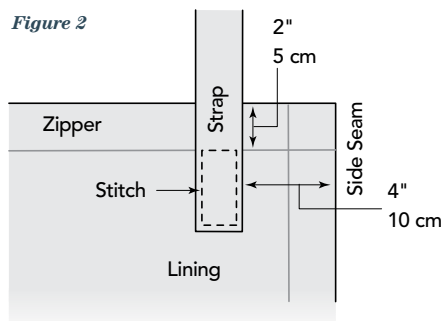
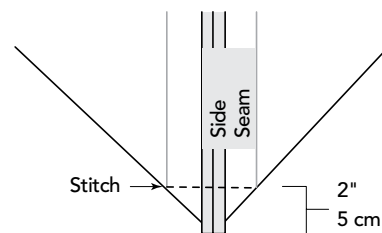


Figure 3





Message in a Flower Bag

by **JILL WRIGHT**
Originally published in
Interweave Crochet, Winter 2007

A STURDY FELTED MESSENGER BAG is spruced up with colorful needle-felted pansies. To use yarn for needle felting, simply untwist it and brush it back to its original roving form, then blend colors as a painter would.

FINISHED SIZE 15" wide, 15" high, and 5½" deep before felting; 12" wide, 12" high, and 4" deep after felting.

YARN Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride (85% wool, 15% mohair, 190 yd [173 m]/4 oz [113 g]; **(4)**): #M-76 misty blue, 5 skeins; #M-05 onyx, #M-11 white frost, #M-184 pistachio, #M-155 lemon drop, M-165 Christmas green, 2 yd each. Brown Sheep Handpaint Originals (70% mohair, 30% wool, 88 yd [80 m]/1¼ oz [50 g]; **(4)**): #HP50 English garden, 1 skein.

HOOK Size H/8 (5mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

NOTIONS Two 1½" D rings, (2 additional D rings for optional adjustable strap); yarn needle; tracing paper and pen; straight pins; size #38 felting needle; foam pad; magnetic snap; small scrap of fabric to match bag color.

GAUGE 14 hdc and 10 rows = 4". Check gauge regularly to be sure felted bag will be even.

SKILL LEVEL Intermediate.

NOTE

- Turn after each row or rnd unless otherwise directed. Ch-1 counts as hdc throughout. Sl st in beg ch-1 to join rounds.

Base

With MC, ch 49.

Set-up row: (RS) Working in bottom ridge of ch, hdc in 3rd ch from hook and each ch across, sl st in first ch to join—48 hdc.

Rows 1–13: Ch 1, hdc across, turn—48 hdc.

Rnd 14: Ch 1, hdc in each of next 48 hdc across, 16 hdc evenly across rnd ends, hdc in each of the 48 unworked lps of foundation ch, 16 hdc evenly across rnd ends, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn—128 hdc.

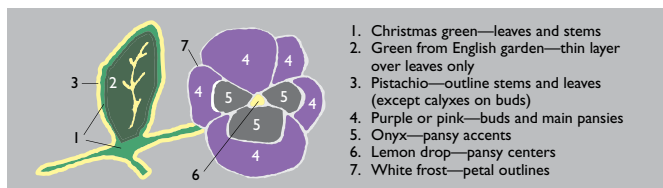
Rnds 15–38: Ch 1, hdc around, turn.

FLAP:

Row 1: Ch 1, hdc in next 47 hdc, turn leaving rem 81 hdc unworked—47 hdc.

Rows 2–28: Ch 1, hdc across, turn—47 hdc. Fasten off.

Pansy Color Key (not to scale, indicates color only)



1. Christmas green—leaves and stems
2. Green from English garden—thin layer over leaves only
3. Pistachio—outline stems and leaves (except calyxes on buds)
4. Purple or pink—buds and main pansies
5. Onyx—pansy accents
6. Lemon drop—pansy centers
7. White frost—petal outlines

Strap

Leaving a 12" tail, ch 163.

Row 1: Hdc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across—162 hdc.

Rows 2–6: Ch 1, hdc across, turn. Fasten off leaving a 12" tail.

Tabs (Make 2)

Leaving a 12" tail, ch 15.

Row 1: Hdc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across—14 hdc.

Rows 2–6: Ch 1, hdc in each hdc across, turn—14 hdc. Fasten off leaving a 12" tail.

Finishing

Slide curved side of one D ring 2" onto each end of bag strap. Fold strap ends over D rings, sew ends to body of strap. Do not twist strap. Slide one tab onto flat side of each D ring, fold in half, encasing D rings, and sew tabs to center of sides of bag 3" down from top edge. Weave in loose ends. Place bag in mesh laundry bag or pillow case. Set washing machine to hot wash, cold rinse, longest cycle. Add small amount of mild detergent. Add bag plus a pair of jeans to the washer. Run through wash cycle twice or until bag has felted to desired size. Pay close attention to strap; strap may twist in wash. Gently straighten and flatten strap between washes. Run rinse cycle. Remove and pull to shape. Allow to air-dry. For a shorter, adjustable strap: Cut straight across strap 15" from right-hand D ring. Attach flat sides of 2 extra D rings to longer end by sliding them onto strap. Fold over 2" to the underside of strap and sew in place securing D rings. Thread shorter end of

strap through both D rings then back through 1 for adjustable strap. Pull short end to make adjustments. Attach front part of magnetic snap to bag flap as per directions on package, centering snap 2" from base of flap. Attach back part of magnetic snap to main section of bag, centered. Sew 1" square of fabric to inside of bag to cover rear of snap.

Needle Felting

Prepare fibers as you go. Revert yarn back to fiber state by grasping end of yarn, untwisting yarn in about 2–3" sections, and tugging fibers apart. Do not cut. Blend by repeatedly teasing fibers apart until completely untwisted, soft, and fluffy. For Handpaint yarn use only required colors. As felted fabric is so thick, fairly deep poking is required to fix design to bag. Hold felting needle in center of shaft and poke vertically unless otherwise directed. Trace pansy design onto sheet of paper to use as template. Cut out all 5 bud sections and lower center leaf. Center design on top of flap, place foam under flap then pin to hold in place, making sure design is centered 2" from bottom edge of flap, as this covers the back of magnetic snap. Layer thin sections of fiber in bud templates and needle vertically, using only half of needle blade depth, until fiber is firmly fixed in place and base fabric is no longer visible. Poke at 45° angle from outer edge toward center back of bud all around each bud to give rounded appearance. Outline each bud using a very fine strand of fibers slightly twisted and deeply needle in place. Secure 1 end of outline fiber in place by

needling, then continue laying outline and needling around outer edge as you go. Working with only small sections at a time, carefully cut out each individual stem and leaf, starting at each bud and working away. Move pins close to working area to keep template in place. Yarn may be used for stems rather than untwisted fibers. **Note:** Lower center leaf should be needled separately and attached once constructed, as follows: Take small amount of fiber and place in 3 crisscrossing layers on foam only. Begin poking needle into fibers until fibers are entangled. Keep lifting up leaf from foam and turning over to ensure even needling. Fold in any stray fibers and poke into leaf, matching shape to template. Once you can no longer see through leaf, add fine layer of green

from English Garden and needle in place. Make vein markings, then attach finished leaf around edges of magnetic snap, being careful to avoid poking metal. Outline all leaves and stems except for the 3 inner calyx sections at each bud. Work from outside of larger flowers toward center of flower. Allow purple and pink to overlap slightly into black areas so no harsh lines show. Fold over any stray fibers into petals and needle in place. Deep-needle pansy centers to give impression of depth. Deep-needle at 45° angle from outer petal edge toward petal center around all purple/pink petal edges up to center of each flower. Outline all purple/pink petal edges and centers. When design is finished, lightly needle over whole needle-felted design (¼ of needle blade depth) to firm

up design. Turn over flap and spray back of design with cool, slightly soapy water (2–3 drops of liquid dish soap in 1 cup of water). Surface should be damp enough that your hands don't stick to it. Gently massage area of design in circular motion for 2–3 minutes to help entangle fibers. Rinse with cool water. Roll in clean, dry towel to squeeze out excess moisture; allow to air-dry.

Template download link: www.interweavecrochet.com/issue/materials_win07.asp#wright

JILL WRIGHT has enjoyed yarn-related crafts from a very early age. She is currently building two websites: www.woolcrafting.com and www.thepurseworkshop.com.



Messenger Bag

by **JULIE ARMSTRONG HOLETZ**
Originally published in *Crochet Me*
(Interweave, 2007)

I WANTED TO CREATE A DESIGN THAT COULD BE ADAPTED EASILY to make something unique. The construction of the bag is very simple; it's what you do with it that makes it special. By making changes to the cut-out design or embroidered edging or by changing colors, you can give this bag a whole new personality. If you don't want to do the color blocks but like the idea of a contrast color showing through the holes, simply make the bag in one color, cut out the holes, and line the flap in a contrasting color.

FINISHED SIZE Before felting: 20" (51 cm) wide, 19¼" (49 cm) high, 4¾" (12 cm) deep. After felting: 15" (38 cm) wide, 12" (30.5 cm) high, 3" (7.5 cm) deep.

YARN Cascade 220 Tweed (90% wool, 10% Donegal; 220 yd [201 m]/100 g): #615 ck white, 5 skeins (MC); #9465B dark orange, 2 skeins (CC1); #9430 dark green, 1 skein (CC2); #2413 red, 1 skein (CC3); #7825 light orange, 1 skein (CC4).

Substitution: About 1,350 yd (1,234 m) worsted-weight (Medium #4) 100% wool. Do not use superwash wool.

HOOK Size I/9 (5.5 mm) and J/10 (6 mm). Change hook size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

NOTIONS Straight pins; large yarn needle; stitch markers (optional); 20 yd (18 m) scrap cotton yarn, worsted weight or lighter; pillowcase for felting (use either a zippered pillowcase or a regular case with a thick rubber band to close); baking soda; sharp scissors.

GAUGE 12 hdc and 10 rows = 4" (10 cm) with smaller hook before felting.

NOTES

- The body of the bag is worked in one piece, making up the front, bottom, back, and flap. The sides and strap are worked separately as one piece, then stitched to the bag before felting.
- Using a larger hook for the foundation chain will keep the foundation edge from becoming narrower than the rest of the panel after felting.
- The color block chart is worked over the first 57 sts of the row when the RS is facing and over the last 57 sts when the WS is facing. Work the remainder of the row in MC only.
- The turning chain does not count as a stitch throughout pattern.
- Don't worry about weaving in the loose ends too perfectly. Any tail ends can be snipped off after everything is felted and dry.



- Any unsecured edges of the bag will stretch during the felting process causing the edges to be uneven with the seamed edges. Stretching will also occur with pieces of crocheted fabric that are considerably longer in one direction versus another, such as the strap. One way to make edges felt more evenly is to loosely baste the edges and openings with a cotton thread or yarn. You will remove the basting thread after washing, and any visible holes can be quickly "erased" by hand felting with hot water.

Bag

BODY

Follow chart for color changes.

With larger hook and MC, ch 195.

Row 1 (RS): Switch to smaller hook and begin chart, hdc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in each ch across, turn—194 hdc.

Row 2: Ch 1, hdc in first st, hdc in each st across, turn.

Rows 3–51: Rep Row 2 until piece measures 20" (51 cm) while following color chart. Fasten off.

Strap

With larger hook and MC, ch 291.

Row 1: Switch to smaller hook, hdc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in each ch across, turn—290 hdc.

Row 2: Ch 1, hdc in first st, hdc in each st across, turn.

Rows 3–13: Rep Row 2, working 3 rows in MC, 6 rows in CC1, then 2 rows in MC.

Row 14: Ch 1, sc in each st across. Fasten off.

Finishing

Weave in yarn ends.

ASSEMBLY

Using straight pins as markers, start at the color block edges, placing markers on both edges at 19¼" (49 cm) and 24" (61 cm) to mark the front and back edge of the bottom panel. Place markers on both edges at 19¼" (49 cm) from each short end of the Strap. With WS held together, center the ends of the Strap between the markers on each side of the Body and pin into place. Using Strap markers to mark the beginning and end of the seam and leaving 19¼" (49 cm) of the Body unattached for the flap, pin Straps to Body. With MC and smaller hook, sc sides of Strap to the Body. Fasten off and weave in ends. Remove pins.

BASTING

With a yarn needle threaded with cotton yarn, loosely baste the opening of the bag closed. Fold the flap over the front panel. With each side flush to the edges of the bag, baste all three edges of the flap to the bag. Fold the strap of the bag in half, then fold in half again and baste through all layers.

FELTING

Place the bag into the pillowcase and zip or secure with a thick rubber band to avoid clumps of wool fuzzies from clogging up your machine. Set the washing machine for a small load with hot

water. Toss the pillowcase in with $\frac{1}{4}$ c (2 oz) of baking soda or mild detergent and a pair of jeans (for agitation) and wash. Stop the washer periodically to check the progress of the felting. With each cycle the bag will shrink more and more. Without letting the washer go to the spin cycle, repeat wash cycles until the bag has felted to measurements. If you don't see a significant change after the first three cycles, you can make the water hotter by adding a pot of boiling water, increase agitation by throwing in a tennis ball, or allow it to go to a cold rinse cycle (but don't let it go to spin!). When the bag has reached the desired size, lay it out flat on a towel and roll

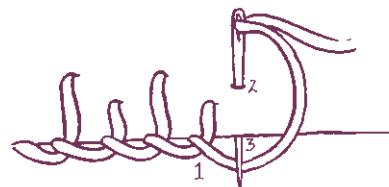
the towel to remove as much water as possible. The bag may appear out of shape in some areas. Snip and remove the basting yarn. Pull and stretch the bag to the desired shape, making sure the flap is even with the width of the bag. Insert a plastic form (I use phone books covered in plastic grocery bags) to help the bag keep its shape while drying. Pin the flap to the edge of the front panel. Allow the bag to completely air-dry, possibly overnight or longer.

CUTOUTS AND EMBROIDERY

The flap may have stretched during the wash. Using sharp scissors, trim the flap so the bottom edge is even with the front panel of the bag. Using blanket

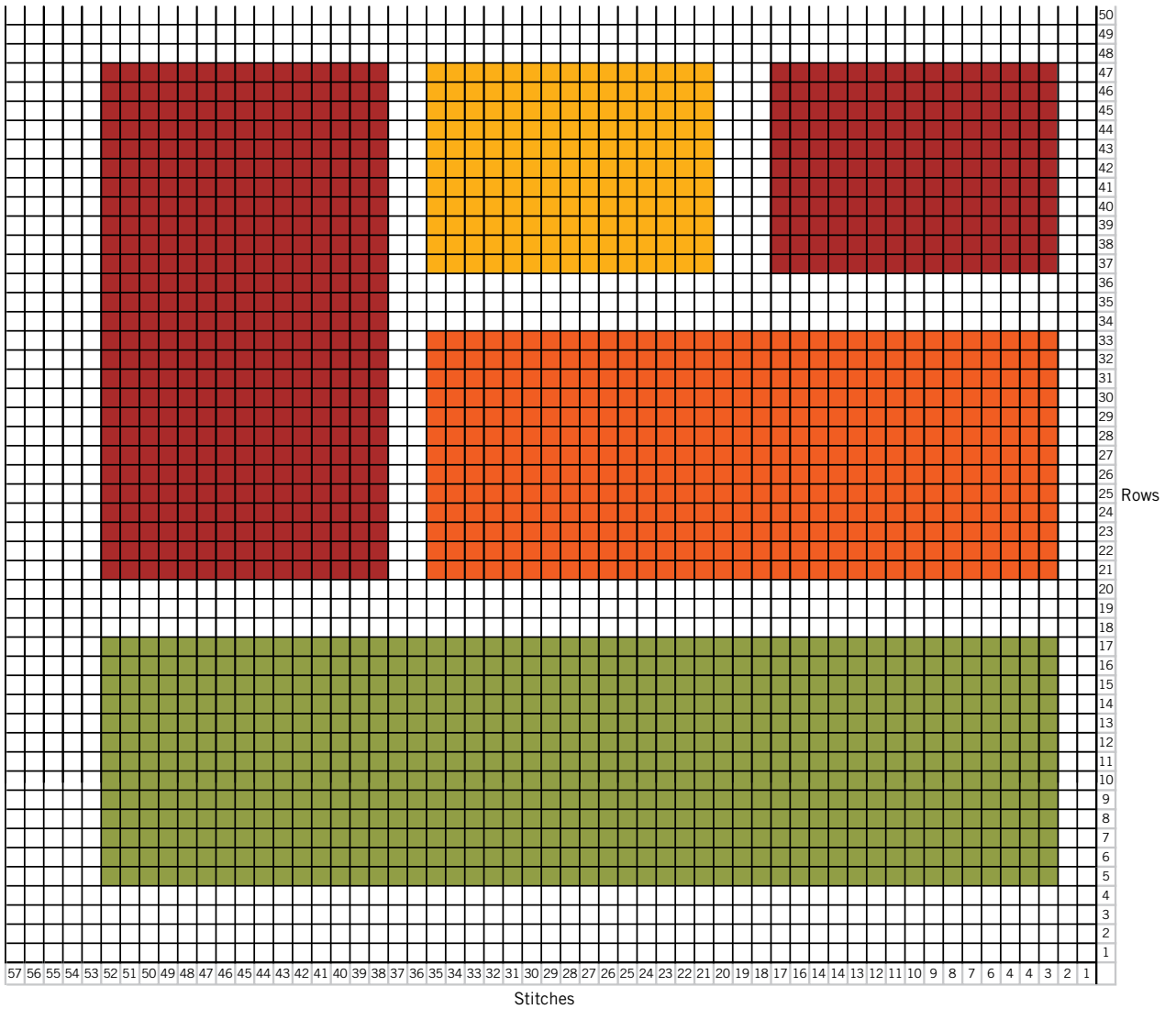
stitch (see below) and CC1, stitch around the three open sides of the flap. Carefully cut 1–2" (2–2.5 cm) holes over various color blocks as pictured and blanket-stitch around the holes. Weave in ends.

JULIE ARMSTRONG HOLETZ grew up a L.A. roller-skating diva (she mentions Xanadu), and she now makes her home in suburban Washington State. Although she's not a big fan of ribbon yarns, Julie will crochet with pretty much anything else: cotton, rayon, wool, raffia, leather, and string licorice.



Long and Short Blanket Stitch

Working from left to right, bring the needle up at 1 and insert at 2. Bring back up at 3 and over the working thread. Repeat by making the next stitch about twice as long as the stitch that runs from 1 to 2. Note: Regular blanket stitch is achieved by keeping the distance between 2 and 3 consistent.



Crochet Basics

Abbreviations

beg	begin(s); beginning
bet	between
blo	back loop only
CC	contrasting color
ch(s)	chain
cm	centimeter(s)
cont	continue(s); continuing
dc	double crochet
dtr	double treble crochet
dec(s)('d)	decrease(s); decreasing; decreased
est	established
fdc	foundation double crochet
flo	front loop only
foll	follows; following
fsc	foundation single crochet
g	gram(s)
hdc	half double crochet
inc(s)('d)	increase(s); increasing; increased
k	knit
lp(s)	loop(s)
MC	main color
m	marker
mm	millimeter(s)
patt(s)	pattern(s)
pm	place marker
p	purl
rem	remain(s); remaining
rep	repeat; repeating
rev sc	reverse single crochet
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sc	single crochet
sk	skip
sl	slip
sl st	slip(ped) stitch
sp(s)	space(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
tch	turning chain
tog	together
tr	treble crochet
WS	wrong side
yd	yard
y	yarn over hook
*	repeat starting point
**	repeat all instructions between asterisks
()	alternate measurements and/or instructions
[]	work bracketed instructions a specified number of times

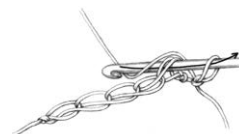
Chain (ch)

Make a slipknot on hook, *yarn over and draw through loop of slipknot; repeat from * drawing yarn through last loop formed.



Slip Stitch (sl st)

*Insert hook in stitch, yarn over and draw loop through stitch and loop on hook; repeat from *.



Single Crochet (sc)

*Insert hook in stitch, yarn over and pull up loop (Figure 1), yarn over and draw through both loops on hook (Figure 2); repeat from *.

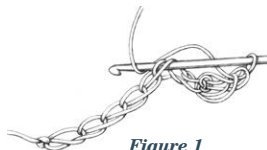


Figure 1

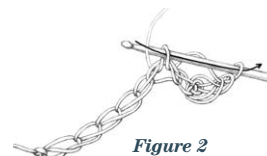


Figure 2

Single Crochet Two Together (Sc2tog)

Insert hook in next stitch, yarn over, draw loop through stitch (two loops on hook, Figure 1). Insert hook in next stitch, yarn over, draw loop through stitch (three loops on hook). Yarn over and draw yarn through all three loops on hook (Figure 2). Completed sc2tog—one stitch decreased (Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Half Double Crochet (hdc)

*Yarn over, insert hook in stitch, yarn over and pull up loop (3 loops on hook), yarn over (Figure 1) and draw through all loops on hook (Figure 2); repeat from *.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Illustrations by Gayle Ford

Double Crochet (dc)

*Yarn over, insert hook in stitch, yarn over and pull up loop (3 loops on hook; Figure 1), yarn over and draw through 2 loops (Figure 2), yarn over and draw through remaining 2 loops (Figure 3); repeat from *.



Figure 1



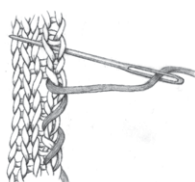
Figure 2



Figure 3

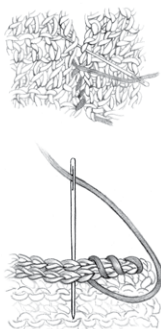
Whipstitch

With right side of work facing and working one stitch in from the edge, bring threaded needle out from back to front along edge of knitted piece.



Whipstitch Seams

Place pieces with right sides together. Hold pieces with the 2 edges facing you. Step 1: Secure seaming yarn on wrong side of one piece. Pass needle through pieces from back to front at start of seam. This creates a small stitch to begin seam. Step 2: A little farther left, pass needle through pieces, again from back to front, wrapping seam edge. Repeat Step 2 to complete seam. Secure end of seaming yarn.



Illustrations by Gayle Ford

Double Treble Crochet (dtr)

Yarn over three times and insert hook in 6th chain from hook. Draw a loop through chain—5 loops on hook; [yarn over and draw through 2 loops] 4 times.

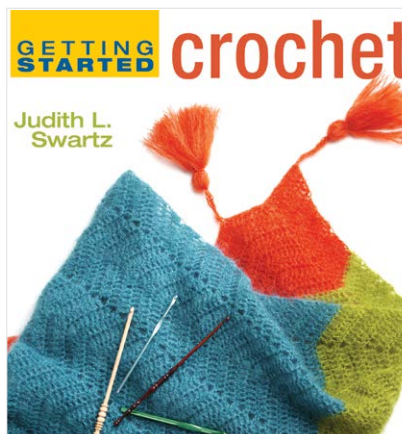


Double Crochet Two Together (dc2tog)

[Yarn over, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up loop, yarn over, draw through 2 loops] 2 times, yarn over, draw through all loops on hook—1 stitch decreased.

Double Crochet Three Together (dc3tog)

[Yarn over, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up loop, yarn over, draw through 2 loops] 3 times (4 loops on hook), yarn over, draw through all loops on hook—2 stitches decreased.



bookEXCERPT

Find more great designs in **Getting Started: Crochet** published by Interweave (2006)