Easy Crochet Drawstring Pouch: Free Beginner Pattern in Three Sizes

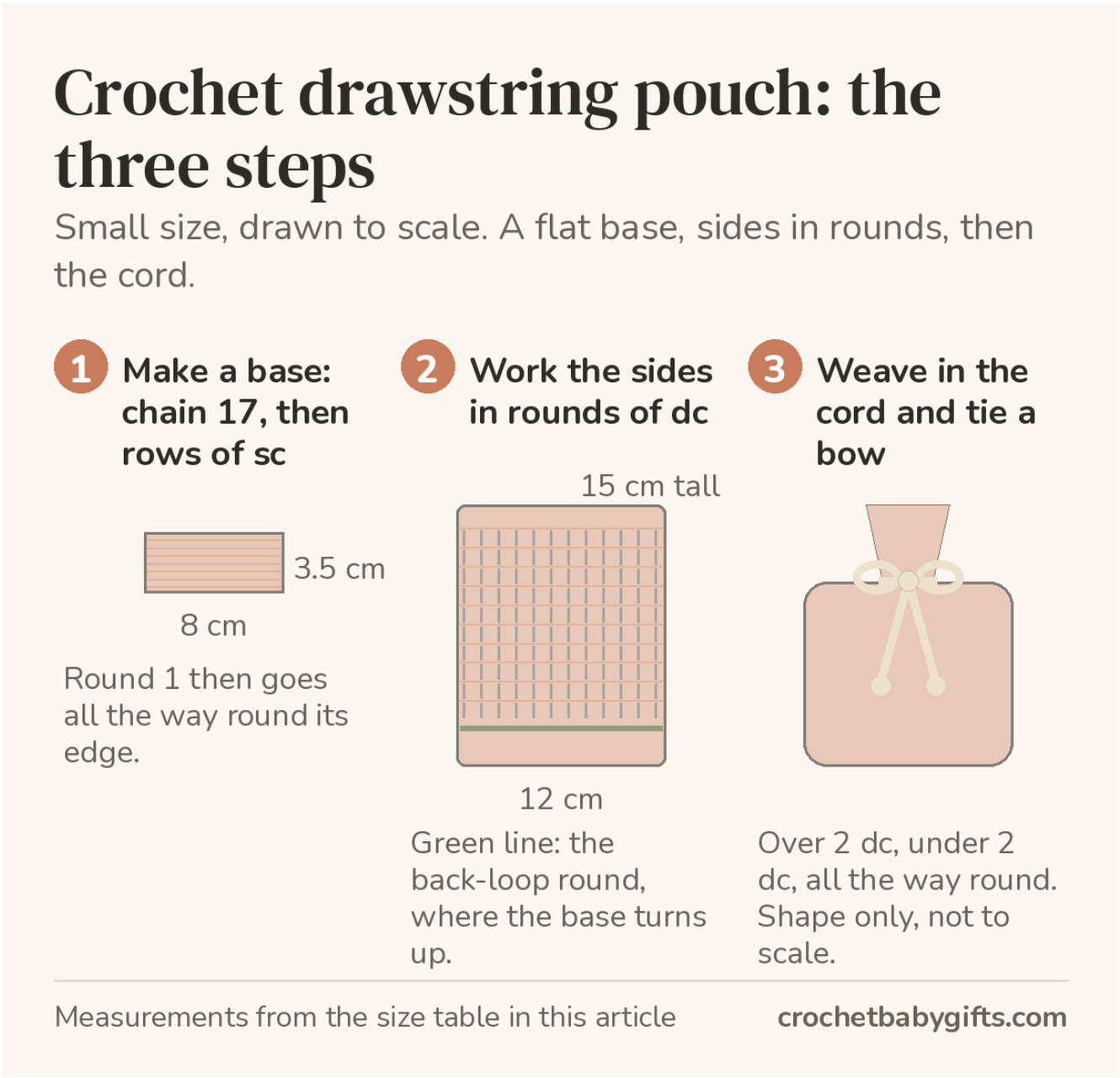
Crochet a small flat rectangle for the base, work the sides straight up from it in rounds of double crochet, then weave a crocheted cord through the sides near the top and pull it shut. In DK cotton on a 3.5 mm hook the Small size comes out about 12 cm wide and 15 cm tall. Mini and Medium are in the size table.

This is our own design. A script checks every row and round against the one before it, and the sizes are estimates worked out from a gauge, so the first thing to check is your own base against the size table.

Pick your size

Size	Pouch, laid flat	Base	Foundation chain	Cord	Yarn for pouch and cord
Mini	about 9 × 12.5 cm (3.5 × 4.75 in)	about 5.5 × 3 cm	12 ch	48 cm	about 45 m
Small	about 12 × 15 cm (4.75 × 5.75 in)	about 8 × 3.5 cm	17 ch	54 cm	about 65 m
Medium	about 15 × 18.5 cm (6 × 7.25 in)	about 10 × 4.5 cm	21 ch	60 cm	about 100 m

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The base is a little rectangle that makes the flat bottom, so the pouch stands up on its own.

What you need

Every tool our patterns use is on the Crochet essentials (https://crochetbabygifts.com/essentials/) page.

- DK (#3) cotton yarn for the pouch, the amount in the size table. A second colour for the cord is optional; the pouch in the picture has a cream cord. Most DK cottons have 125 m in a 50 g ball, but milk cotton varies from seller to seller, so check the label.
- A 3.5 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letter near it.

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- One stitch marker, a blunt tapestry needle and scissors.

Gauge and abbreviations

Gauge: about 20 single crochet and 22 rows to 10 cm (4 in) on a 3.5 mm hook, and each double crochet round about 1.1 cm tall. We have not measured this on the pouch yet. It is a planning figure from published DK cotton gauges, and every size on this page is worked out from it.

The quick check is the base: after the last base row it should measure the size in the table. If it is more than 1 cm bigger or smaller, change your hook by half a size and start again.

US crochet terms throughout. The UK name is in brackets.

- ch: chain. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es).
- sc: single crochet (UK: double crochet). dc: double crochet (UK: treble).
- Back loops only: work into just the loop of each stitch that is furthest from you.
- Row end: the side edge of a row. Work one sc into the edge of each row.
- 12 (17, 21): the first number is for the Mini, the ones in brackets for the Small and the Medium. [36 (48, 60) sts]: the stitches you should have at the end of that row or round.

The video

lilthings' video is made for absolute beginners and shows every stitch this pouch uses, slowly and close up. It makes a different pouch, started from a chain worked along both sides, so its rounds and counts are not the ones on this page. Watch it for the moves:

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akHrxVGDm70

- Holding the yarn and hook from 4:46.
- The foundation chain from 5:33, for the start of step 1.
- Double crochet from 11:02, the stitch of the sides in step 2.
- Slip stitch from 28:35, for joining each round.
- Weaving in the ends from 48:01.

Video: lilthings, "crochet drawstring pouch absolute beginner tutorial" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akHrxVGDm70), 2024, 50 minutes. A different design; the pattern on this page is our own.

The pattern

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1. Base

Worked in rows.

- Foundation: ch 12 (17, 21).
- Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [11 (16, 20) sts]
- Rows 2–7 (2–8, 2–10): ch 1, turn, sc in each st. [11 (16, 20) sts]

Do not fasten off. The base should measure about 5.5 × 3 cm (8 × 3.5 cm, 10 × 4.5 cm).

2. Body

Rounds 1 and 2 are worked with the same side facing you, and that side is the outside of the pouch. Each round starts with ch 1 (ch 2 before a dc round), which does not count as a stitch, and ends with a sl st in the first stitch of the round. From the end of round 2, join and then turn after every round, so the joins stack up in one straight line at a corner of the pouch.

- Rnd 1: sc 11 (16, 20) across the last row, sc 7 (8, 10) down the row ends, sc 11 (16, 20) along the foundation chain, sc 7 (8, 10) up the row ends. [36 (48, 60) sts]
- Rnd 2: in back loops only, sc in each st. [36 (48, 60) sts]
- Rnds 3–11 (3–13, 3–16): dc in each st. [36 (48, 60) sts]
- Rnd 12 (14, 17): sc in each st. [36 (48, 60) sts]

Fasten off and weave in the end. Round 2's free front loops make a ridge round the bottom, which is what turns the flat base into a pouch that stands up.

3. Drawstring

With the cord colour, ch until the chain, laid flat without stretching, measures 48 (54, 60) cm. Sl st in the back bump of the 2nd ch from the hook and in the back bump of each ch all the way back. Fasten off, leaving a 5 cm tail at each end.

Start at the middle of the front. Weave the cord through Rnd 9 (11, 14), over 2 dc and under 2 dc, 9 (12, 15) times, so both ends come out next to each other at the front. Pull both ends to gather the top and tie a bow.

4. Knots and tassels

Tie an overhand knot about 2 cm from each end of the cord. For a small tassel like the one in the picture, cut four 6 cm strands, fold them in half through the last chain below the knot, and trim them level with the cord's own tail.

Yarn and time

A Small pouch with its cord takes about 65 m. The amounts come from counting every stitch and allowing a published length of yarn per stitch for DK, so they are upper estimates.

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It is about 800 stitches, roughly 2 to 3 hours of crochet, by the time model in how long a baby blanket takes (https://crochetbabygifts.com/how-long-to-crochet-a-baby-blanket/).

If something goes wrong

The bottom is round, not flat. Round 2 has to go into the back loops only. That row of free loops is the fold between the base and the sides.

The joins wander round the pouch. Turn after every round from the end of round 2. Without turning, a joined round leans a little to one side every time.

The cord will not pull the top shut. Weave it under and over pairs of stitches, not single ones, and through the round named in step 3, which has two rounds above it to gather.

Frequently asked questions

Is this a good first project? Yes. It uses chain, single crochet, double crochet and slip stitch, and the video above shows each one. The only new idea is turning the corner from the flat base into the first round.

Can I make it bigger? Make the base longer and wider first, then work the same rounds. Keep the stitch count in round 1 a multiple of 4, so the cord still goes over 2 and under 2 all the way round. For a bigger drawstring bag with a strap, see our yellow crochet drawstring bag (https://crochetbabygifts.com/yellow-crochet-drawstring-bag-pattern/), with a round base and open mesh sides.

Can I use a ribbon instead of a cord? Yes. A ribbon about 1 cm wide threads through the same gaps between pairs of double crochet.

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