Crochet Ribbed Shoulder Bag: Free Pattern With a Gathered Top

Crochet an oval base, work the sides as one long panel of back-loop single crochet rows, then stand the panel on its edge so the ridges run upright as ribs. Join it round the base, gather the top in, and finish with a round handle and a tassel. In 2 mm macrame cord on a 4 mm hook the bag comes out about 28 cm wide, 21.5 cm tall and 8.5 cm deep, with a mouth about 19 cm across.

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

The parts

Part	Rounds	Stitches	Size
Base	rounds 1–7	ch 27, then 90 sts	about 24 × 8.5 cm
Ribbed sides	rows 1–90	30 sts a row	about 19 cm tall
Top	top rounds 1–5	90 to 60 sts	about 3 cm tall
Handle	rows 1–88	8 sts a row	about 49.5 cm long

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Ribbed shoulder bag from the front

Drawn to scale: 90 rows of ribbing on a 90-stitch base, gathered to 60 stitches.



About 28.1 cm across the base and 18.8 cm at the mouth. Half of the ribs show on this side.

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

The sides have one row for every stitch of the base, so each row end joins one base stitch. Two rows make one rib, which is why the row count is even.

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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 in one colour, about the amount in the cord section. We drew it in butter yellow. A soft single-twist cord shows the ribs best.
- 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 four 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).
- Back loop: of the two loops on top of a stitch, the one further from you. Working every row in the back loop leaves a ridge on each side of the work, and two rows make one rib.
- Row end: the side edge of a row. A sc row is about one stitch tall, so you work one sc into each row end.

The video

Mary Tejidos makes a roomy shoulder bag in T-shirt yarn, worked in rounds that mix single crochet and slip stitch, in a 47-minute Spanish tutorial. Her stitch and her counts are not the ones on this page. It is worth watching for how she shapes an oval base and gathers the top.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qmiEOzvR4U

Video: Mary Tejidos, "BOLSO TEJIDO | PUNTO BAJO / Amplio, Elegante y !SUPER FACIL¡ Paso a Paso" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qmiEOzvR4U), 2026, 47 minutes, in Spanish. A different design; the pattern on this page is our own.

The pattern

Work the base in continuous rounds with a marker in the first stitch. Work the sides and the handle in rows, and join each top round with a sl st in the first stitch.

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1. Base

- Foundation: in yellow, ch 27.
- Rnd 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc 24, 3 sc in last ch; working along the other side of the chain, sc 24, 2 sc in last ch. [54 sts]
- Rnd 2: inc, sc 24, [inc] 3 times, sc 24, [inc] 2 times. [60 sts]
- Rnd 3: sc 1, inc, sc 24, [sc 1, inc] 3 times, sc 24, [sc 1, inc] 2 times. [66 sts]
- Rnd 4: sc 2, inc, sc 24, [sc 2, inc] 3 times, sc 24, [sc 2, inc] 2 times. [72 sts]
- Rnd 5: sc 3, inc, sc 24, [sc 3, inc] 3 times, sc 24, [sc 3, inc] 2 times. [78 sts]
- Rnd 6: sc 4, inc, sc 24, [sc 4, inc] 3 times, sc 24, [sc 4, inc] 2 times. [84 sts]
- Rnd 7: sc 5, inc, sc 24, [sc 5, inc] 3 times, sc 24, [sc 5, inc] 2 times. [90 sts]

Lay the base flat: it should be an oval about 24 cm long. If it cups, the increases are tight; if it ruffles, go down a hook size. Fasten off and set it aside.

2. Ribbed sides

- Foundation: ch 31.
- Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [30 sts]
- Rows 2–90: ch 1, turn, sc in the back loop of each st. [30 sts]

The panel is a long strip with ridges running across it. Turned on its side, the ridges stand upright. At rest the panel is about 50.5 cm long, and the base edge is about 56 cm round, so the join stretches the ribbing a little, which it does easily.

Close it into a tube: fold the panel so row 90 lies on the foundation chain, and working through a stitch of row 90 and the chain under it together, sl st through both layers in each st across. [30 sl st] Fasten off.

3. Join the base

Mark the middle of each long side of the base and of the tube, and line the marks up, with the seam at one end of the oval. Hold the base inside the bottom edge of the tube, wrong sides together. Join the cord at the seam.

- Joining round: 90 sc, one in each row end of the sides and the next base stitch together. [90 sts]

The sc round sits on the outside as a neat edge round the base. Join with a sl st in the first sc and fasten off.

4. Top

Join the cord at the seam on the top edge.

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- Top rnd 1: sc in each row end. [90 sts]
- Top rnd 2: [sc 1, dec] 30 times. [60 sts]
- Top rnds 3–5: sc in each st. [60 sts]

Round 2 gathers the mouth in by a third, so the ribs fan out over the body and the bag sits soft and round. Fasten off and weave in.

5. Handle and tassel

- Foundation: ch 9.
- Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [8 sts]
- Rows 2–88: ch 1, turn, sc in the back loop of each st. [8 sts]

Fasten off with a 100 cm tail. Fold the strip in half along its length and whip-stitch the long edges together with the tail, so it rolls into a round handle about 2.5 cm wide with the ribs going round it.

Lay the bag flat with the seam at one end and mark the middle of each end of the top. Push 4 cm of each end of the handle inside the top at a mark and sew it to the inside of rounds 2 to 5, going through all the layers several times.

For the tassel, cut 24 strands of cord, each 30 cm (12 in) long. Thread them under the handle where it meets the bag at one end, fold them in half, and wrap a separate length of cord tightly round all of them 2.5 cm below the fold, 8 times. Tie it off inside the wrap and trim the ends level.

Cord and time

It takes about 250 m of cord, about 210 to 280 g. The amount comes from counting every stitch and allowing a length of cord per stitch scaled from published DK figures, plus the sewing and the tassel, so it is an estimate.

It is about 4,300 stitches, nearly all of them single crochet. Make the base and 20 rows of the sides, measure them, and adjust the hook before going on.

Frequently asked questions

Why work the sides in rows instead of rounds? Back-loop rows make ridges that run along the row. Worked in rounds the ridges would go round the bag; worked in rows and turned on their side, they stand upright like the ribs of a knitted cuff.

Do I need a lining? Single crochet in cord is firm, but the ribbing stretches. For a heavy load, sew in a fabric lining cut to the base and the inside of the sides.

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Can I use T-shirt yarn? Yes, with a 7 to 9 mm hook. The bag will be much bigger, so make fewer base rounds and fewer stitches in each side row, and keep one side row for every base stitch.

Can I make it smaller? Yes. Start the base with fewer chains, work one side row for every stitch of the base's last round, and gather the top to about two thirds of its stitches.

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