Milk jug Easter basket

Gallon · US terms



Finished size

About 6 in (15 cm) square and 5¼ in (13.5 cm) tall without the handle, for a gallon jug 22½ in (57 cm) to 23½ in (59.5 cm) round

Skill

Intermediate

The stitches are easy shells; a plastic jug is cut and punched, and the cover is joined to it through the holes.

Yarn

Medium (4), 2 colors

Hook

5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge

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

In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: lilac, the base and every other round of shells	**about 90 yd (82 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, the rounds of shells between, the jug edging, the rim and the handle	**about 115 yd (105 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 100 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Fiber: cotton or acrylic

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8). Also: strong scissors, a ruler, a marking pen and a strip of paper, a hole punch or an awl that makes holes 1/8 in (3 mm) across, a small steel or lace crochet hook, about 2 mm, to draw the yarn through the holes, 6 stitch markers, a yarn needle, scissors, a plastic milk jug with square sides, gallon size, 22½ in (57 cm) to 23½ in (59.5 cm) round and ribbon 1 in (2.5 cm) wide, 30 in (76 cm) long, in yellow and white gingham.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Half gallon	4¾ in (12 cm) square, 3¾ in (9.5 cm) tall	about 135 yd (123 m)
Gallon (this file)	**6 in (15 cm) square, 5¼ in (13.5 cm) tall**	**about 205 yd (187 m)**

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Gauge

14 stitches and 16 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

14 stitches and 8 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet. A round of shells and the plain round above it together add about ¾ in (2 cm) to the height.

The pattern also stops you to measure after row 21.

> **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 14 stitches and 16 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 22. | |
> | **Swatch row 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across | (21 sc) |
> | **Swatch rows 2 to 24** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | (21 sc) |

Instructions

Gallon. US terms.

sc single crochet (UK dc), **ch** chain, **dc** double crochet (UK tr), **sl st** slip stitch, **BLO** only the loop away from you, **sk** skip, **st** stitch.
5 dc in next st: **all five in that one stitch**.
The ch 1 is not a stitch. Work in the **very first stitch**.
( ) in one place: all of it there. (18 sc): the row now has 18; a check, not a step. **How to read a pattern**
Also: sp space, RS right side, WS wrong side.
Every stitch, drawn: flossfield.com/crochet/stitches.

Base

Yarn A, lilac.

☐ **Start**	Ch 19.	
☐ **Row 1 (WS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(18 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 21**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(18 sc)

The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 **21**

> **Stop and measure now, after row 21.** The base should measure about 5¼ in (13.5 cm) wide and 5¼ in (13.5 cm) long. Larger? Begin again with a smaller hook. Smaller? A larger hook.

☐ Do not fasten off.

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Walls

Begin with yarn A, lilac.

☐ **Start**	The base just worked, 18 stitches and 21 rows; turn it so that the other side of the last row faces you.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in next 18 sts, sc in end of each of next 21 rows, sc in next 18 chs, sc in end of each of next 21 rows	(78 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(78 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	With B, sc in each st around	(78 sc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**Sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 13 times**	(13 sc, 65 dc)
☐ **Round 5**	With A, sc in each st around	(78 sc)
☐ **Round 6**	**[**Sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 13 times**	(13 sc, 65 dc)
☐ **Rounds 7 to 15**	Repeat rounds 3 to 6 in order, over and over. The last round, round 15, is worked as round 3.	
	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	
☐	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Jug edging

Yarn B, white.

Work it at the end of step 2 of Assembly, when the jug is cut and punched. Each "st" of round 1 is one hole. Begin in the hole at a corner. The yarn is on the inside of the jug. The small hook only draws loops: put it through the hole from the outside to the inside, catch the yarn, draw a loop out through the hole and up to the cut edge, and put this loop on the 5 mm hook, beside the loop that is on it. With the 5 mm hook bring the yarn over the cut edge, yarn over and pull through both loops: that is one single crochet. For the joining slip stitch at the start draw a loop out through the first hole in the same way, put it on the 5 mm hook, bring the yarn over the cut edge and draw it through the loop.

☐ **Start**	The holes in the edge of the jug, its outside facing you; 39 places.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	Join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, 2 sc in same st, 2 sc in each of next 38 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(78 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Rim

Yarn B, white.

Work it in step 5 of Assembly. Round 1 goes through both: put the hook under both loops of a stitch of the walls and then under both loops of the stitch of the jug edging behind it.

☐ **Start**	The last round of the walls and the jug edging, one before the other, the outside facing you; 78 stitches.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	Join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 77 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(78 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	Ch 1, **[**(sc, ch 3, sc) in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 26 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(104 sc, 26 ch-3 sps)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

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Handle sleeve

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Start**	Ch 9.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(8 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 54**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(8 sc)

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

☐ Fasten off, leaving a tail of 50 in (127 cm) for sewing.

Assembly

1. The jug. Wash and dry it. Measure round its straight lower part: this size is for a jug 22½ in (57 cm) to 23½ in (59.5 cm) round. Draw a line round it 4¾ in (12 cm) above the table, and cut along the line; a grown-up cuts. For the handle cut a level strip 1 in (2.5 cm) wide and 17 in (43 cm) long out of the straight wall above the line, and trim the four corners of the strip so that they are not sharp: this is the handle strip. Keep the rest for recycling.

2. The holes. Draw a second line on the jug 3/8 in (1 cm) below the cut edge all round it. Wrap a strip of paper round the jug on this line and cut it where its ends meet. Divide its length by 39, mark the paper at these steps, wrap it round again and carry the 39 marks over to the line, the first one at a corner; they are a little more than ½ in (1.5 cm) apart. Punch a hole at each mark. Punch two holes one above the other in each end of the handle strip, ¼ in (0.5 cm) and ¾ in (2 cm) from its end, and two holes to match in the middle of two opposite sides of the jug, 1 in (2.5 cm) and 1½ in (4 cm) below the cut edge. Work the jug edging.

3. The handle. The sleeve is about 13½ in (34.5 cm) long. Lay the handle strip along the middle of its wrong side, over the starting tail, which stays inside, the same length of the handle strip standing out at both ends, and bring the two long edges of the sleeve together over it. With the long tail of the sleeve whip stitch them to each other, row by row, 54 stitches. Fasten off and draw the end inside. Bend the handle so that the seam is inside the curve. Set each end of the handle strip against the inside of the jug, its holes on the holes of the jug. Cut 16 in (40.5 cm) of B for each end, sew with it through both pairs of holes four times and knot its ends on the inside. The sleeve begins at the cut edge.

4. Weave in the tails of the base, the walls and the color changes on the wrong side, and the tails of the jug edging under its stitches.

5. Draw the cover over the jug from below, right side out; it is a little smaller than the jug and stretches over it. Set its corners on the corners of the jug, and its last round level with the jug edging. Hold the two together with six markers, the first stitch of the last round of the walls before the first stitch of the jug edging and then every 13 stitches, and work the rim. The stitches at the handle are worked past it on the outside. Take the markers out when you come to them, and weave in the tails.

6. The bow. Lay the ribbon round the handle 1 in (2.5 cm) above the rim at one side, and tie it on the outside in a bow with loops 2½ in (6.5 cm) long. Cut the ends aslant.

Finishing

- Press the corners of the cover onto the corners of the jug with your fingers, and pull each picot up to a point.

In all: 2 pieces; 2,240 stitches (378 in the base, 1,170 in the walls, 78 in the jug edging, 182 in the rim, 432 in the handle sleeve).

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.

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Notes

- The base and the handle sleeve are worked in rows. The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- The rounds of the walls are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round. The jug edging and the rim are rounds joined with a slip stitch in the first stitch; the chain of 1 at their start does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the second round of the rim goes into the stitch the first round was joined in. The right side, the outside, faces you in every round.
- Round 1 of the walls goes all round the base: along the last row, down the row ends, along the foundation chain, and back up the other row ends.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only; the front loop stays on the outside as a ridge round the foot of the walls.
- A shell is 5 dc in one stitch, with a single crochet between two shells. In the plain round above the shells work one single crochet in each of the 5 dc and in each single crochet, so that the count stays the same and the shells of the next round stand above these.
- To change color, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before. Cut the old yarn at each change, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- In the last round of the rim (sc, ch 3, sc) in one stitch is a picot; its ch-3 sp stays empty.
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- The cut edge of the plastic is inside the stitches. Run a finger round it before you begin and trim every sharp corner.
- Colors. Base: A. Walls. Rounds 1 to 2: A. Rounds 3 to 4: B. Rounds 5 to 6: A. Rounds 7 to 8: B. Rounds 9 to 10: A. Rounds 11 to 12: B. Rounds 13 to 14: A. Round 15: B. The jug edging, the rim and the handle sleeve are B.

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

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