Crochet Mini Bag: Free Pattern for a Coin and Earbuds Purse With a Shell Flap

Crochet a small flat rectangle for the base, work the sides straight up from it in single crochet, then work a flap from the back and finish its end with a row of shells. A snap holds the flap shut, and two little loops at the top corners take a bought bag strap. In DK cotton on a 3.5 mm hook the Large comes out about 12.5 cm wide and 9 cm tall, big enough for an earbuds case.

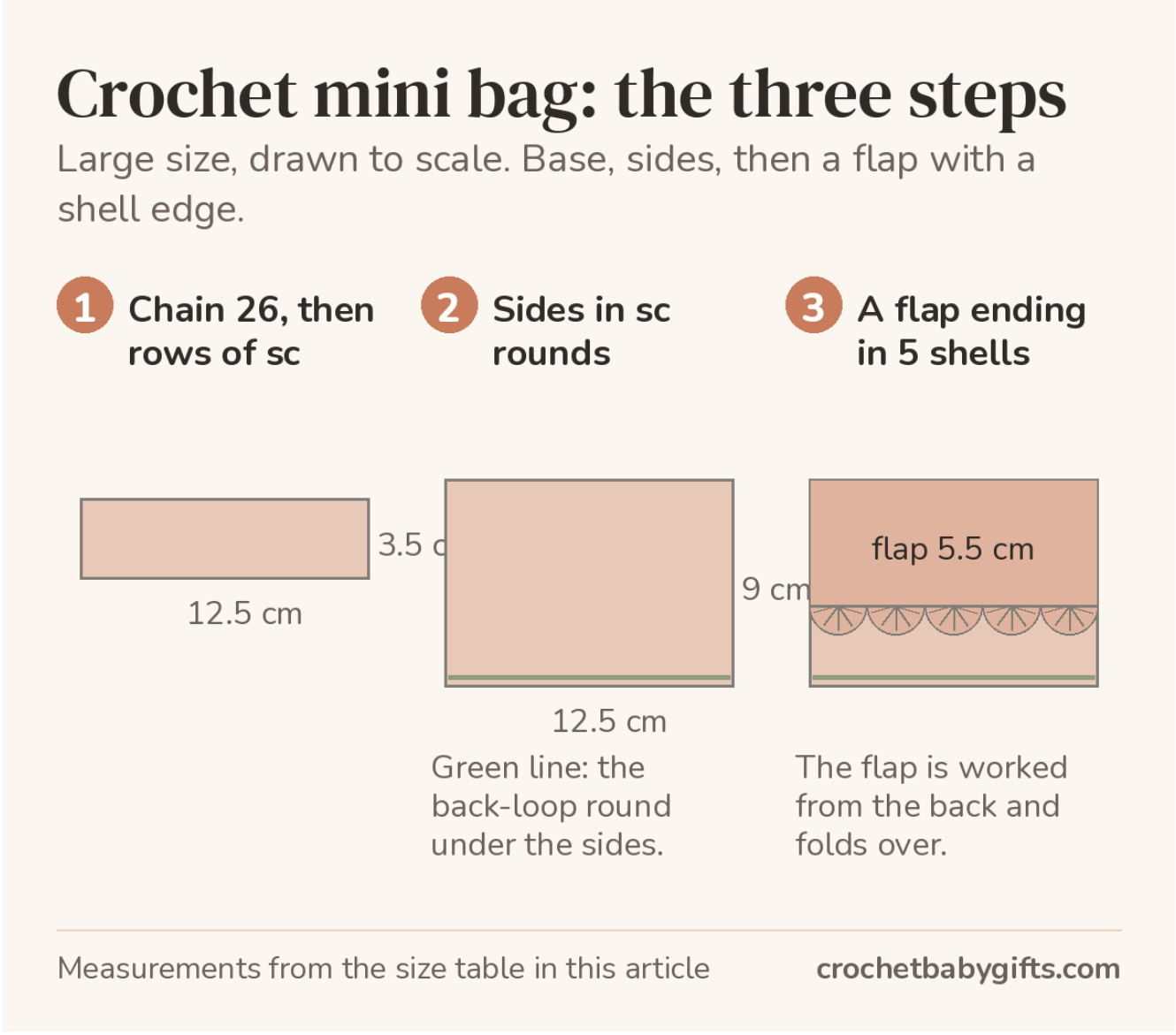
This is our own design. A script checks every row and round against the one before it, and the sizes are estimates worked out from a gauge, so the first thing to check is your own base against the size table.

Not a baby toy. A snap, a bead strap and a clasp are small parts, so this is a gift for an older child or an adult, not for a baby or toddler. The handmade baby gift safety checklist (https://crochetbabygifts.com/handmade-baby-gift-safety-checklist/) explains why.

Pick your size

Size	Bag, front	Base	Foundation chain	Flap	Yarn
Small	about 10.5 × 7 cm (4.25 × 2.75 in)	about 10.5 × 2.5 cm	22 ch	about 4.5 cm, 4 shells	about 60 m
Large	about 12.5 × 9 cm (5 × 3.5 in)	about 12.5 × 3.5 cm	26 ch	about 5.5 cm, 5 shells	about 85 m

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The Large is sized round an AirPods Pro charging case, which Apple gives as 62.2 × 47.2 × 21.8 mm. The Small takes coins, keys or a lip balm.

What you need

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

- DK (#3) cotton yarn, the amount in the size table, in one or two colours.
- A 3.5 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letter near it.
- One sew-on snap fastener, about 10 mm, and sewing thread.

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- A bag strap with clasps, if you want one: a short bead or chain wrist strap clips onto the loops. A crocheted chain works too.
- One stitch marker, a 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. We have not measured this on the bag 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 0.5 cm off, 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).
- sc2tog: insert the hook in the next stitch and pull up a loop, insert it in the stitch after and pull up a loop, then yarn over and pull through all 3 loops.
- Row end: the side edge of a row. Work one sc into the edge of each row.
- Back loops only: work into just the loop of each stitch that is furthest from you.
- 22 (26): the first number is for the Small, the one in brackets for the Large.

The video

's video makes two mini bags of her own design, each with a shell-stitch flap and a pearl strap, so its rounds and counts are not the ones on this page. It is worth watching for the shape of a small flap bag and how the strap clips on.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnrf_s4GOkc

Video: , "" (mini storage bag) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnrf_s4GOkc), 2025, 11 minutes. A different design; the pattern on this page is our own.

The pattern

1. Base

Worked in rows.

- Foundation: ch 22 (26).
- Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [21 (25) sts]

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- Rows 2–6 (2–8): ch 1, turn, sc in each st. [21 (25) sts]

Do not fasten off. The base should measure about 10.5 × 2.5 cm (12.5 × 3.5 cm).

2. Sides

Work in a continuous spiral without joining, with a marker in the first stitch of each round. In round 1, also put a marker in the first stitch of each of the four sides.

- Rnd 1: sc 21 (25) across the last row, sc 6 (8) down the row ends, sc 21 (25) along the foundation chain, sc 6 (8) up the row ends. [54 (66) sts]
- Rnd 2: in back loops only, sc in each st. [54 (66) sts]
- Rnds 3–17 (3–21): sc in each st. [54 (66) sts]

Sl st in the next 2 sts to smooth the step of the spiral, and fasten off. Round 2's free front loops make a ridge round the bottom, so the bag stands up on its flat base.

3. Flap

Flatten the bag with the corner markers at the sides. The flap is worked from the top of the back face, over its 21 (25) sts. Join the yarn in the first stitch of the back face.

- Row 1: ch 1, sc 21 (25). [21 (25) sts]
- Rows 2–8 (2–10): ch 1, turn, sc 21 (25). [21 (25) sts]
- Row 9 (11): ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc 17 (21), sc2tog. [19 (23) sts]
- Row 10 (12): ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc 15 (19), sc2tog. [17 (21) sts]
- Row 11 (13): turn, sl st in first st, [skip 1, 5 dc in next st, skip 1, sl st in next st] 4 (5) times. [25 (31) sts]

Fasten off and weave in the ends. The two decrease rows round off the corners, and the shells use the last row exactly, with a sl st at each end.

4. Snap and strap loops

Fold the flap over the front. Sew one half of the snap under the middle shell and the other half to the front where it lands, with sewing thread through several stitches.

For each strap loop, join the yarn at a top corner of the bag, at a side marker, ch 7, sl st in the same stitch and fasten off securely. Clip the strap onto the two loops.

Yarn and time

A Large bag takes about 85 m. The amounts come from counting every stitch and allowing a published length of yarn per stitch for DK, so they are upper estimates.

It is about 1,900 stitches.

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Frequently asked questions

Is this a good first project? Yes. It is single crochet nearly all the way; the only other stitch is the double crochet in the shells.

Can I use a button instead of a snap? Yes. Sew a small flat button to the front, and make a loop for it: join the yarn at the sl st in the middle of the shell row, ch 6 and sl st in the same stitch.

Can I make it bigger? Make the base longer and deeper, then work the same rounds. Keep the face's stitch count 5 more than a multiple of 4 (21, 25, 29 and so on), so the shells still fit the flap's end.

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