



We Care Bag

Project of the
Tallahassee Crochet Club
Crocheted Bags for
Refuge House;
providing shelter for battered
and abused women.

Each women receives a bag
filled with personal hygiene ne-
cessities: shampoo, conditioner,
lotion, feminine hygiene, tooth-
paste, toothbrush, etc.

Supplies:

1, 7-oz skein of variegated, 4-ply, worsted-weight yarn
Scraps of Fun Fur or any novelty yarn for trim (optional)
Size H hook or size needed for gauge
Large-eye tapestry needle
Scissors

Gauge: 4 sc per inch

Finished size of bag: 11" L X 11" W

Special stitch for straps:

Crossed dc: Dc in st indicated. Working back, dc in skipped st. Sk 2 sts. Dc in next st. Working back, dc in skipped st. End row as indicated.

Center of Bag (make 2—approximately 9" L X 5 ¾" W)

Ch 21

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook (20 sc). Ch 1, turn.

Rows 2-37: Repeat row 1. End.

Note: The last row dictates the RS of the bag because the top of the sc stitches face up. Mark the RS "top" of the bag with a stitch marker.

Long sides of bag:

Working on the long side of the center piece, attach yarn on the right w/sl st. Ch 1.

Row 1: Sc across the side of the center piece, placing one sc in the end of each row (36 sc). Ch 1, turn.

Row 2: 2 sc in 1st st. Sc in each st across (37 sc). Ch 1, turn.

Row 3: Sc evenly in each st across. Ch 1, turn.

Rows 4-11: Repeat rows 2 and 3, increasing in the even rows only, for a total of 41 sc in last row. End.

Repeat on other side of bag.

Bottom of bag:

Attach yarn w/sl st on the right. Ch 1.

Row 1: 2 sc in first st; sc across the bottom of the bag in each st; 2 sc in last st (22 sc). Ch1, turn.

Rows 2-11: Repeat Row 1, increasing 2 stitches in each row, for a total of 42 sc in last row. End.

Repeat on 2nd center piece.

Joining corners:

Turn bag over to WS. Attach yarn w/sl st in either corner of bag to close up the diagonal seams. Working from inside to outside of the corner, work 11 sl st to close diagonal seam. (You may need to use a size I or J crochet hook so that the sl st doesn't get too tight.) End. **Option:** Use a large-eye needle and whipstitch to join corners of bag.

Repeat on other corner. End. Weave in ends to finish.

Repeat on 2nd center piece.

Joining front and back of bag:

Lay RS together. Working in **outside loops**, use large-eye needle to sew with whipstitch **or** sl st to join. Work around 3 sides of the bag, leaving the top unstitched. End. Weave in ends to finish. Turn bag inside out.

Sc around the top of the bag. End. Weave in ends to finish.

Straps (make 2-approximately 21" L X 1 ½" W):

Ch 7

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each st across (6 sc). Ch 3. Turn.

Row 2: Crossed Dc: Sk 2 sts. Dc in 3rd st. Working back, dc in 2nd skipped st. Sk 2 sts. Dc in next st. Working back, dc in skipped st. Dc in last st of row. Ch 1, turn.

(**Note:** you'll have what looks like a skipped st at beginning and end of row.)

Rows 3-53: Repeat rows 1 and 2, ending with sc row. End. Weave in ends to finish.

Attach straps to bag:

Position right side of one strap to the right of the center rectangle on front side of bag. Working in back loops, join with 7 sl st to top row of bag **or** use large-eye needle and whipstitch to bag. End.

Being careful not to twist the strap, attach the left side of the strap to the left of the center rectangle. Working in back loops, join with 7 sl st to top row of bag **or** use large-eye needle and whipstitch to bag. End.

Repeat on back side of bag with the 2nd strap. End. Weave in ends to finish.

Strap options: 1) Sew straps lower on the bag; approx. 4 to 5 inches on front and back of bag. This will make the straps sturdier. **2)** Add novelty yarn to straps. **3) Or,** add one strap only and attach one end to front of bag, the other end to back of bag.

Trim:

With Fun Fur or any novelty yarn, join w/sl st on top of bag. Sl st around top of bag, working under both loops of previous row. When you get to the straps, sl st in front loops of top row to work in front of the straps. Then resume working under both loops of top row for rest of the bag. End. Weave in ends to finish.

Trim options: Crochet novelty yarn w/sl st on sides of straps. **Or** sl st novelty yarn to the front of the bag around the center piece. **Or** hold novelty yarn and worsted-weight yarn together to crochet straps. **Or** come up with your own way to use the novelty yarn for trim.