Waffle stitch tote bag

Medium · US terms



Finished size

About 12½ in (31.5 cm) wide, 4¾ in (12 cm) deep and 12¼ in (31 cm) tall, with about 19½ in (49.5 cm) of each strap above the top edge

Skill

Intermediate

The sides are front and back post stitches in two rounds that repeat.

Yarn

Medium (4), 2 colors

Hook

5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge

14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: stone, the bag **about 500 yd (457 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: tan, the straps **about 160 yd (146 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: eight stitch markers: four for the columns, four for the straps, pins or clips, a yarn needle 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 (31.5 cm) wide, 4¾ in (12 cm) deep**	**about 660 yd (604 m)**
Laptop	15 in (38 cm) wide, 4 in (10 cm) deep	about 685 yd (626 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)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
FPdc	front post double crochet (UK front post treble)
BPdc	back post double crochet (UK back post treble)
BLO	back loop only
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side
WS	wrong side

Gauge

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

14 stitches and 8 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet. The waffle has the same gauge as the double crochet rounds: 14 stitches and 8 rounds to 4 in (10 cm), not stretched. The height is checked again before the top edge.

The pattern also stops you to measure after row 17.

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 15 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 22	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(21 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 straps, 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. It lies flat and makes the base a little larger; 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 or 2 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch; work the first stitch of the round into, or around, the stitch the round before was joined in.
- Front post double crochet (FPdc, UK raised treble front): yarn over, put the hook from the front to the back and to the front again around the post of the stitch below, and complete a double crochet (UK treble). The stitch stands out on the right side. Back post double crochet (BPdc, UK raised treble back) is worked around the post from the back to the front and to the back again; it lies back, and the top of the stitch below comes forward as a bar.
- Waffle: every third stitch is a front post stitch in every round, always around the front post stitch below, so that a raised column runs straight up. In the first waffle round and in every second one after it, the two stitches between are plain double crochet; in the rounds between, they are back post double crochet, which makes the level bars.
- 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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- The medium size is for shopping and books. The laptop size is for a laptop or a folder up to about 14 in (35.5 cm) wide and 10 in (25.5 cm) tall; measure yours with its case before you begin.
- The bag is all in A and the straps in 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 row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, dc is treble, FPdc is front post treble and BPdc is back post treble.

Base

Yarn A, stone.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 44.	
☐ **Row 1 (WS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(43 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 17**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(43 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 17: 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 **17**

Stop and measure now, after row 17. The base should measure about 12¼ in (31 cm) wide and 4½ in (11.5 cm) long.

☐ **End**	Do not fasten off.	

Sides

Yarn A, stone.

☐ **Foundation**	The base just worked, 43 stitches and 17 rows; turn it so that the other side of the last row faces you.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in next 43 sts, sc in end of each of next 17 rows, sc in next 43 chs, sc in end of each of next 17 rows, sl st in first sc to join	**(120 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, sc in BLO of each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(120 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 2, dc in each st around, sl st in first dc to join	**(120 dc)**

Waffle

☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 2, **[**FPdc around next st, dc in next 2 sts**] 40 times**, sl st in first FPdc to join	**(40 FPdc, 80 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 2, **[**FPdc around next st, BPdc around next 2 sts**] 40 times**, sl st in first FPdc to join	**(40 FPdc, 80 BPdc)**
☐ **Rnds 6 to 24**	Repeat rnds 4 and 5 in turn: every even-numbered rnd is worked as rnd 4, every odd-numbered rnd as rnd 5.	

A box for each round, 6 to 24: tick them off as you go. The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 **24**

Stop and measure now, after round 24. The sides should measure about 11¼ in (28.5 cm) tall, from the bottom of round 2. For each 1 in (2.5 cm) that is missing, work two more rounds of waffle, the first like round 23 and the second like round 24; for each 1 in (2.5 cm) too many, take two rounds out. Then the straps fit as they are written. The top edge is worked in the same way on the last round of waffle.

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Top edge

☐ **Rnds 25 to 28**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(120 sc)**

A box for each round, 25 to 28: tick them off as you go.

25 26 27 28

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

Strap: make 2

Yarn B, tan.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 173.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(172 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 5**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(172 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 5: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5

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

Assembly

1. Weave in the tails of the bag on the inside. The right side of the bag, with the waffle facing you, and the right side of the straps are the outside.

2. On the front, the long side at whose corner the rounds are joined, count the raised columns that run up the waffle from corner to corner: there are 15. Mark columns 4 and 12; 7 raised columns stand between them. Put a stitch marker in each of the two columns, close under the top edge; take it out as the strap is pinned over it. Column 1 is the first stitch of every round, and column 15 is stitch 43, at the other corner. Do the same on the back, where column 1 is stitch 61 and column 15 is stitch 103.

3. Each strap is about 49¼ in (125 cm) long and 1¼ in (3 cm) wide. Put one of the other markers in stitch 52 from each of its two ends, counting along row 5: the 68 stitches between the two markers, about 19½ in (49.5 cm), are the handle and are not sewn down. Make sure that the strap is not twisted.

4. Pin the first strap to the front. Lay it on the outside with its middle on column 4, one marker at the top edge of the bag. Run it straight down the column, over the bottom edge and on under the base, to the middle of the base, halfway between its two long edges, where it ends. Lay the other half in the same way down column 12, so that the handle arches above the front, and let it end on the same line. Pin the second strap to the back in the same way. Under the base, each end of one strap meets an end of the other strap, short edge to short edge; if an end does not reach or is a little too long, let the pinned part give or take it up.

5. Cut four lengths of B, each about 108 in (274.5 cm) long. With one length, begin at the marker of one strap end with a tail of 6 in (15 cm) and whip stitch across the strap along the top edge of the bag, then down one long edge of the strap to the middle of the base, one stitch in each single crochet of the edge of the strap and through the bag below. Whip stitch across the end of the strap, taking up in each stitch one row of it, one row of the end of the other strap and the base below, and come back up along the other long edge to the top edge. Fasten off. Sew the other three halves down in the same way. Along the top edge and down the sides of the bag keep the strap straight, with the raised column under its middle: on the waffle its two edges lie just inside the next raised column to the left and the next one to the right, so that the strap fills the space between those two.

6. Draw all the tails of the straps between a strap and the bag, and cut them.

Finishing

- Pull the waffle gently up and down so that the hollows lie square.

In all: 3 pieces; 5,811 stitches (731 in the base, 3,360 in the sides, 860 in each strap).

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

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