Crochet • Advanced beginner

Market Day Bag

A market bag with a solid round base, a stretchy mesh body of chain loops, and two handles worked into the top band. Cotton makes it strong and washable.

Size

Base about 9 in (23 cm) across; body about 13 in (33 cm) tall before stretching, plus handles. The mesh stretches a lot when the bag is full.

Materials

- Yarn: worsted-weight (#4) cotton, about 220 yds (200 m).
- Hook: US H-8 (5 mm).
- Notions: stitch marker, tapestry needle.

Gauge

14 dc and 7 rounds = 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet. Gauge is not critical.

Abbreviations

ch: chain
sc: single crochet
st(s): stitch(es)
rep: repeat
sl st: slip stitch
dc: double crochet
loop: a ch-5 space
*: repeat the instructions after the * as directed

Notes

- US crochet terms. Work every round with the right side facing; do not turn.
- In the base, the ch-3 at the start of a round counts as 1 dc, and the dc in the same stitch makes that round's first increase.
- In the mesh, the sl sts at the start of each round move you to the middle of the first loop, so the rounds don't slant.

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Make a magic ring (or ch 4 and join with a sl st to form a ring).

☐ Base

Round 1: Ch 3 (counts as dc), 11 dc in the ring. Join with a sl st to the top of the ch-3. (12 dc)

Round 2: Ch 3, dc in the same st, 2 dc in each st around. Join. (24 dc)

Round 3: Ch 3, dc in the same st, *dc in the next st, 2 dc in the next st; rep from * to the last st, dc in it. Join. (36 dc)

Round 4: Ch 3, dc in the same st, *dc in the next 2 sts, 2 dc in the next st; rep from * to the last 2 sts, dc in each of them. Join. (48 dc)

Round 5: Ch 3, dc in the same st, *dc in the next 3 sts, 2 dc in the next st; rep from * to the last 3 sts, dc in each of them. Join. (60 dc)

Round 6: Ch 3, dc in the same st, *dc in the next 4 sts, 2 dc in the next st; rep from * to the last 4 sts, dc in each of them. Join. (72 dc)

Round 7: Ch 3, dc in the same st, *dc in the next 5 sts, 2 dc in the next st; rep from * to the last 5 sts, dc in each of them. Join. (84 dc)

Round 8: Ch 3, dc in the same st, *dc in the next 6 sts, 2 dc in the next st; rep from * to the last 6 sts, dc in each of them. Join. (96 dc)

☐ Mesh

Round 9: Ch 1, sc in the same st, *ch 5, skip the next 3 sts, sc in the next st; rep from * 22 more times, ch 5, skip the last 3 sts. Join to the first sc. (24 loops)

Round 10: Sl st in the next 3 ch, ch 1, sc in the same loop, *ch 5, sc in the next loop; rep from * 22 more times, ch 5. Join to the first sc. (24 loops)

Rounds 11–25: Work 15 more repeats of the last round.

☐ Top and handles

Round 26: Ch 1, 4 sc in each ch-5 loop around. Join to the first sc. (96 sc)

Rounds 27–28: Ch 1, sc in each st around. Join. (96 sc)

Round 29: Ch 1, sc in the first 12 sts, ch 40, skip the next 24 sts, sc in the next 24 sts, ch 40, skip the next 24 sts, sc in the last 12 sts. Join. (2 handles)

Rounds 30–31: Ch 1, sc in each sc and each ch around. Join. (128 sc)

☐ Finishing

- Fasten off and weave in the ends.
- Wash or steam the bag, then hang it to dry with something light inside so the mesh opens evenly.

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