Plarn grocery tote

Medium · US terms



Finished size
About 11½ in (29 cm) wide, 6 in (15 cm) deep and 13 in (33 cm) tall, with about 19¼ in (49 cm) of each handle above the rim

Skill
Easy
A flat base is worked in rows and the sides in rounds from its edge, all in single crochet.

Yarn
Bulky (5), 3 colors

Hook
6.5 mm (US K-10 1/2)

Gauge
10 stitches and 11 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: gray, the base, the lower sides, the rim and the handles	**about 325 yd (297 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, the upper sides	**about 155 yd (142 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: red, the line	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**

Fiber: plastic bag (plarn)

Hook: 6.5 mm (US K-10 1/2), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: four stitch markers, a yarn needle with a large eye, scissors and a crochet hook two sizes smaller, to draw the ends in.

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.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Medium (this file)	**11½ in (29 cm) wide, 6 in (15 cm) deep**	**about 500 yd (457 m)**
Large	13½ in (34.5 cm) wide, 7¾ in (19.5 cm) deep	about 675 yd (617 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
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
BLO	back loop only
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

Gauge

10 stitches and 11 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet. Along a row, count every stitch and every chain between stitches as one.

The pattern also stops you to measure after row 16.

> **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 10 stitches and 11 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 16. | |
> | **Swatch row 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across | **(15 sc)** |
> | **Swatch rows 2 to 16** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(15 sc)** |

Before you start

- The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch. This is for the base and the handles, which are worked in rows.
- Round 1 of the sides goes all round the base: along the last row, down the row ends, along the foundation chain, and back up the other row ends. No stitches are added at the corners, so its edge begins to rise at once; the sides turn up in round 2.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only; the front loop stays on the outside as a ridge.
- Every round of the sides is joined with a slip stitch in its first stitch, and the work is not turned after round 1 has begun. The chain of 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch; work the first stitch of the round into the stitch the round before was joined in. Keep the stitches loose: plarn does not give.
- To make the plarn, lay a plastic shopping bag flat and smooth. Cut off the handles and the bottom seam, and cut the tube that is left across into strips about 1½ in (4 cm) wide: each strip is a closed loop. To link two loops, put one end of the second loop up through the end of the first, then pass the other end of the second loop through the end that came up, and pull until the knot is small. Link the next loop to the free end in the same way. Wind the chain of loops into a ball. Each loop is now two layers of plastic side by side: work with the two together as one strand.
- A bag about 12 in (30 cm) wide and 18 in (45 cm) tall gives about ten loops, which is about 2½ yd (2.3 m) of plarn. Bags differ, so measure the plarn from your first bag. Sort the bags by color before you cut.
- To change color where a joined round begins, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the slip stitch that ends the round before. Cut the old yarn at each change, leaving a tail of 10 in (25.5 cm), and begin every color and every part with a tail as long. Plarn slips, so draw each end along the inside through ten stitches, then turn and draw it back through four of them. That takes about 6 in (15 cm); the rest lets you hold the end while you pull it through, and is then cut.
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.

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- For a taller bag work more white rounds; 11 more make it about 4 in (10 cm) taller. The handles are then sewn down over as many more rounds, so begin each handle with two more chains for every white round you add.
- Colors of the sides, round by round. Rounds 1 to 16: A. Rounds 17 to 18: C. Rounds 19 to 34: B. Rounds 35 to 37: A.
- The base and the handles are all in A.
- Bags to collect, at about 2½ yd (2.3 m) of plarn from each: A (gray) about 130, B (white) about 62, C (red) about 8.

Instructions

Chosen: Medium. 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 and sc is double crochet.

Base

Yarn A, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 29.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 16**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(28 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 16: tick them off as you go. The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

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

> **Stop and measure now, after row 16.** The base should measure about 11¼ in (28.5 cm) wide and 5¾ in (14.5 cm) long.

☐ **End**	Do not fasten off.	

Sides

Yarns in order of use: A, gray; C, red; B, white.

☐ **Foundation**	The base just worked, 28 stitches and 16 rows; turn it so that the other side of the last row faces you.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in next 28 sts, sc in end of each of next 16 rows, sc in next 28 chs, sc in end of each of next 16 rows, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, sc in BLO of each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**

Gray block

☐ **Rnds 3 to 16**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 16: tick them off as you go.

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

Red line

☐ **Rnd 17**	With C, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**

White block

☐ **Rnd 19**	With B, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 20 to 34**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**

A box for each round, 20 to 34: tick them off as you go.

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

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Rim

☐ **Rnd 35**	With A, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 36 to 37**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(88 sc)**

A box for each round, 36 to 37: tick them off as you go.

36 37

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 10 in (25.5 cm).	

Handle: make 2

Yarn A, gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 87.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(86 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(86 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 4: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 72 in (183 cm) to sew one end. To sew the other end, cut a new length of the same yarn, also 72 in (183 cm).	

Assembly

1. Draw in the ends of the base and the sides on the inside, and the starting end of each handle along the wrong side of the handle, before the handles are sewn on.

2. Mark the corners. Rounds of single crochet lean a little to one side as they rise, so the join in round 37 may stand some stitches away from the corner where round 1 began. Go by the corners of the base and not by the join. Stand the bag on its base, with one long side, the front, toward you, and pull the sides up straight. Find the place in round 37 that is straight above the left corner of the base, and put the first marker there, between two stitches. From it count 28 stitches to the right along the front and put in the second marker, 16 stitches on along the end of the bag the third, and 28 stitches on along the back the fourth; that leaves 16 stitches from the fourth back to the first. Each marker now stands above a corner of the base.

3. Each handle is about 34½ in (87.5 cm) long and 1½ in (4 cm) wide. Lay one end of a handle on the outside of the front, right side out, so that it runs straight down from the rim and its short edge lies along round 17, the first red round; it then covers the last 21 rounds, about 7¾ in (19.5 cm). At the rim its left edge is 5 stitches, about 2 in (5 cm), to the right of the first marker, and it covers the next 4 stitches. Lay the other end in the same way: at the rim its right edge is 5 stitches to the left of the second marker, and it covers the next 4 stitches; 10 stitches lie between the two ends. Below the rim do not follow a line of stitches, which leans: measure. From the rim down to round 17 the outer edge of each end stays about 2 in (5 cm) from the upright line that runs from its marker down to the corner of the base. Take care that the handle is not twisted.

4. With the long tail, whip stitch the end that has it down round the three edges that lie on the bag, and across the handle along the rim, about one stitch for each stitch of the handle. Sew the other end with the new length.

5. Sew the other handle to the back in the same way, with the third marker at its left and the fourth at its right. Then take the markers out.

Finishing

- Take the ends of the plarn that sewed the handles through to the inside of the bag, behind the handle, and draw each in along the inside as the Notes tell.

In all: 3 pieces; 4,392 stitches (448 in the base, 3,256 in the sides, 344 in each handle).

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

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