

Crochet Summer Tote Bag

By Anita Young at creatingme.net

Worsted weight (4) cotton yarn – I used I Love This Cotton in Red, White, and Royalty - Two (3.5 ounce) skeins of each color

Note: You will not use all of the Royalty or Red, but you will need more than one skein of each.

N/9mm hook

Stitches used: US terms

Chain – ch

Single crochet – sc

Half double crochet – hdc

Slip stitch – ss

Back loop only – blo

Note: Bag is crocheted using 2 strands of yarn held together

Ch 36 loosely with Royalty (holding 2 strands together)

Row 1: sc in the back bump of 2nd ch from hook and each ch across. Ch 1 and turn. (35 stitches)

Rows 2-5: sc in each stitch across. Ch 1 and turn. (35 stitches)

Row 6: sc in each stitch across. Ch 1. **DO NOT TURN** (35 stitches)

Begin working in rounds.

Round 1: Work 4 sc across end of rows. Work 2 sc in next stitch. sc in next 33 stitches. 2 sc in last stitch. Work 4 sc across end of rows. 2 sc in next stitch. sc in next 33 stitches. 2 sc in last stitch. Join with ss to 1st sc. (82 stitches)

Round 2: ch 1. sc in **blo** only of same stitch as ss and in each stitch around. Join with ss to 1st sc. (82 stitches)

Round 3: ch 1. Skip stitch that has the ss. sc in next stitch and in each stitch around, ending with final sc in skipped sc at the beginning of the round. Join with ss to 1st sc. (82 stitches)

Round 4: ch 1. sc in same stitch as ss and in each stitch around. Join with ss to 1st sc. (82 stitches)

Rounds 5-10: Repeat rounds 3 and 4 (3 times). (82 stitches)

Change to White.

Round 11: ch 2. Skip stitch that has the ss. hdc in next stitch and each stitch around, ending with the final hdc in skipped stitch at the beginning of the round. Join with ss to 1st hdc. (82 stitches)

Round 12: ch 2. hdc in same stitch as ss and in each stitch around. Join with ss to 1st hdc. (82 stitches)

Rounds 13-26: Repeat rounds 11 and 12 (7 times). (82 stitches)

Change to Red.

Rounds 27-32: Repeat rounds 3 and 4 (3 times). (82 stitches)

The next round will form the handles of the tote.

Round 33: ch 1. Skip stitch that has ss. sc in next 13 stitches. Ch 40. Skip next 14 stitches. sc in next 28 stitches. Ch 40. Skip next 14 stitches. sc in next 12 stitches. End the round with a sc in the stitch that was skipped at the beginning of the round. Join with ss to first sc. (134 stitches)

Round 34: ch 1. sc in same stitch as ss and each sc and ch around. Join with ss to first sc. (134 stitches)

Round 35: ch 1. Skip stitch that has the ss. sc in next stitch and in each stitch around, ending with the final sc in skipped stitch at the beginning of the round. Join with ss to first sc. (134 stitches)

Round 36: ch 1. sc in same stitch as ss and in each stitch around. Join with ss to first sc. (134 stitches)

Round 37: ch 1. Skip stitch that has the ss. sc in next stitch and in each stitch around, ending with the final sc in skipped stitch at the beginning of the round. Join with ss to first sc. (134 stitches)

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Finished tote measures approximately 17 inches wide by 15 inches tall plus handles and about 2.5 inches across the bottom.