Crochet Mesh Hobo Bag: Free Pattern With Puff Stitch Columns

Crochet an oval base, work open mesh rounds of double crochet and chains with one puff stitch at each end of every round, then draw the mouth in with a band and work a strap up from each side to sew together at the top. The puffs stack into a raised column down each side of the bag. In 2 mm macrame cord on a 4 mm hook the bag comes out about 22.5 cm tall and 22 cm across the base, with a 45 cm handle.

This is our own design. A script checks every round and row, and the sizes and cord amount are estimates worked out from a planning gauge. Crochet a swatch first and measure it.

The parts

Part	Rounds or rows	Stitches	Size
Base	rounds 1–7	ch 24, then 84 sts	about 22 × 8.5 cm
Mesh body	rounds 8–22	42 spaces a round, 2 of them puffs	about 20.5 cm tall
Band	rounds 23–25	84 to 72 sts	about 1.5 cm tall
Straps	rows 1–40, make 2	14 to 8 sts	about 22.5 cm each

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Mesh hobo bag from the front

Drawn to scale: 15 mesh rounds, a puff column at each side, two straps joined at the top.



About 26.2 cm across the mesh and 22.5 cm at the band, laid flat. The two straps lean in and meet at the top.

Measurements from the parts table in this article **crochetbabygifts.com**

Each mesh round has two equal halves, so one puff lands over each end of the oval and the columns run straight up the sides.

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What you need

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

- 2 mm macrame cord, one colour, about the amount in the cord section. A cotton cord keeps the mesh square.
- A 4 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letter near it.
- A tapestry needle with an eye big enough for the cord, scissors and two stitch markers.

Abbreviations

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

- ch: chain. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). inc: 2 sc in the same stitch. dec: sc 2 together.
- sc: single crochet (UK: double crochet). dc: double crochet (UK: treble).
- Puff: [yarn over, put the hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop to the height of a double crochet] 3 times, then yarn over and pull through all 7 loops on the hook.
- Space: one stitch with the ch 1 after it. A mesh round counts in spaces.

The video

MIMI Handmade's video makes a mesh hobo bag with raised puff columns. Her stitch counts and shaping are her own and the video is in Vietnamese, so follow the counts on this page. It is worth watching for how the mesh and the raised columns look as they grow.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aokd67_0Hes

- The base from 3:40.
- The mesh body from 8:20.
- The raised puff pattern from 14:10.
- The mouth of the bag from 29:15.
- The hobo handle from 32:40.

Video: MIMI Handmade, "Crochet Puff Hobo Handle Bag" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aokd67_0Hes), 2026, 38½ minutes. A different design; the pattern on this page is our own.

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The pattern

Work the base in continuous rounds with a marker in the first stitch. Join each mesh and band round with a sl st in the first stitch. Start each mesh round with ch 2 and each band round with ch 1; the starting chains do not count as stitches.

1. Base

- Foundation: ch 24.
- Rnd 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc 21, 3 sc in last ch; working along the other side of the chain, sc 21, 2 sc in last ch. [48 sts]
- Rnd 2: inc, sc 21, [inc] 3 times, sc 21, [inc] 2 times. [54 sts]
- Rnd 3: sc 1, inc, sc 21, [sc 1, inc] 3 times, sc 21, [sc 1, inc] 2 times. [60 sts]
- Rnd 4: sc 2, inc, sc 21, [sc 2, inc] 3 times, sc 21, [sc 2, inc] 2 times. [66 sts]
- Rnd 5: sc 3, inc, sc 21, [sc 3, inc] 3 times, sc 21, [sc 3, inc] 2 times. [72 sts]
- Rnd 6: sc 4, inc, sc 21, [sc 4, inc] 3 times, sc 21, [sc 4, inc] 2 times. [78 sts]
- Rnd 7: sc 5, inc, sc 21, [sc 5, inc] 3 times, sc 21, [sc 5, inc] 2 times. [84 sts]

The round starts at one end of the oval. Lay the base flat: it should be about 22 cm long. If it cups, the increases are tight.

2. Mesh body

- Rnd 8: [puff in next st, ch 1, skip 1, (dc in next st, ch 1, skip 1) 20 times] 2 times. [42 spaces]
- Rnds 9–22: [puff in next puff, ch 1, (dc in next dc, ch 1) 20 times] 2 times. [42 spaces]

The first puff of each round sits over the start of the oval and the second over the far end, so the two puff columns face each other across the bag. Mark both puffs on round 8 and check they stay in line.

3. Band

- Rnd 23: sc in each puff, each dc and each ch-1 space. [84 sts]
- Rnd 24: [sc 5, dec] 12 times. [72 sts]
- Rnd 25: sc in each st. [72 sts]

Do not fasten off. Find the sc above each puff column and put a marker in it.

4. Straps

Make one strap on each side, centred on the marker. For the first, sl st along to the 7th stitch before a marker.

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- Row 1: sc 14. [14 sts]
- Row 2: ch 1, turn, dec, sc 10, dec. [12 sts]
- Row 3: ch 1, turn, dec, sc 8, dec. [10 sts]
- Row 4: ch 1, turn, dec, sc 6, dec. [8 sts]
- Rows 5–40: ch 1, turn, sc 8. [8 sts]

Fasten off with a 40 cm tail. Join the cord 7 stitches before the other marker and make the second strap the same way. The 22 stitches between the straps on each side are the mouth of the bag.

Lay the bag flat, bring the two strap ends together without twisting them, and sew them end to end with the tail, going through both several times. Weave in every end.

Cord and time

It takes about 170 m of cord, about 140 to 190 g. The amount comes from counting every stitch and allowing a length of cord per stitch scaled from published DK figures, so it is an estimate.

It is about 2,000 stitches, most of them in the mesh. Make the base and three mesh rounds, measure them, and adjust the hook before going on.

Frequently asked questions

Will things fall through the mesh? Keys and coins will. Sew a fabric lining inside, or keep small things in a pouch, such as our crochet drawstring pouch (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-drawstring-pouch/). For a bag in solid fabric, make the crochet ribbed shoulder bag (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-ribbed-shoulder-bag/) in the same cord.

Can I make the handle longer? Yes. Add rows to rows 5–40 on both straps, the same number on each. Every 2 rows adds about 1 cm to each strap.

Can I add flowers? Yes. Sew small crochet flowers onto the band or the mesh. Our layered rose (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-layered-rose/) works on a bag.

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