The Gingham Shift Bag

Crochet Pattern

Designed by **Off The Hook Creative**



Utopia CRAFTS

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The Gingham Shift Bag

Where classic gingham meets the timeless art of origami.

Some designs come together quickly.
Others ask a question that refuses to let go.

I wondered whether a classic gingham pattern could be engineered to flow seamlessly across an origami-inspired fold. The answer wasn't just in the colour placement, but also in the proportions of each square. After many prototypes, countless calculations, and more frogging than I'd like to admit, the pieces finally fell into place.

The Gingham Shift Bag begins as a simple rectangle before transforming into a contemporary handbag through clever origami-inspired folds. A subtle shift in the gingham pattern allows the checks to align beautifully across the folds, creating a seamless finish that I hope makes you smile as much as it did me when everything finally worked.

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I would suggest taking some time out from the beginning to read the pattern through in its entirety before you begin your project.

Difficulty level:	Confident Beginner
Yarn:	365 Days Mercerised Cotton (3 colours) By Utopia Crafts (see colour chart below)
Hook:	3 mm & 3.5 mm
Other:	Scissors; Darning Needle; Stitch Markers
Bag Size:	33 cm (13") wide x 36 cm (14") tall (50 cm / 21" tall including straps)
Gauge:	10 STS x 8 Rows = 5 cm x 5 cm (2" x 2") **It is important that your gingham colour square measures as a perfect square, 4 equal sides.**

Colour Chart & Yarn Quantity:

Colour Green Bag		Colour Pink Bag		Pattern Abbreviation:	Amount Required	
Sage Mint	UCM 35	Blush Rose	UCM 39	C1	60 g	156 m
Forest Green	UCM 32	Powder Pink	UCM 18	C2	75 g	195 m
Natural Cream	UCM 4	Natural Cream	UCM 4	C3	45 g	117 m

Create your own colour chart by filling in the your yarn choices below:

Colour:		Pattern Abbreviation:	Amount Required	
		C1		
		C2		
		C3		

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Crochet Method: Tapestry Crochet

Tapestry crochet involves crocheting with two or more colours in a single row or round, changing between colours according to a designated colour pattern to create a repetitive pattern or picture. The yarn(s) that are not being used in a stitch are generally carried along within the stitch.

To change colours, you will finish the last stitch by picking up and pulling through with the next colour. You therefore need to make sure you know which colour comes next before completing the last stitch in the current colour.

What I love about the tapestry crochet method is that the design and colour options are endless. Carrying multiple yarn colours throughout your work also creates a slightly heavier fabric, which makes it extra warm and perfect for lapghans.

Tension

The finished size and gauge of your bag will vary depending on the yarn weight and hook size you choose. You can use the recommended yarn and hook sizes listed above, along with the measurements of the bag, as a guide.

A good, medium tension is recommended when working with the tapestry crochet method, as this will help to hide the unused colour that you are carrying through and working over. When working over your carried yarn, gently pull the yarn ends to keep them neat and flat, avoiding any bulging between your stitches.

Be careful not to pull the yarn too tightly, as this can cause your work to bunch up and make the edges wavy.

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Crochet Terms:

I have used **US** Crochet Terms
***Stitches explained below**

CH	= Chain
SC	= Single Crochet
DC	= Double Crochet
*CDC	= Crossed Double Crochet
RS	= Right Side Of Work
WS	= Wrong Side Of Work
BLO	= Back Loop Only
YO	= Yarn Over

For UK Crochet Terms simply refer to this conversion chart:

US TERMS			UK TERMS	
SC	Single Crochet	=	DC	Double Crochet
DC	Double Crochet	=	TR	Treble Crochet
CDC	Crossed Double Crochet	=	CTR	Crossed Treble Crochet

***Crossed Double Crochet Method:**

When the pattern instructs you to make a Crossed Double Crochet (CDC) do the following: skip next stitch, work 1DC into the stitch after the skipped stitch. Go back, working in front of the last DC made, and DC into the skipped st. You now have 2DC crossed over each other. Make sure you loosen up your tension slightly for the crossed over DC so that it lies nice and flat, and not tight and bunched up. You then repeat this method for the next CDC.

CARRYING YARN TIP:

Before your last ST at the end of each row, drop your unused colour to the front of your work. Continue to work your last ST as per normal, CH1 turn.

Start your next row as per the pattern instructions, before working your 2nd ST, pick up your unused colour from the back of your work, and continue to work over your unused yarn until indicated to change colour. This keeps the edges of the work neater and less bulky.

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Pattern Method: With your **3.5mm hook** & **C1: CH 51**

Row 1 (RS)	Change to your **3mm hook** Continue with C1, starting in the 2nd CH from your hook work: **[** *1SC, work 1DC into the next ST* Repeat * to * 4 more times (do not cut yarn, carry it under your next colour change) Change to C2, work: **1SC, work 1DC into the next ST** Repeat ** to ** 4 more times, **change to C1]** Repeat the entire colour change pattern above from **[** to **]** another 1 more time Continue with C1 working: *1SC, work 1DC into the next ST* Repeat * to * 4 more times (remember to drop C2 to the front before working your last ST in C1). CH1, turn	50 STS
The continued stitch pattern repeat for each gingham square block will always be to work: *** 1SC into next ST, 1DC into the next ST *** So when the pattern says: **repeat * to * you must work the above**		
Row 2 (WS)	With **C1**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** *(remember at the beginning of the row to pick up C2 from the back on your 2nd ST and carry it under your work)* Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** (remember to drop C2 to the front before working your last ST in C1). CH1, turn	50 STS

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Note: you will always be working a SC into the top of a DC, and a DC into the top of a SC from the previous row. This combination of sts creates a lovely texture and is known as the Griddle Stitch.		
Row 3 to 8	Repeat Row 2 At the end of Row 8, cut C1, and **change to C2.** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 9 (RS)	With **C2**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 10 to 16	Repeat Row 9 At the end of Row 16, **cut C3,** and **change to C1**. CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 17 to 24	Repeat Row 2 At the end of Row 24, **cut C1,** and **change to C2**. CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 25 to 32	Repeat Row 9 At the end of Row 32, **cut C3**, and **change to C1.** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 33 to 40	Repeat Row 2 At the end of Row 40, **cut C1**, and **change to C2**. CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 41 to 48	Repeat Row 9 At the end of Row 48, **cut C3**, and **change to C1**. CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 49 (RS)	With **C1**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times**	50 STS

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	Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	
Row 50 (WS)	With **C3**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times (drop C3 to the front of your work)** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 51, 53, 55 (RS)	Repeat Row 49	50 STS
Row 52, 54, 56 (WS)	Repeat Row 50 At the end of Row 56, cut C3, and change to C2	50 STS
Row 57 (RS)	With **C2**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times (drop C3 to the front of your work)** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 58 (WS)	With **C2**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times (drop C3 to the front of your work)**	50 STS

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	Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	
Row 59, 61, 63	Repeat Row 57	50 STS
Row 60, 62, 64	Repeat Row 58 At the end of Row 64, cut C3, change to C1	50 STS
Row 65 (RS)	With **C1**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times (drop C1 to the front of your work)** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 66 (WS)	With **C3**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 67, 69, 71	Repeat Row 65	50 STS
Row 68, 70, 72	Repeat row 66 At the end of Row 72, cut C3, change to C2	50 STS
Row 73 (RS)	With **C2**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times**	50 STS

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	Change to **C1, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	
Row 74 to 80	Repeat Row 73 At the end of Row 80, cut C1, change to C3	50 STS
Row 81 (RS)	With **C3**, starting in the 1st ST **repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C2, repeat * to * 5 times** Change to **C3, repeat * to * 5 times** CH1, turn	50 STS
Row 82 to 88	Repeat Row 81 At the end of Row 88, cut C3, change to C2	50 STS
Row 89 to 96	Repeat Row 73 At the end of Row 96, cut C1, change to C3	50 STS
Row 97 to 104	Repeat Row 81 At the end of Row 104, cut C3, change to C2	50 STS
Row 105 to 112	Repeat Row 73 At the end of Row 112, cut C1, change to C3	50 STS
Row 113 to 120	Repeat Row 81 At the end of Row 120, fasten off all yarn ends and weave in	50 STS

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Colour Placement Chart:

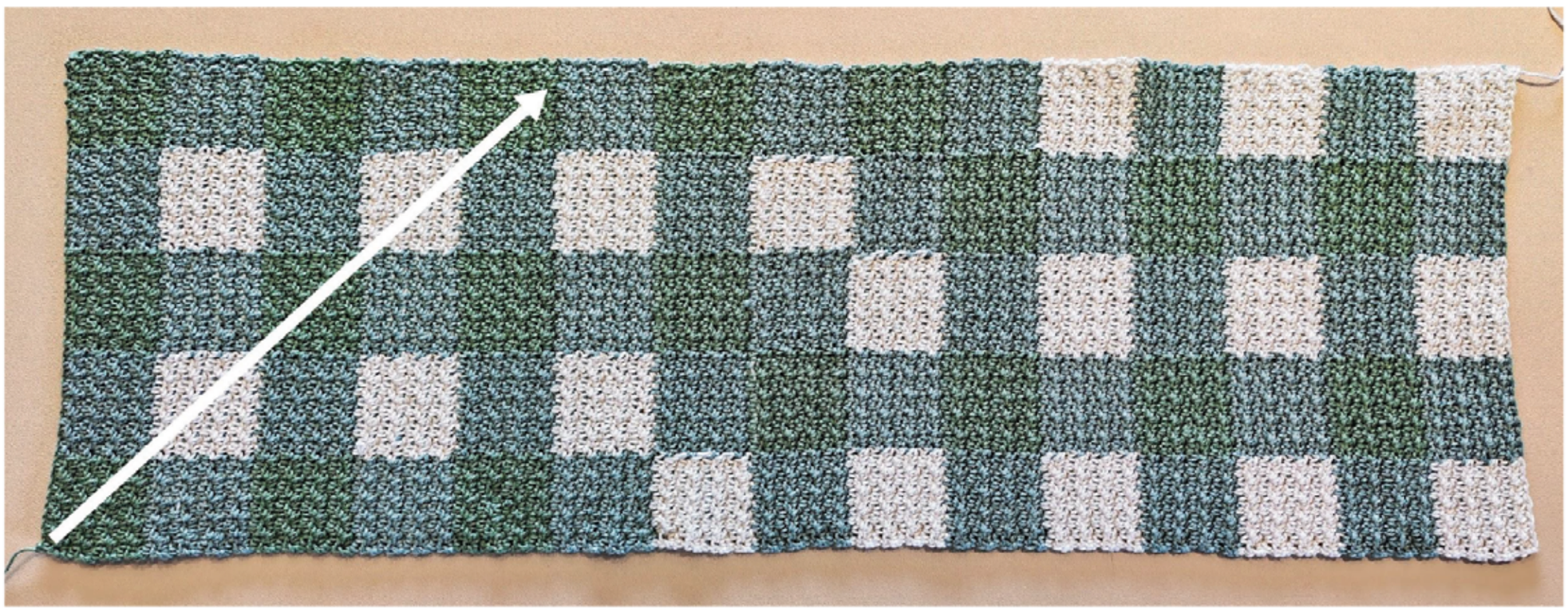
15						Row 113 to 120
14						Row 105 to 112
13						Row 97 to 104
12						Row 89 to 96
11						Row 81 to 88
10						Row 73 to 80
9						Row 65 to 72
8						Row 57 to 64
7						Row 49 to 56
6						Row 41 to 48
5						Row 33 to 40
4						Row 25 to 32
3						Row 17 to 24
2						Row 9 to 16
1						Row 1 to 8
Tail End						
	RIGHT SIDE					

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Folding & Joining of Bag:

It is very important to follow the folding instructions exactly, to ensure that your gingham pattern lines up perfectly in the end. With the WS of your rectangle facing up, lie your work flat as per the picture below.

Fold the bottom left corner up to the 5th square on the opposite side. The blocks should be lining up evenly together.



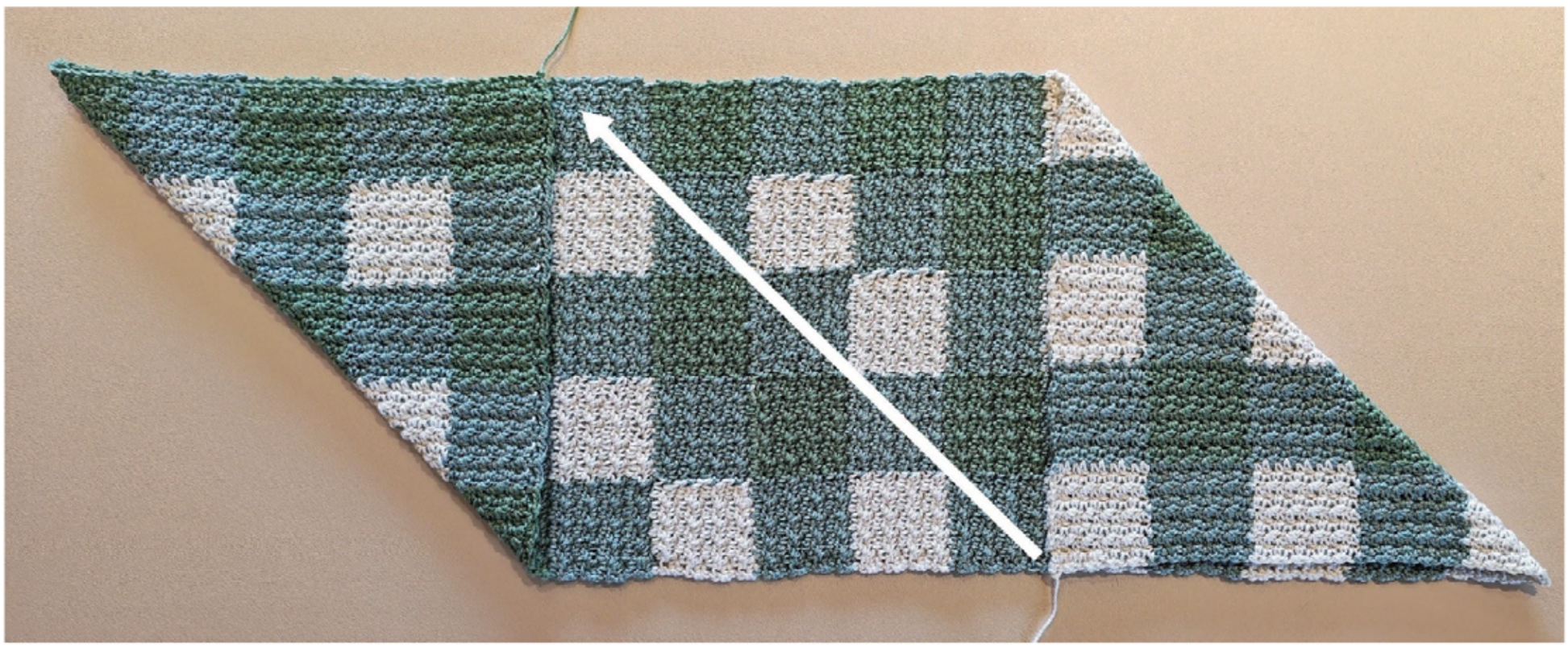
Next, fold the top right corner down to the 5th square on the opposite side below.



These two corner ends folded in create the top section of the bag.

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For the final fold you will need to fold the final 'square' section in-between the folded ends in half, so that the two top folded corners meet together at the top of the bag.



You can now sew the seams together along both sides as per the pictures:



Side A



Side B

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Top Edge of Bag:

Round 1

With your 3mm hook join C1 to the top right corner. SLST evenly all the way across the top of the bag, keeping note that you will need to have an even 10 SLST's per colour block. When you:

- get to the V-Dip (refer to picture) work a SLST-2Tog across the V-Dip
- get to the top corners of the bag work, after working 10 SLST along the block, work another SLST into the very top corner. Start working your next 10 SLSTs along the next colour block

SLST to the 1st ST of the round and CH1

Round 2

Continuing with C1, starting in the next ST, work BLO, HDC into each SLST from Round 1. Except when you:

- get to the V-Dip a HDC-2Tog across the V-Dip (skipping the SLST-2Tog in the very middle)
- get to the top corners of the bag work a (HDC, CH1, HDC) into the extra top SLST made in the previous round

SLST to the 1st ST of the round and CH1

Round 3

Continuing with C1, starting in the next ST, work CDC (start your 1st DC into the next ST, work your 2nd crossed over DC into the very 1st joining ST of this round), continue to work CDC evenly across the top. Except when you:

- get to the V-Dip work a CDC across the V-Dip, placing your 1st DC on the 1st ST of the next colour block, SK the HDC-2Tog in the very middle, and work your 2nd crossed over DC into the last ST of the previous colour block
- get to the top corners of the bag after working your last CDC, SK1 ST, work a v-stitch (1DC, CH1, 1DC) into the top corner CH1 space and then SK the next ST. Continue to work CDC evenly across the edge of the bag.

SLST to the 1st CDC of the round and CH1

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Round 4

Continuing with C1, starting in the next ST, work SLST evenly across the top of the CDC from Round 3. Except when you:

- get to the V-Dip work a SLST-2Tog across the V-Dip (no need to SK a ST)
- get to the top corners of the bag work (2DC, CH2, 2DC) into the CH1 space at the top corners of Round 3.

Invisible ST join the last ST to the 1st ST of Round 4.

Video tutorial for Invisible stitch join: INVISIBLE STITCH JOIN

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Bag Strap:

With your 3.5mm hook and C1, you will need to create a 40" / 100 cm long Romanian Cord - ***video tutorial coming soon.***

Romanian Cord Method:

Begin by making a slip knot and CH2. Work: 1SC into the 2nd CH from the hook. It is very important to keep your tension fairly loose in order to comfortably work into the loops indicated below.

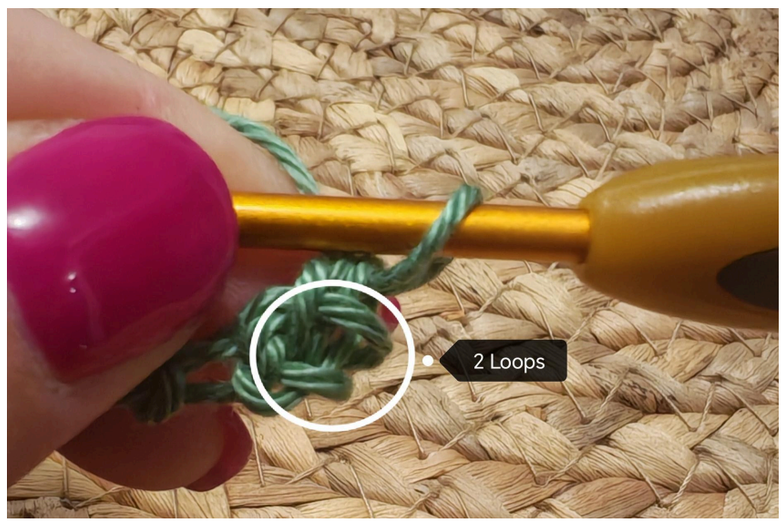


1. Rotate your work away from you (I.e. clockwise), so you're looking directly at the bottom of the single crochet you just made
2. Look for the loop at the base of the V of the stitch and insert your hook underneath it from top to bottom
3. YO and pull up a loop
4. YO and pull through both loops on your hook to complete a SC

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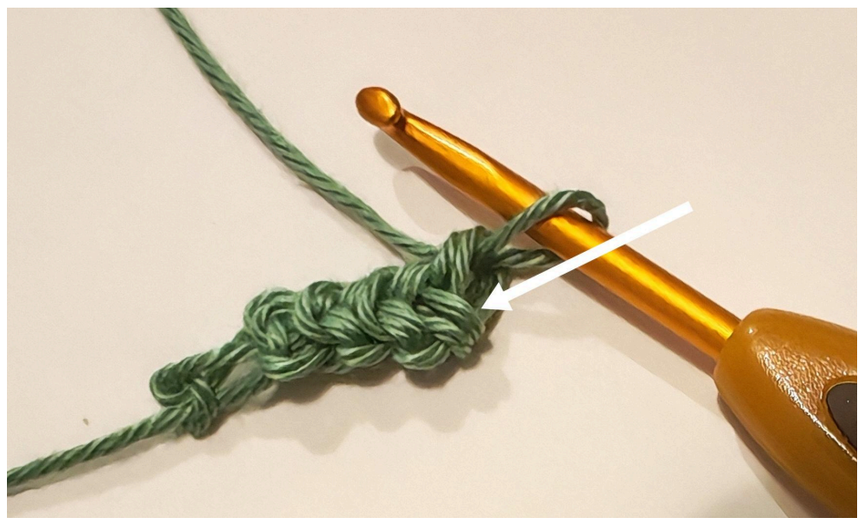
Now repeat the process:

1. Rotate your work away from you again so you're looking at the bottom, of your most recent SC
2. This time, you'll notice two loops at the base of the stitch. Insert your hook under both loops from top to bottom
3. YO and pull up a loop
4. YO and pull through both loops on your hook to complete another SC





Continue repeating these last four steps, always working a SC into the 2 loops underneath the previous SC as per the picture below.



Once your cord reaches 40" / 100 cm long, fasten off, leaving a long tail.

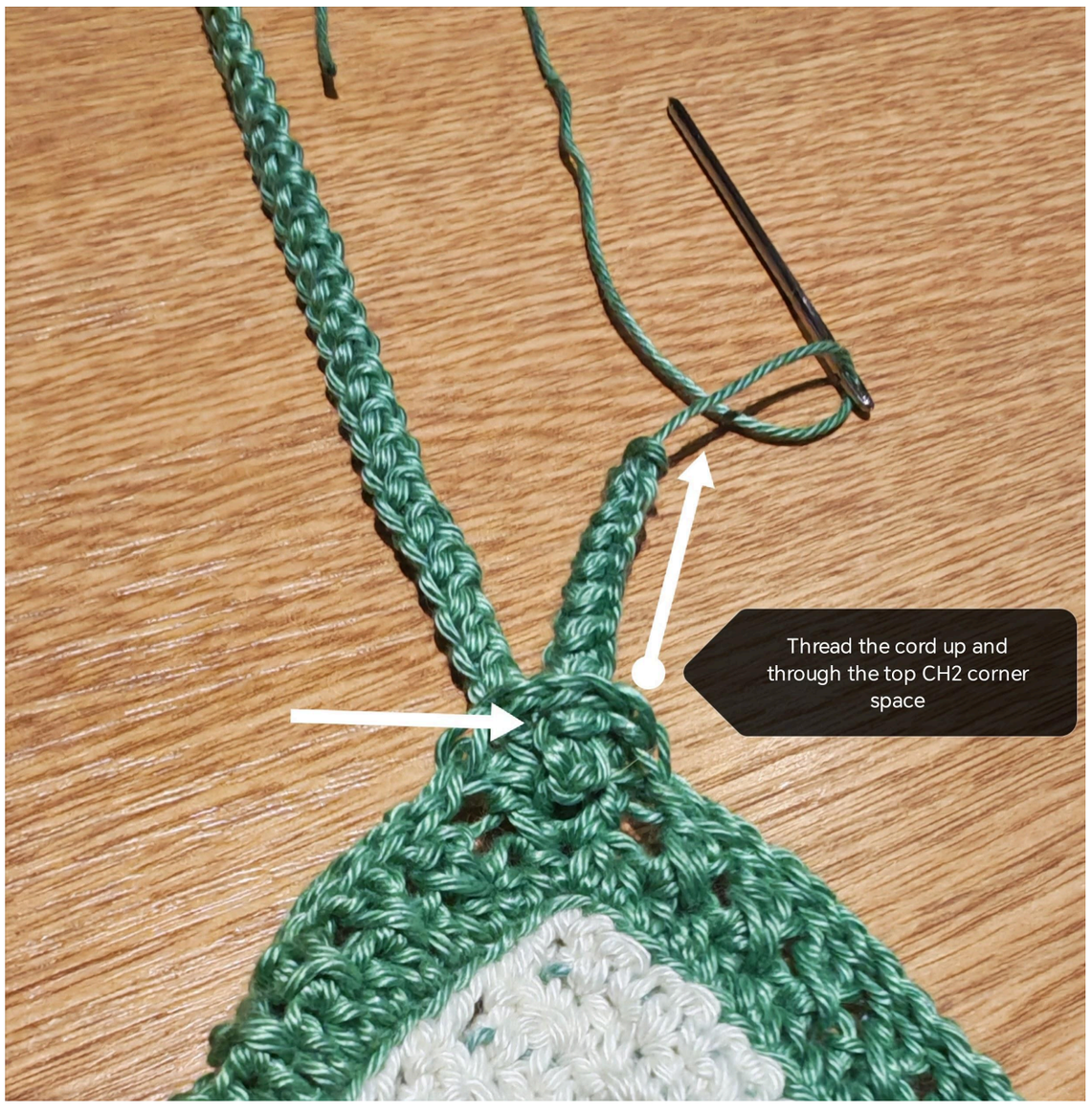


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At the top corner of your bag thread one end of your cord through the bottom CH2 space from back to front, then up and through the top CH2 corner space at the top corner of your bag. Repeat this at the other top corner.

With the long yarn tail, join the 2 ends of your cord together by hand sewing a few stitches to secure it together. You now have a looped, doubled over strap.





Optional: To further secure your strap to the bag, hand stitch the strap to the base of the CH2 corner spaces of the bag, where you threaded the strap through. Or you can leave your straps to move freely through the CH2 spaces, adjusting the length of the strap.

If you plan to use this bag as an everyday handbag, I recommend lining the bag, adding a fastening, and attaching a sturdier bag strap.

I hope you enjoyed creating this bag as much as I loved designing it. If you found this pattern clear, easy to follow, and enjoyable to work from, I'd love for you to explore more of my work.

You'll find more crochet patterns, both free and for purchase, along with video tutorials and lots more over on my WEBSITE

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Thank you so much for being part of this creative journey with me.

If you need any help with the pattern, please feel free to get in touch using the email address below.

And finally, I'd love to see your finished make! Please remember to tag me when sharing your project on social media so I can see what you've created. 💚

With Crochet love,

🧶 *Carmen - Off The Hook Creative*

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This pattern was made using:

365 Days Cotton DK



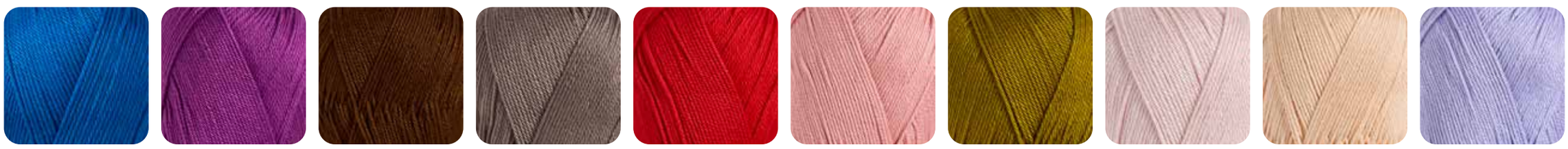
Yarn Weight	Meterage	Needle Size	Hook Size	Tension	
DK	260 m			10 cm / 4"	46+ Shades
Ball Weight 100 g	285 yds	4 mm	2 mm	27R 21 Sts	

100% Mercerised Combed Cotton

OEKO TEX® STANDARD 100 20.HTR.23732 Hohenstein HTTI



White | Warm Beige | Baby Pink | Natural Cream | Hot Pink | Soft Lilac | Light Grey | Sun Yellow | Olive Green | Denim Blue



Royal Blue | Royal Purple | Chocolate Brown | Taupe | Classic Red | Powder Rose | Mustard Gold | Powder Pink | Soft Peach | Lavender Mist



Deep Blue | Burgundy | Navy | Peach | Warm Tangerine | Leaf Green | Midnight Blue | Baby Blue | Ocean Teal | Steel Blue



Forest Green | Dark Chocolate Brown | Caramel Brown | Sage Mint | Dusty Mauve | Charcoal Grey | Toffee Brown | Blush Rose | Light Toffee | Soft Rose Pink



Blush Nude | Warm Chestnut | Dusty Lavender | Olive Moss | Light Khaki | Light Caramel | Golden Sand | Graphite Grey

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