

Fanny Pack/Waist Bag



The instructions are going to give you a general idea of how to create the bag. There are not stitch counts or row counts as each bag should be designed to fit your needs. The instructions for this bag are based on this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ted6Hd8WpO4>. Unfortunately I was unable to understand the language spoken here, but I was able to get a feel for the methodology used to construct the bag. The fact that it starts from a circular/round piece gave the inspiration to use a mochila “bottom” to add more decoration to the bag. Her bag is done in double crochet (US term) and mochila is done in single crochet (US term), I wanted to explore how to achieve the same bag with a different stitch.

Materials:

Mercerized cotton (i.e. Scheeps Catona, Schachenmayr Catania, Paton’s Grace)

Jute (twine) (this makes the bag a little denser and is optional)

Crochet Hook 2mm - 2.5mm (2mm or #4 steel hook was used for this project)

1 zipper (length needed for the finished top of the bag)

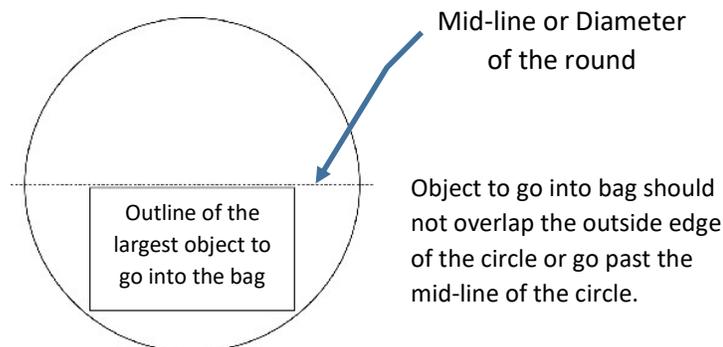
2 D-rings or metal rings (Optional)

Tapestry needle

Thread and needle or hot glue to attach the zipper

Instructions:

Create a mochila style “bottom” (round/circular piece) using a design of your choice. The center of the design will become the back of the bag, so you may want to keep it simple. The size of the piece will be determined by what you want to carry in your bag. For example: If you are just going to carry a driver’s license and keys, you will want to make a smaller bag that will comfortably fit your driver’s license inside. If you will be carrying your phone, it will require a wider diameter or larger bag. The item should fit within the widest portion of the circle (the diameter) and not overlap the edge. See the diagram below. In that each of us has our own tension and may use different yarn weight and hook sizes, create a paper or cardboard outline of the largest item to go into the bag and use that while working to check the size of the circular piece.



BEFORE YOU CONTINUE:

Below is the final shape of the bag before assembly. In order to achieve this you will need to know the total number of stitches in the last row of the round/circle. The formula is as follows:

Total stitches from the last round divided by 4- (1/4 stitches): (i.e. If there are 200 stitches in the last row of the round/circle, you will need to continue on the next 50 stitches ($200/4=50$)).

To mark where the bag height ends on the previous round, take the value of the **1/4 stitches** and divide by 2 (i.e. Divide 50 by 2 for 25 stitches on each side of the soon to be worked stitches. (See diagram and text below)

To determine the number of rows for the front of the bag: Once you have your **1/4 stitches** you will work those stitches into the post of the sc stitches of the previous round on the wrong side of the round. (This is row 1 of the bag front). In the next row you will make 4 evenly spaced increases (avoid increasing on the edge of the row). Depending on the number of **1/4 stitches** you made, you will want to put in enough rows to equal that number. (i.e in our 200 stitch round example we calculated 50 stitches for row 1. Divide 50 by 4 and you will get a total of 12 rows (round to the closest even number). In that you will increase every other row, the total number of rows to work the front of the bag will be 24. This should equal 48 additional stitches in the last increase row, for a total of 98 stitches).



For this bag I worked the sc stitches around jute. This will make a stiffer, denser bag. I also use a "fair isles" approach in that I only use a maximum of two colors per row. You do not have to use jute and may use as many colors as you please.

The front of the bag is single crocheted in rows (not in a round). Remember to pull your carry threads after you've made a few stitches in the next row. (As you can see I pulled a little too tight on the left hand side, so be careful not to do that!). Use the carry thread to adjust your work for any "ruffles" that may be created. The front of the bag should lie flat (just like the round).

Summary of bag construction:

Create the round to the appropriate size (this piece measured 9 inches at the diameter).

Bag front:

Continue with single crochet in the post of the single crochet from the previous round. The number of stitches will be $\frac{1}{4}$ of the stitches from the last row of the round. (See formula above). Chain one and turn. Single crochet a few stitches then make four (4) evenly spaced increases in the row. (Do not increase on the edge). Chain one and turn. Repeat the two rows until you have enough increases to equal the number of stitches from Row 1. **There will only be four increases per row.** (See formula above). (I offset my increases so that they were not on top of each other, this is optional). Continue working without increases for 3 more rows, (chain one and turn at each row). Leave the yarn attached and go to instructions for the Stitch Markers. **DO NOT SEW THE SIDES OF THE BAG!**

Stitch markers:

At this time you should have more than enough rows to reach your stitch markers. Pin the sides to make sure you have reached the stitch markers. Move the stitch markers to include the three additional rows. This will be the "fold" for the top of the bag. (If you do not have enough rows to meet your stitch marker, add row(s) until you do).

Also, if you would like to have your bag lined, this would be the best time to do it, while the bag is flat. Just remember to leave the stitches along all the edges free.

Top options:

Your bag is complete, however, you have an option here. Fold the bag along the line where your stitch markers are placed. This will be the top of the bag. You can add 3 rows of stitches along the edge for your zipper. See examples below.

Bag top with the edge to cover the zipper:

Skip 2 stitches after the marker then single crochet into the post of the sc from the previous round on the wrong side of the round. End two stitches before the next stitch marker.



Bag top without the edge.



Zipper:

The zipper length will depend upon how you want your bag to open. If you want the entire top to fold back, find a zipper that is slightly longer than the length of the top. The zipper can be attached by sewing onto the bag front and bag top. You may also use hot glue to attach the zipper. By leaving the sides of the bag open you should find it easier to attach the zipper.



Bag loops:

I chose to use metal “loops” (they are actually brass key rings!) on my bag. You may also crochet loops on to the bag.

- Use the edge stitches, before you sew the bag together, to make crochet loops.
- You may also attach loops to the back of the bag to pass a belt through.
- Use two round metal rings or metal “D” rings.

Finishing:

Turn the bag inside out and sew the sides of the bag. If you are attaching a metal loop, make sure you place the loop between the sides of the bag with enough of the loop sticking out to sew the loop to the bag. One loop per side.





This is my finished bag. The bag can be worn around the waist or as a cross body bag.

Have fun!!!