Basketweave structured handbag

US terms



Finished size

About 11½ in (29 cm) wide, 8¾ in (22 cm) tall and 3½ in (9 cm) deep, the panel edges counted and the handles not

Skill

Intermediate

The front and back are in front and back post stitches worked in rows, and the bag is sewn together from panels.

Yarn

Medium (4), 2 colors

Hook

4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge

16 stitches and 18 rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: camel, the front and the back **about 225 yd (206 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: espresso, the gusset, edges, handles and tab **about 300 yd (274 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a wooden button about 1 in (2.5 cm) across, with sewing thread, a sewing needle for the thread, a yarn needle, scissors and pins and stitch markers.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together (UK dc2tog)
FPdc	front post double crochet (UK front post treble)
BPdc	back post double crochet (UK back post treble)
st	stitch
sp	space
sk	skip (UK miss)
RS	right side

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Gauge

16 stitches and 18 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet. Along a row, count every stitch and every chain between stitches as one.

16 stitches and 11 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet. The panel is a little firmer than plain double crochet: at this gauge 11 of its rows are 4 in (10 cm) too, measured over the post stitches.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Lay it flat and count the stitches and rows over 4 in (10 cm) in its middle. There should be 16 stitches and 18 rows. If you count more stitches than that, change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, change to a smaller hook. The swatch can be pulled out and its yarn used again.
>
Swatch foundation	Ch 25.	
Swatch row 1 (RS)	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(24 sc)**
Swatch rows 2 to 27	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(24 sc)**

Before you start

- The 2 chains skipped at the start of row 1 of the panel, the chain of 2 at the start of its other rows, and the chain of 1 at the start of a row of sc, do not count as stitches.
- A post stitch is worked round the upright of the stitch below, from the front (FP) or from the back (BP), not into its top. FP and BP are named from the side that faces you: on a right side row FP is a raised block, and on a wrong side row BP is. At both ends of a row the post stitch goes round the first or the last stitch in the same way.
- Each band of the weave is 3 rows. After 3 rows the raised and the sunk blocks change places.
- To change color, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before, here the last stitch of the row before. Cut the old yarn at the change, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- Backstitch: bring the needle up one stitch length ahead, put it down where the stitch before ended, and go on so in a line without gaps.
- For a bag that keeps its shape even when it is empty, line it with a firm fabric, or lay a piece of plastic canvas on the base.
- Colors. The panels, row by row. Rows 1 to 22: A. Rows 23 to 24: B. All the other pieces: B.

Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, dc is treble, sc2tog is dc2tog, FPdc is front post treble, BPdc is back post treble and sk is miss.

Panel: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, camel; B, espresso.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 46.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Dc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(44 dc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts	**(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

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☐ **Row 3** Ch 2, turn; **[**FPdc around next 4 sts, BPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, FPdc around next 4 sts **(24 FPdc, 20 BPdc)**

☐ **Rows 4 to 5** Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts **(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

A box for each row, 4 to 5: tick them off as you go.

4 5

☐ **Row 6** Ch 2, turn; **[**FPdc around next 4 sts, BPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, FPdc around next 4 sts **(24 FPdc, 20 BPdc)**

☐ **Rows 7 to 8** Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts **(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

A box for each row, 7 to 8: tick them off as you go.

7 8

☐ **Row 9** Ch 2, turn; **[**FPdc around next 4 sts, BPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, FPdc around next 4 sts **(24 FPdc, 20 BPdc)**

☐ **Rows 10 to 11** Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts **(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

A box for each row, 10 to 11: tick them off as you go.

10 11

☐ **Row 12** Ch 2, turn; **[**FPdc around next 4 sts, BPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, FPdc around next 4 sts **(24 FPdc, 20 BPdc)**

☐ **Rows 13 to 14** Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts **(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

A box for each row, 13 to 14: tick them off as you go.

13 14

☐ **Row 15** Ch 2, turn; **[**FPdc around next 4 sts, BPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, FPdc around next 4 sts **(24 FPdc, 20 BPdc)**

☐ **Rows 16 to 17** Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts **(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

A box for each row, 16 to 17: tick them off as you go.

16 17

☐ **Row 18** Ch 2, turn; **[**FPdc around next 4 sts, BPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, FPdc around next 4 sts **(24 FPdc, 20 BPdc)**

☐ **Rows 19 to 20** Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts **(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

A box for each row, 19 to 20: tick them off as you go.

19 20

☐ **Row 21** Ch 2, turn; **[**FPdc around next 4 sts, BPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, FPdc around next 4 sts **(24 FPdc, 20 BPdc)**

☐ **Row 22** Ch 2, turn; **[**BPdc around next 4 sts, FPdc around next 4 sts**] 5 times**, BPdc around next 4 sts **(24 BPdc, 20 FPdc)**

☐ **Row 23** With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across **(44 sc)**

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☐ **Row 24**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(44 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Panel edge: make 2

Yarn B, espresso.

☐ **Foundation**	The two sides and the lower edge of a panel, RS facing: 92 places, the ends of rows 24 to 1 down the left side, the 44 chains of the foundation edge, and the ends of rows 1 to 24 up the right side.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next st, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 11 times**, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 42 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 11 times**, sc in next 2 sts	**(116 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Gusset and base

Yarn B, espresso.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 117.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(116 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 16**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(116 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 16: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Handle: make 2

Yarn B, espresso.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 73.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 8**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(72 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 8: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 64 in (162.5 cm) to close the handle.	

Tab

Yarn B, espresso.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 13.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 30**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(12 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 30: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30

☐ **Row 31**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 4 sts, ch 4, sk next 4 sts, sc in next 4 sts	**(8 sc, 1 ch-4 sp)**
☐ **Row 32**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 4 sts, 4 sc in next ch-4 sp, sc in next 4 sts	**(12 sc)**

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☐ **Row 33**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Row 34**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog	**(8 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Assembly

1. Work a panel edge round three sides of each panel. Weave in all the tails but the long tails of the handles. The panels are alike: one is the front and one is the back. Each shows 11 blocks across; in the top band, rows 20 to 22, counted from one side edge to the other, the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th block are raised, so there is a raised block at both ends, and the five between them are sunk.

2. The handles. Fold a handle in half lengthwise, the wrong side inside, so that its last row lies on its foundation edge, and with its long tail whip stitch these two edges together, stitch to stitch, 72 stitches. It is now a flat double band, 4 rows wide, about 1 in (2.5 cm), and 18 in (45.5 cm) long. Close the other in the same way.

3. Lay the front right side up. One end of a handle covers the 3rd block from the left edge and the other end the 3rd block from the right edge: each block is 4 stitches wide, as wide as the handle. Pin the ends straight down over the two dark rows of the top and over rows 22 to 17, so that each end reaches about 2 5/8 in (6.5 cm) below the top edge of the panel, the end of the handle on row 17. The sewn edge of the handle faces the middle of the bag at both ends. For each end cut a length of B about 44 in (112 cm) long, fasten it on the wrong side of the panel with 3 small stitches, and backstitch the end down close to its outline, through both layers of the handle and the panel: down one edge, across the end and up the other edge, and across along the top edge of the panel. Fasten off on the wrong side. The free part between is about 12¾ in (32.5 cm) long. Sew the other handle to the back in the same way.

4. The tab. On the back, find the middle 12 stitches of the top edge, the 17th to the 28th. Lay row 1 of the tab and the 4 rows after it, 5 rows in all, on the inside of the back, below these 12 stitches, the right side of the tab against the wrong side of the back, the foundation edge down and row 5 level with the top edge. With a length of B, 36 in (91.5 cm) long, whip stitch the foundation edge and the two row end sides of these 5 rows to the back, and backstitch across along the top edge. The rest of the tab, with the buttonhole at its far end, goes over the top to the front, its right side up.

5. The gusset. Its 116 stitches are 35 for one end of the bag, 46 for the base and 35 for the other end. Put a marker at both long edges after stitch 35 and after stitch 81, counted from one short end. With the wrong sides together pin the last row of the gusset to the edge of the front, the right sides of both outside, the markers at the two lower corners of the panel: one before the first of the 46 stitches along the foundation edge and one after the last of them. Cut a length of B about 96 in (244 cm) long, begin at one top corner with a tail of 6 in (15 cm), and whip stitch the two edges together, stitch to stitch, 116 stitches, with 3 stitches in the same place at both top corners, and fasten off inside. Sew the foundation edge of the gusset to the edge of the back in the same way, with another length of B, 96 in (244 cm) long.

6. The button. Bring the tab over to the front and lay it flat down the middle of it. Put a pin through the middle of the buttonhole into the front: it comes in the 6th block, the middle one. Sew the button there with sewing thread.

Finishing

- Weave every tail that is left in on the inside. Press the corners of the gusset square with your fingers.

In all: 6 pieces; 5,750 stitches (1,056 in each panel, 116 in each panel edge, 1,856 in the gusset and base, 576 in each handle, 398 in the tab).

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

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