


Granny Square Cottage Bag

Create a beautiful and stylish Granny Square Cottage Bag with this detailed beginner-friendly tutorial! This project combines a sturdy crochet base, an airy granny cluster body, comfortable shoulder straps, and a lovely flower appliqué for the perfect handmade finish.

This guide follows the chart exactly while expanding every step carefully so you can confidently crochet the entire bag from start to finish.



GRANNY SQUARE COTTAGE BAG: STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

FINISHED PROJECT

MATERIALS & SPECIFICATIONS

Yarn: (Example: Light Grey, Cotton/Blended, Sport/Worsted, 3 skeins)








Yarn: 4.5mm (G/7), Cotton/Blended, Sport/Worsted, 3 skeins

Hooks: 4.5mm (G/7) for body, 4.0mm (G/6) for handles & flower

Finished Dimensions: Width (12"), Height to Handles (18"), Base Width (4")


Color: Misty Grey (Sample color)

U.S. CROCHET STITCH LEGEND

 Ch: Chain	 Sc: Single Crochet	 Hdc: Half Double Crochet	 Dc: Double Crochet
 Dc-cluster: 3-Double Crochet Cluster	 Sl st: Slip Stitch	 Magic Ring Make a magic ring making ornamental and pulling directly one track, finishing it finished together.	


3. DETAILED STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

1. THE BASE




Row 1: Ch 21.
Row 2: Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc to end (20 sc)
Rows 3-20: Cont in sc to create a square base.

2. SETTING UP THE BODY



Rnd 1: Join yarn at a corner. Working in back loops, Sc around base (80 sc), sl st to join.

3. THE GRANNY CLUSTER PATTERN (MAIN BODY)

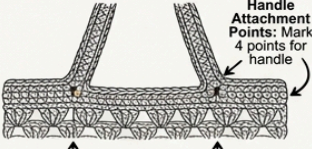


Rnd 2: Ch 3 (counts as 1st Dc). (Dc, Ch 1, 3-Dc Cluster) all in same corner ch-sp. *Ch 2, sk 2 sc, 3-Dc cluster in next sc.* Repeat * to * around. **In corners:** (3-Dc Dc cluster, Ch 2, 3-Dc cluster). Sl st to join.

Rnd 3: Sl st to Ch-2 space. (Ch 3, 2 Dc) in Ch-sp. *Ch 2, 3-Dc cluster in next Ch-sp.* Repeat * around. Sl st to join.

Rnds 4-18: Repeat Rnd 3 to build the openwork pattern, making sure corner clusters stack correctly.

4. FINISHING THE TOP EDGE & STRAPS




Rnd 19: Working only in sc, work 1 sc in each st around top edge. (80 sc)

Handle Attachment Points: Mark 4 points for handle

Row 20: Ch 105 (for one strap length). *Repeat for second strap, anchoring at *. Make 2 strap-rows of sc along the length of the chs.


Rnd 21: Final decorative edge in Hdc around top edge and both straps, connecting and smoothing.

5. THE CENTRAL FLOWER (APPLIQUE)




Rnd 1: In Magic Ring (MR), Ch 2, 8 Sc, join.
Rnd 2: (Ch 3, 2 Hdc in next sc, Sl st in next sc) x 4. Sew to front-center of bag.
Rnd 4: (Sc, Hdc, 3 Dc, Hdc, Sc) in each ch-sp. Join.


4. KEY TECHNIQUES



Invisible Join
(for Rnd ends)



Tension Control
Importance to keep cluster sizes one uniform.



Weaving in Ends

Finished Bag Size

- Width: Approximately 12 inches
- Height: Approximately 10 inches
- Handle Length: Approximately 18 inches
- Base Width: Approximately 4 inches

The bag is roomy, lightweight, and perfect for daily use, market shopping, beach days, or casual outfits.

Materials Needed

Yarn

Use a medium-weight cotton or cotton-blend yarn.

Recommended:

- Sport/Worsted or Light Worsted weight
- Approximately 3 skeins
- Sample color: Misty Grey

Cotton yarn works best because it gives structure and durability to the bag.

Crochet Hooks

- 4.5 mm (G/7) hook for the main bag body
- 4.0 mm (G/6) hook for handles and flower

Additional Supplies

- Stitch markers
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Measuring tape

U.S. Crochet Stitch Abbreviations

Ch — Chain

Wrap yarn over and pull through the loop on hook.

Sc — Single Crochet

Insert hook into stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over again, pull through both loops.

Hdc — Half Double Crochet

Yarn over, insert hook, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through all three loops.

Dc — Double Crochet

Yarn over, insert hook, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through two loops, yarn over, pull through remaining two loops.

Dc-Cluster — 3 Double Crochet Cluster

This stitch creates the classic granny texture.

To make:

1. Yarn over and begin a double crochet.
2. Stop before the last pull-through.
3. Repeat 3 times in the same space.
4. Yarn over and pull through all loops together.

Sl St — Slip Stitch

Insert hook into stitch, yarn over, pull through stitch and loop on hook.

MR — Magic Ring

Wrap yarn around fingers to create an adjustable loop for crocheting in the round.

Before You Start ✨

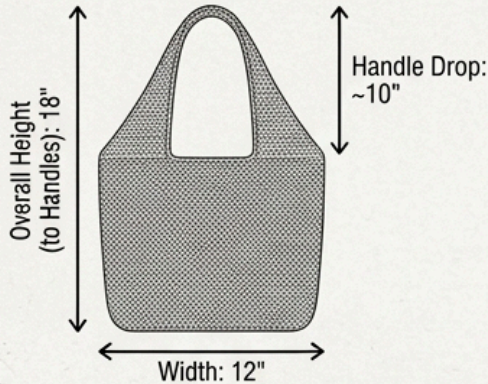
Try to keep your tension even throughout the project. Since the body uses granny clusters, uneven tension can make the bag look warped or uneven.

Cotton yarn can feel stiff at first, but this helps the bag keep its shape.

Take your time with the base because a strong foundation makes the entire bag sturdier.

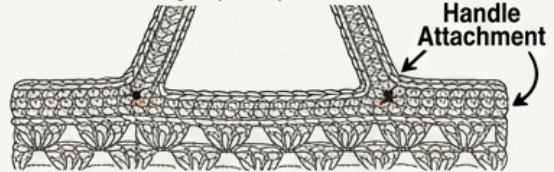


CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAM: COTTAGE BAG (GRANNY CLUSTER PATTERN)



4. FINISHING THE TOP EDGE & STRAPS

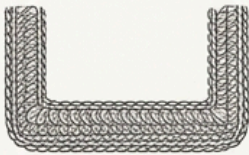
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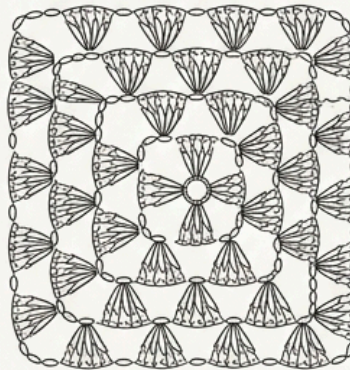
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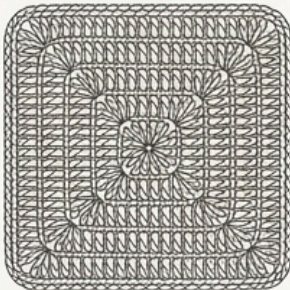


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1. THE BASE



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5. THE CENTRAL FLOWER (APPLIQUE)

FLOWER APPLIQUE DETAILS



Rnd 1: In Magic Ring (MR), Ch 2, 8 Sc, join.

Rnd 2: (Ch 3, 2 Hdc in next sc, Sl st in next sc) x 4. Sew to front-center of bag.

Rnd 4: (Sc, Hdc, 3 Dc, Hdc, Sc) in each ch-sp. Join.

4. KEY TECHNIQUES



Invisible Join (for Rnd ends)



Tension Control Importance to keep cluster sizes one uniform.



Weaving in Ends

Step 1: Crocheting the Base

The base creates the sturdy bottom of the bag.

Using your 4.5 mm hook:

Row 1

Chain 21.

Make sure your chains are not too tight. A loose starting chain helps the base stay flat.

Starting in the second chain from the hook:

- Work 1 single crochet in each chain across.

You should have:

- 20 single crochet stitches

At the end of the row:

- Chain 1
- Turn your work

Rows 2–20

For every row:

- Work 1 single crochet into each stitch across.
- Chain 1 and turn.

Continue until you complete Row 20.

You now have a rectangular crochet panel that forms the base of the bag.

Helpful Tip

Lay the piece flat occasionally to make sure it stays straight and does not curl.

The base should feel firm and dense.

Step 2: Setting Up the Body of the Bag

Now you will crochet around the entire rectangle to prepare for the granny stitch body.

This round creates the walls of the bag.

Round 1

Do not fasten off.

Rotate your work so you can crochet around the edges of the rectangle.

Along the First Side

- Work evenly spaced single crochets down the side edge.

Try placing approximately:

- 1 single crochet per row

This keeps the edges smooth and balanced.

Across the Bottom

- Work 1 single crochet into each stitch across.

Along the Other Side

- Again work evenly spaced single crochets.

Across the Top

- Work 1 single crochet in every stitch.

Continue all the way around.

At the corners:

- Add extra stitches if needed so the fabric lays flat.

You should end with approximately:

- 80 single crochet stitches total

Join with a slip stitch to the first stitch.

Important Tip

The exact side stitch count is less important than maintaining an even shape.

The bag should not pull inward or ripple outward.

Step 3: Creating the Granny Cluster Body

This is the decorative openwork section that gives the bag its beautiful cottage-style appearance.

Round 2

Start the granny pattern.

Chain 3.

This counts as your first double crochet.

In the same chain space:

- Work 2 double crochets

You now have your first 3-double crochet cluster.

Chain 2

Skip 3 stitches.

In the next stitch:

- Work a 3-double crochet cluster

Repeat this pattern all the way around:

- Chain 2
- Skip 3 stitches
- Work 3 double crochets

Corner Instructions

At each corner:

- Work:
 - 3 Dc
 - Chain 2

- 3 Dc

all inside the same corner space.

This creates enough room for the bag to expand properly.

Continue around the entire bag.

Join with a slip stitch to close the round.

Round 3

Slip stitch into the next chain-2 space.

Chain 3.

Work 2 double crochets in the same space.

Repeat Around

In every chain-2 space:

- Work:
 - 3 double crochets
 - Chain 2
 - 3 double crochets in corner spaces only

Continue around.

Slip stitch to join.

Rounds 4–18

Repeat Round 3.

As you continue, the granny clusters will stack neatly on top of one another, forming the classic granny square-inspired texture.

The bag body gradually grows upward.

Keep Checking Shape

Your bag should:

- Stay symmetrical

- Keep straight sides
- Maintain even spacing

If your stitches become tight:

- Move your hands more loosely
- Relax your grip on the yarn

Height Check

After Round 18:

- The body should measure close to the finished height.

You can add additional rounds if you prefer a taller bag.

Step 4: Finishing the Top Edge

This section strengthens the opening and prepares the handles.

Round 19

Switch to working only in single crochet.

Work:

- 1 single crochet in every stitch around the top edge

Total:

- Approximately 80 stitches

This round stabilizes the opening and prevents stretching.

Join with a slip stitch.

Step 5: Creating the Shoulder Straps

The handles are made directly onto the bag.

Marking Handle Placement

Lay the bag flat.

Use stitch markers to mark:

- 4 points total
- 2 handle openings

Make sure both sides are centered evenly.

The handles should match in size and placement.

Round 20

Starting at the first handle marker:

Chain 105.

This forms one shoulder strap.

Anchoring the Strap

Skip the handle opening stitches and attach the chain to the next marker using a single crochet.

Reinforcing the Strap

Repeat across the chain:

- Work rows of single crochet back and forth to strengthen the strap.

The chart recommends:

- 2 strap rows of single crochet

This makes the straps sturdy and comfortable.

Repeat the same process for the second handle.

Helpful Strap Tip

Do not twist the chains before attaching them.

Lay the strap flat first to ensure it sits comfortably on the shoulder.

Step 6: Final Edge Round

Switch to your 4.0 mm hook if desired for tighter finishing.

Round 21

Work half double crochet stitches around:

- Entire top edge
- Both straps

This finishing round:

- Smooths the edges
- Adds structure
- Gives a polished appearance

Join with a slip stitch.

Fasten off and weave in ends carefully.

Step 7: Making the Central Flower Appliqué

This flower is crocheted separately and sewn onto the bag.

Using the 4.0 mm hook:

Round 1

Create a Magic Ring.

Inside the ring:

- Chain 2
- Work 8 single crochets

Join with a slip stitch.

Pull the magic ring tightly closed.

Round 2

In each stitch around:

- Chain 3
- Work 2 half double crochets
- Slip stitch in next stitch

Repeat around 4 times total.

You now have the flower petals beginning to form.

Round 3

Continue shaping the petals:

- Work:
 - Single crochet
 - Half double crochet
 - 3 double crochets
 - Half double crochet
 - Single crochet

inside each petal space.

Join with a slip stitch.

The flower should now look full and dimensional.

Attaching the Flower

Position the flower:

- Front center of the bag
- Near the upper opening

Using a yarn needle:

- Sew securely through the back of the flower
- Attach firmly to the bag fabric

Hide yarn tails inside the bag.

Final Finishing Touches ✨

Carefully weave in every loose yarn end.

Stretch the bag gently into shape with your hands.

If desired:

- Lightly steam block the bag

- Do not overheat cotton yarn

Blocking helps:

- Open the granny clusters
- Straighten edges
- Improve overall shape

Optional Customization Ideas

You can personalize your bag by:

- Adding lining fabric inside
- Sewing in a magnetic snap
- Using wooden handles
- Adding beads or tassels
- Mixing multiple yarn colors
- Making the flower larger

Beginner Tips for Success

Keep Count Frequently

Miscounted stitches can shift the granny pattern.

Use Stitch Markers

Especially useful for:

- Corners
- Handle placement
- Beginning of rounds

Don't Rush the Straps

Strong straps are essential for a durable bag.

Practice Clusters First

If granny clusters are new to you, practice a few before beginning the bag body.

Congratulations! 🎉

You have completed your beautiful Granny Square Cottage Bag!

This handmade crochet bag combines:

- Vintage granny style
- Modern functionality
- Comfortable structure
- Elegant floral detail