T-shirt yarn tote bag

Medium · US terms



Finished size
About 12½ in (32 cm) wide laid flat and 9½ in (24 cm) tall, on a base about 10¼ in (26 cm) by 4 in (10 cm), with about 10¼ in (26 cm) of each handle above the rim

Skill
Easy
It is worked in one spiral, with increases in the base and the same stitch all the way up.

Yarn
Super bulky (6), 2 colors

Hook
10 mm (US N/P-15)

Gauge
7 stitches and 6 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In half double crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: charcoal, the body **about 125 yd (114 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: blush, the base and the handles **about 85 yd (78 m), an estimate**
Fiber: jersey T-shirt
Hook: 10 mm (US N/P-15), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: two stitch markers, a yarn needle with a large eye and scissors.

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)	**12½ in (32 cm) wide, 9½ in (24 cm) tall**	**about 210 yd (192 m)**
Large	16 in (40.5 cm) wide, 10¾ in (27.5 cm) tall	about 290 yd (265 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)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
BLO	back loop only
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

Gauge

7 stitches and 6 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in half double crochet.

7 stitches and 8 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, worked in the round. The rounds of half double crochet are worked through the back loop only, as in the bag. T-shirt yarn differs a good deal: if yours is thinner or thicker, go by the size of the base.

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 4 the base should measure about 10¼ in (26 cm) long, laid flat and not stretched. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

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.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only; the front loop stays on the outside as a ridge.
- The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch. This is for the handles.
- 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).
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- T-shirt yarn can be bought, or cut from old jersey T-shirts in a spiral strip about 1 in (2.5 cm) wide and pulled so that its edges curl in.
- For a taller bag work more rounds of half double crochet; 3 more rounds make it about 2 in (5 cm) taller. For longer handles begin with more chains; every 4 in (10 cm) is 7 chains, and as many more stitches are sewn together in the middle.
- Colors of the bag, round by round. Rounds 1 to 6: B. Rounds 7 to 19: A.
- The handles are all in B.

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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 hdc is half treble.

Bag

Yarns in order of use: B, blush; A, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 13.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 10 chs, 3 sc in last ch, working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next 10 chs, 2 sc in last ch	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts	**(32 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 10 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(38 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 10 sts, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(44 sc)**

Stop and measure now, after round 4. The base should measure about 10¼ in (26 cm) long and 4 in (10 cm) wide.

Sides

☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(44 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Hdc in BLO of each st around	**(44 hdc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	With A, hdc in BLO of each st around	**(44 hdc)**
☐ **Rnds 8 to 17**	Hdc in BLO of each st around	**(44 hdc)**

A box for each round, 8 to 17: tick them off as you go.

☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17

Rim

☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(44 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	Sc in each st around	**(44 sc)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next 2 stitches to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Handle: make 2

Yarn B, blush.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 27.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(26 sc)**

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☐ **Rows 2 to 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(26 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).

Assembly

1. Roll the handles. Fold one handle along its length with the wrong side inside, so that its two long edges meet. Leave the first 4 stitches at each end flat and open. Thread the long tail, lead it inside the fold to the 5th stitch from that end, and whip stitch the two long edges together, stitch to stitch, over the 18 stitches in the middle, so that they make a firm round grip. Do not cut the tail: it sews one end to the bag. The short starting tail is at the other end of the strip: weave it in on the wrong side of that flat end, through the backs of three or four stitches, and cut it. The bag will cover it. Do the same with the second handle.

2. Mark the sides. Lay the bag flat with the base folded along its middle, so that each end of the base is at a side fold. The two folds divide the 44 stitches of the last round into 22 at the front and 22 at the back. Put a marker in the first stitch of the front and in the first stitch of the back, counting in the direction you worked.

3. Place the ends of one handle on the outside of the front, right side out. Do not turn the grip: its seam lies at the back, toward the inside of the bag, in line with the wrong side of the two flat ends, and the smooth right side of the grip is at the front. Each flat end stands upright: its short edge is down, and its 4 stitches run up the bag so that the grip begins at the edge of the rim. The first end lies under stitches 5 to 8 of the last round, counting the marked stitch as 1, and the second under stitches 15 to 18; 6 stitches lie between them.

4. Whip stitch the end where the sewing yarn hangs down with that yarn, round the three edges that lie on the bag and across the top, through both layers, along the rim. For the other end cut a new length of B, 36 in (91.5 cm) long, and sew it down in the same way. Sew the second handle to the back, counting from the other marker.

Finishing

- Weave in what is left on the inside of the bag, where there are no ridges: each tail through the backs of five or six stitches, then back through two of them, and cut it. The starting tail of the bag goes into the base; the blush tail of the color change, into the last blush round; the charcoal tail of the color change, into the first charcoal round; the tail of the rim, into the last two rounds. Take the ends of the yarn that sewed the handles through the wall to the inside, behind the flat ends, and weave them into the charcoal rounds there.

In all: 3 pieces; 1,008 stitches (800 in the bag, 104 in each handle).

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

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