

SUNSHINE TOTE

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Skill level

Intermediate – you need to have basic knowledge of crocheting and knitting.

You need

YARN: Making of this tote requires approximately 438yds/400m of DK yarn (diameter of the bag about 16–18in/40–45cm)

HOOK: D/3–G/6 (3mm–4mm) (depending on the chosen yarn and tension, same goes to knitting needles)

NEEDLES: 5 double-pointed needles #3–#6/3mm–4mm; circular needle #3–#6/3mm–4mm (length of circular should be long enough to comfortably fit the stitches)

OTHER: A length of stash yarn or a spare circular needle (it can be the same size you use for knitting or smaller)

Yarn needle

Gauge/Tension

The exact tension is not essential here, the fabric should not be loose, so if you're a loose knitter, just choose smaller needles.

Size

The best diameter of this tote is about 16–18in/40–45cm.

Abbreviations

Crochet

ch – chain

dc – double crochet (=US–single crochet!)

ss – slip stitch

st(s) – stitch(es)

tr – treble (=US–double crochet!)

Knitting

k – knit

kf&b – knit in front and back of the same stitch (increase)

p – purl

First you have to make 2 sides of the tote separately, then knit these together and finally work the strap.

Start by working the centre disk of the side of the tote. This centre disk is crocheted in rounds in treble crochet.

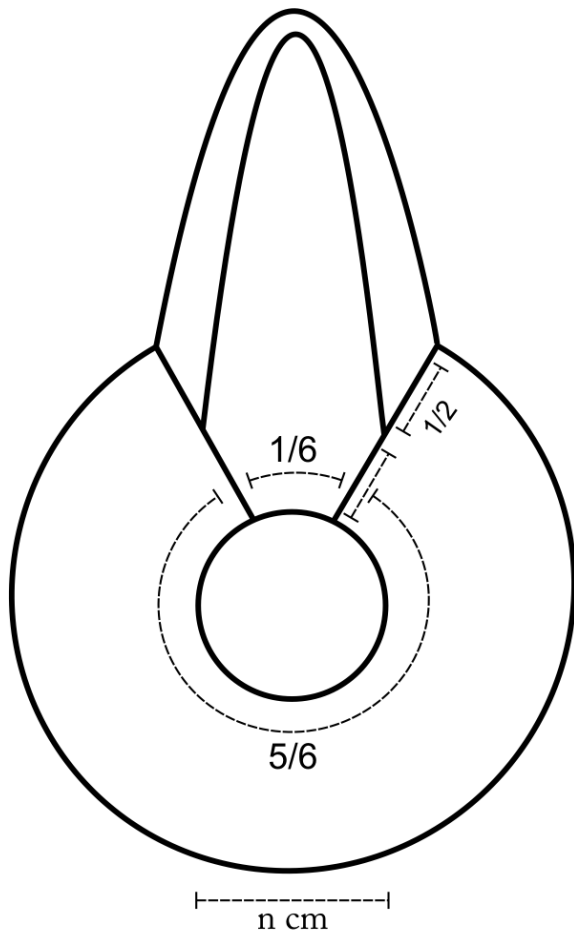
Make 4 ch, then 11 tr into the 4th ch from hook, ss to 3rd ch at the beginning of round (round 1 = 12 tr).

Round 2: 3 ch, 1 tr into same st, *2 tr into next tr, repeat from * to end, ss to 3rd ch at the beginning of round. 24 tr.

Round 3: 3 ch, 2 tr into next tr, *1 tr into next tr, 2 tr into next tr, repeat from * to end, ss to 3rd ch at the beginning of round. 36 tr.

Continue this way, increasing the number of trebles by 12 sts on every following round. Every round begins with a starting (turning) chain of 3 ch (counts as 1st tr) and ends with a ss into the 3rd ch of the starting chain.

The final diameter of this centre disk should be about 5–6in/13–15cm. The centre disk is 1/3 of the diameter of the side of the tote.



Next you have to change to double-pointed needles (and later when you feel is convenient change to circular needle) and pick up (under both loops of the crochet stitches) 5/6 of the stitches of the last round (count the loop on the hook as the 1st knit stitch). Knitting is to be done in rows in stocking stitch. On every row, the 1st st is slipped purlwise with yarn in front of the work and the last st is knitted. On the 1st k row double the stitches (kf&b into every stitch, but the 1st and the last), on the 2nd k row make the same increase into every 2nd stitch. Then continue without further increasing in stocking stitch until the length of the knitted part is about 5–6in/13–15cm (the same as diameter of the crocheted disk), ending with k row. Cut the yarn and slip the stitches purlwise to stash yarn or a spare circular needle.



Make the other side of the tote exactly the same way, but do not cut the yarn at the end. If you have the stitches of the first side on stash yarn, slip the stitches onto double-pointed needles, if the stitches are on spare circular needle, just leave them there. Take both pieces and hold them right sides together. With one tip of the right size circular needle work a 3-needle bind-off (<http://knitty.com/ISSUEfall06/FEATfall06TT.html>) and join the sides of the tote. Fasten off.

Next you have to work the strap. It is crocheted in two parts. Count the selvage chains at the side edge of knitted fabric of one side of the bag. This is the number of double crochet stitches you need to work for the 1st row of strap. Centre the stitches over the side seam, if an odd number of stitches

need to be worked, make that one stitch into the side seam. Count to the right spot, join the yarn and work the first row, work the stitches under both loops of selvage chains.

Row 1 (RS): 1 ch, 1 dc into same place, dc to the end, turn.

Row 2: 1 ch, 1 dc into same dc, 1 dc into every dc of the previous row, turn.

Row 3: as row 2.

Row 4: 1 ch, 1 dc into next dc, 1 dc into every dc of the previous row to last 2 sts, 2 dc tog, turn. (2 sts decreased.)

Row 5 & 6: as row 2.

Repeat rows 4–6, until you have 5 sts on a row. Work 10–14 rows of dc, then fasten off.

Make the other strap same way. When fastening off at the end, leave a 6in/15cm long end. Sew the strap with overstitches.

Weave in all ends.

