# Checkerboard tote

Medium · US terms



Finished size

**About 12½ in (32 cm) wide laid flat and 10¼ in (26 cm) tall, with handles about 14¾ in (37.5 cm) long**

Skill

**Intermediate**

Two colors are used in every checked round, the one not in use carried.

Yarn

**Medium (4), 2 colors**

Hook

**5 mm (US H-8)**

Gauge

**14 stitches and 15 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)**

In single crochet.

## You will need

Yarn A: oat milk, contrast color **about 125 yd (114 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: forest, main color **about 225 yd (206 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8). Also: a stitch marker, a yarn needle and scissors.

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

## Sizes

| Size | Finished size, about | Yarn, an estimate |
|---|---|---|
| **Small** | 10¼ in (26 cm) wide, 8 in (20.5 cm) tall | about 225 yd (206 m) |
| **Medium (this file)** | **12½ in (32 cm) wide, 10¼ in (26 cm) tall** | **about 350 yd (320 m)** |
| **Large** | 14¾ in (37.5 cm) wide, 12¼ in (31 cm) tall | about 485 yd (443 m) |


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## Abbreviations

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **ch** | chain stitch |
| **sc** | single crochet (UK dc, double crochet) |
| **st** | stitch |
| **sp** | space |
| **sk** | skip (UK miss) |
| **rnd** | round |
| **RS** | right side |

## Gauge

**14 stitches and 15 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)** in single crochet.

If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

**Check your gauge on the piece.** Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. The gauge is checked on the piece itself: after round 5 the base should measure about 11¼ in (28.5 cm) long, laid flat and not stretched.

## Before you start

- Round 1 is worked along both sides of the foundation chain: along one side, 3 stitches in the last chain, then back along the other side. From round 2 on, the increases stand at the two ends only.
- The rounds are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round.
- The handle round makes two handles: each is a chain that passes over skipped stitches, and the next round works one stitch into the chain space for every chain.
- Tapestry crochet: where two or more colors share a round, lay the color or colors of that round not in use along the top of the round before and work over them, all the way round, so that they are carried inside the stitches.
- To change color, at the start of a round or inside it, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before. Where two or more colors share a round, cut nothing at a change: the color you leave is carried. Once a color is no longer in the rounds: where only one or two rounds are worked before it is used again, carry it loosely up the inside; where more are worked, or it is not used again, cut it, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Colors, round by round. Rounds 1 to 5: B. Rounds 6 to 37: A and B. Rounds 38 to 43: B.

## Instructions

Chosen: Medium. 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 round is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet and sk is miss.

**Yarns in order of use: B, forest; A, oat milk.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Ch 32. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 29 chs, 3 sc in last ch,<br>working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next 29 chs, 2 sc in last ch | **(64 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 29 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 29 sts,<br>2 sc in each of next 2 sts | **(70 sc)** |


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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sc in next 29 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 29 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(76 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 4** | Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 29 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 29 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(82 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 5** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, sc in next 29 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**, sc in next 29 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times** | **(88 sc)** |

**Stop and measure now, after round 5.** After round 5 the base should measure about 11¼ in (28.5 cm) long and 2¾ in (7 cm) wide.

## Sides

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 6 to 9** | **[**With A, sc in next 4 sts, with B, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 6 to 9: tick them off as you go.

6 7 8 9

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 10 to 13** | **[**With B, sc in next 4 sts, with A, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 10 to 13: tick them off as you go.

10 11 12 13

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 14 to 17** | **[**With A, sc in next 4 sts, with B, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 14 to 17: tick them off as you go.

14 15 16 17

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 18 to 21** | **[**With B, sc in next 4 sts, with A, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 18 to 21: tick them off as you go.

18 19 20 21

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 22 to 25** | **[**With A, sc in next 4 sts, with B, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 22 to 25: tick them off as you go.

22 23 24 25

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 26 to 29** | **[**With B, sc in next 4 sts, with A, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 26 to 29: tick them off as you go.

26 27 28 29

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 30 to 33** | **[**With A, sc in next 4 sts, with B, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 30 to 33: tick them off as you go.

30 31 32 33

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnds 34 to 37** | **[**With B, sc in next 4 sts, with A, sc in next 4 sts**] 11 times** | **(88 sc)** |

A box for each round, 34 to 37: tick them off as you go.

34 35 36 37

## Top and handles

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 38** | With B, sc in each st around | **(88 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 39** | Sc in each st around | **(88 sc)** |


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**Stop and measure now, after round 39.** Before round 40, check where the round starts. Unjoined rounds lean a little, so the marker moves away from the place where the base began. Lay the bag flat with the base folded along its middle, so that each end of the base is at a side fold. The handles are in the middle of the front and the back when the marker stands 2 stitches past a side fold, in the direction you work. If it does not, work one single crochet in each stitch on to that place and move the marker there; round 40 starts from it.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 40** | Sc in next 12 sts, ch 52, sk next 15 sts, sc in next 29 sts, ch 52, sk next 15 sts, sc in next 17 sts | **(58 sc, 2 ch-52 sps)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 41** | Sc in next 12 sts, 52 sc in next ch-52 sp, sc in next 29 sts, 52 sc in next ch-52 sp, sc in next 17 sts | **(162 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnds 42 to 43** | Sc in each st around | **(162 sc)** |

A box for each round, 42 to 43: tick them off as you go.

42 43

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ **End** | Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). |

## Finishing

- Weave every tail in on the inside.

In all: 43 rounds; 3,916 stitches; 18 ends to weave in.

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


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