1940s style gathered handbag

US terms



Finished size
About 10 in (25.5 cm) wide and 3 in (7.5 cm) deep at the base and 8¼ in (21 cm) tall, without the handles

Skill
Intermediate
It is single crochet throughout; two ribbed panels are gathered into a firm band, and the handles are sewn round a cord.

Yarn
Light (3)

Hook
4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge
20 stitches and 22 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn: cranberry red, light (3) **about 450 yd (411 m), an estimate**
Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: cotton piping cord 3/8 in (1 cm) thick, 24 in (61 cm), a flat button about 1 in (2.5 cm) across, to cover, a stitch marker, a yarn needle, scissors and pins.

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
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together (UK dc2tog)
BLO	back loop only
MR	magic ring
st	stitch
sk	skip (UK miss)
rnd	round
RS	right side

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

This is the rib of the panels, in the back loops. The band, the handles and the button are plain single crochet with the same hook.

> **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 20 stitches and 22 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 31.	
Swatch row 1 (RS)	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(30 sc)**
Swatch rows 2 to 33	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of each st across	**(30 sc)**

Before you start

- The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only. The piece is turned at every row, so the front loops left free make ridges on both sides of it. That is the panels.
- Begin with a magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring, draw up a loop and chain 1 to hold it, which does not count as a stitch. Work round 1 into the ring, then pull the tail to draw the ring closed. That is the button cover, worked in a spiral: move a marker up to the first stitch of each round. Mark the rounds of the band in the same way.
- 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.

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 sc is double crochet, sc2tog is dc2tog and sk is miss.

Panel: make 2

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 41.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(40 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 72**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of each st across	**(40 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 72: 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
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72																

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

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Band

☐ **Foundation**	The top edge of the sewn bag, RS facing: 144 places, the ends of the 72 rows of one panel and of the 72 rows of the other, nothing in the two side seams.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	**[**Sk next st, sc in next st**] 72 times**	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 2 to 20**	Sc in each st around	**(72 sc)**

A box for each round, 2 to 20: 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

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 52 in (132 cm) to sew the band down.	

Handle: make 2

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 55.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 7**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(54 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 7: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 44 in (112 cm) to close the handle.	

Button cover

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 5**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**

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

4 5

☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**Sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30 cm).	

Assembly

1. The sides and the base. Each panel is 13 in (33 cm) wide and 8 in (20.5 cm) tall, with its ridges upright: its foundation edge and its last row are its two sides, and the ends of its rows are its top and lower edges. Lay the panels together with their right sides inside. At each side whip stitch the two edges together, stitch to stitch, 40 stitches, with a length of yarn 32 in (81.5 cm) long. Sew the lower edges together in the same way with 48 in (122 cm) of yarn, row to row, 72 rows. The top stays open.

2. The box corners. With the bag still inside out, flatten one lower corner so that the side seam lies on top of the base seam and the corner is a point. Measure 1½ in (4 cm) along the seams from the point, and there backstitch straight across through both layers with a 20 in (50 cm) length of yarn, a line about 3 in (7.5 cm) long. Fold the point up against the side seam and sew its tip there with 3 stitches. Do the same at the other lower corner. Turn the bag right side out. The base is about 10 in (25.5 cm) by 3 in (7.5 cm).

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

3. The band. Work it along the top edge with the right side facing. Join the yarn with a slip stitch in the side seam on your right, and do not count that stitch. Round 1 passes over the end of one row and goes into the end of the next, all the way round: 36 stitches along each panel, one to a ridge. Draw each stitch up firmly, so that no hole is left where a row is passed over. The rounds are a spiral. After round 20 fold the band in half to the inside, round 10 at its top edge, and with the long tail whip stitch round 20 down to the inside of round 1, stitch to stitch, 72 stitches. The band is now double and 10 rounds tall.

4. The handles. Cut the cord in two pieces of 10 in (25.5 cm). Lay a piece on the wrong side of a handle along its middle, about 3/8 in (1 cm) from each end, fold the handle round it, and with the long tail whip stitch the foundation edge to the last row, stitch to stitch, 54 stitches, along the whole length, and weave in what is left of the tail. Press the two ends flat. Close the other handle in the same way.

5. Lay the bag flat with one panel up, the front. The middle of the front is between its 36th and 37th row; on the band it lies straight above, with 18 stitches of the band on each side of it. On the band count 9 stitches from this middle to the left and 9 to the right, and put a pin at each place. Set the two ends of a handle on the outside of the band, the middle of each end on a pin, the seam of the handle toward the band, the handle standing up and its two ends pointing down, each end level with the lower edge of the band. For each of the two ends cut a length of yarn 36 in (91.5 cm) long, begin with a tail of 4 in (10 cm), and whip stitch the end down through both layers of the band: up one edge, beginning at the lower edge of the band, back down, across the end, up the other edge and back down, over all 10 rounds of the band on both edges. Weave the ends of the yarn in on the inside. Sew the other handle to the band of the back in the same way.

6. The button. Put the flat button into the cover, its right side toward the first rounds of the cover, draw the tail through the front loops of the 12 stitches of the last round, and pull them shut behind it. Sew the button to the middle of the front, on rounds 5 and 6 of the band, with the rest of the tail, through both layers, 6 times.

7. The loop. Ch 46, turn, slip stitch (UK ss) in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each of the next 44 chs, and fasten off: a firm cord about 7¼ in (18.5 cm) long. Leave a tail of 8 in (20 cm) before the first chain and another when you fasten off: both tails are then at the same end of the cord. Fold it in half. Lay its two ends side by side on the inside of the back, at the middle of the band, on rounds 11 to 14, the first four rounds below the fold on the inner layer of the band, the ends pointing down and the fold of the cord pointing up. Sew the end that has the tails down with one of them, 6 small stitches. Lead the other tail across to the other end, close beside it, and sew that end down with it, 6 small stitches. Weave in what is left of both tails. To close the bag, bring the loop over the top edge of the front and round the button.

Finishing

- Weave every tail that is left in on the inside. Draw the gathers below the band even with your fingers.

In all: 5 pieces; 8,040 stitches (2,880 in each panel, 1,440 in the band, 378 in each handle, 84 in the button cover).

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

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.