
Crocheted Summer Bag with Edie Eckman

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Edie Eckman. I'm a knit and crochet designer, author, and teacher, and together, we're going to make a summer sampler purse. I'll show you how to work an overbase. We'll do basket weave stitch, ripple stitch, and seed stitch, and I'll show you how to attach purchased handles. Let's get started. (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The materials you'll need for this class are of course, yarn. I used a sport-weight mercerized cotton, Schachenmayr Catania. If you use this yarn, you'll need three balls, each of which has 137 yards. If you want to make a bigger bag, or more like a tote, you can use either a thicker weight cotton, or even a wool or acrylic, as long as you use a hook that's an appropriate size for your yarn. You'll need a purchased handle. I found this one online and what I liked about it besides the style, was that it had these rings that will enable me to crochet a tab to go through the rings to secure it to the bag. You, of course, can find whatever handle you like. You'll also need a crochet hook. Now, I used an F or 3.75 millimeter hook for this particular yarn. If you're using a thicker yarn, you'll need a larger crochet hook. Choose a size that will give you a firm fabric that's not too stiff. You want a nice bag type fabric. Maybe not a fabric you would wear, but one that will work right for a bag. You'll also need scissors, a stitch marker, and a yarn needle. And of course, you'll need your pattern. You'll want to print out your pdf charts so you can follow along as we work the charts together.

Chapter 3 - Crochet the Bag

Crochet the bag base

- To begin, I will chain 13. Starting with a slipknot on my hook. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13. Be careful not to make these too tight because you're going to be working into each chain two times. Then the instructions say to single crochet in the second chain from the hook. So, that's the first chain, there's the second chain. I'm going to work into the top couple of loops of that chain, single crochet in that stitch. Now, the instructions also say to place a marker in the stitch. This is the first stitch of my round and I'm putting the marker right there under the top two loops so I can't miss which is the first stitch. Now, I'll single crochet in the next 10 chains. That's pretty much all the way across to the last chain. So, here I'm at the 10th single crochet and I have one chain left. Remember that knot is not a stitch. But, there's my last chain. I'm going to put three single crochets into that last chain. And, as I do that, you can see that the stitches are spreading about the end of the chain and if I turn I can now begin working along the bottom edge of my foundation chain. And, I'm going to single crochet into the bottom edge of each of those stitches. If I want, I can use my tail to work around my tail and secure it. So, there's one, two, three, whoops, have to be careful not to split the stitches. I'll have to go back and fix that later with my needle. At this point, I do wanna have enough tail left over to weave in a different direction so I'm going to stop catching that and let it hang to the wrong side. I will be working this entire bag with the right side facing. Now, I'm coming up to the other end, the beginning end. So, there are my three stitches, one, two, three stitches around. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. And, now I need

to put two stitches in the last chain. That's the beginning chain. So, actually I have three stitches in the end, two on this side and then the first stitch of the round. I am not joining rounds. Each time I work around, I'm going to move this marker up to the next round to show where the beginning of the round is, but I'm not using slip stitches to join. Now, it's time to work round two. I'll take this out for just a moment while I work a single crochet into the first stitch. And, then I'm gonna put that marker right back in there so I'm keeping track of where the first stitch is. Now, the instructions for round two say to put two single crochets into the first stitch and then single crochet in the next 10 stitches. And, notice I'm working under both loops of the stitch. That's the default place to work. Any time it doesn't say otherwise, you work under both loops of the stitch. So, I've worked two stitches in the first, then one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. Now, the instructions say to work two single crochets in each of the next three stitches. So, I'm going to work two here. Two in the next one and two in the third. And, then work right across in the next 10. And, then two single crochets in each of the last two single crochets. And, I've reached the end of the second round. Let's talk about what we're doing now from this point on in the oval. I need to increase three stitches on each side of my oval or on each end. And, I want to avoid stacking those increases. In the first few rounds, you do have to stack them a little bit. What I mean by stacking is putting one increase right over another. So, you can see at the beginning of the round I increased one stitch by working two single crochets into the first stitch. Then I worked all the way to the other end and put two single crochets into each of three stitches that increased three stitches. Then I worked back to the beginning end and increased two more stitches. So, I've increased a total of six stitches, three on either side. I'll continue to do that as I work around. And, each time I increase, I'm going to want to put three increases on the far side and three on the near side. But, the first increase needs to take place near the beginning of the round and the last two increases need to take place near the end of the rounds. So, let's see what it looks like on the chart. You can see that each of these symbols is a chain stitch. So, there's my chain 13. And, I worked round one, single crochets around the chain and back to the beginning of the round. Now, here's round two which I just worked. You can see I had two single crochets. Those are the two blue stitches in the first stitch. I worked one single crochet in each stitch around until the end when I had two stitches in that stitch, two in this one, and two in this one. Then, I worked straight across and I had two single crochets in each of the last two single crochets of the round. Now, I'm ready to work round three. And, I can see here that I work two single crochets into the first stitch, then work one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12 stitches straight across. Then I'll work two single crochets into the next, one single crochet into the next. Then two single crochets into each of the next two stitches before I work one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12 stitches straight across and then two single crochets into the next two single crochets and then one single crochet into the last stitch. So, that gives me a total of three increases on this side. One of the increases is after the marker and one is two or just before the marker. And, then three increases on this side. If you are primarily a chart reader, be sure to refer to the text instructions especially on the transition rounds because they aren't necessarily charted in full detail. Round three begins with two stitches in the first stitch. I'm gonna take that out and then put the marker right back in so I don't forget. Two stitches in the first stitch. Then 12 single crochets across. Now, I may crochet a little bit differently from you. I may not hold the yarn the way you do and I may not hold the hook the way you do. Whatever way you crochet is fine. Let's see where I am. There's one, two, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12. Now, I do two single crochets into the next stitch. Then one in the next stitch. Then two into the next two stitches. And, then 12 straight across. Now, I'm at my last three stitches of the round where I'll put

two single crochets into the next two single crochets. And, then one into the last single crochet to finish the round. So, you see, I have put increases here and here. And, as I continue to work the rounds, I'll start having a little bit more of a rounded end and I'll be able to spread the increases out a bit on each end. If you want round by round instructions, you can follow the text pattern for round four, but then you'll have to skip to the chart to get those round by round instructions. If, at that point, you feel comfortable working on your own, you can just spread out the increases on either end as we've been doing. Work through round 12, then join me.

Basketweave stitch section

- You've worked through round 12 and round 13 is almost the same with a couple of slight changes. Instead of doing three increases on each end, you're going to do two increases on each end. Also, as you come around the final end you want to end right at the very end of the oval. So if you have to stop a few stitches before the end of the round that's just fine. Here I'm coming up right to the end of round 13 and rather than going all the way to the end of the round I think I'll stop about here because that's right at the end of my oval and I'm going to slip stitch in the back loop only of the next stitch to join the round. I haven't been joining up to this point. Now what I mean by the back loop only is just the back leg or the far side of that V. And I'll slip stitch. Now from this point on, my rounds will be joined so I can remove that marker and the new beginning of the rounds starts right here. Now I'm on transition round one and I'm going to chain one to bring my hook up to the level of the next round and back loop single crochet in each stitch round. Now I may just want to put a marker in this stitch to remind myself that's the beginning of the round. You can if you want to. So I'm going to back loop single crochet or single crochet in the back loop only of each stitch around to create a ridge that demarcates the end of the base or the edge of the base. Here I'm getting to the end of the round and I will join with a slip stitch this time. I'm going to take this marker out. And I want to join with a slip stitch into the both loops of the next stitch. So now we're not working in the back loop only anymore. Now transition round two says chain one, then slip stitch in each stitch around. And slip stitches just go in and go through here so under both loops of the stitch. I'm just going to slip stitch all the way around. This creates a chain effect on the front of the fabric. So you can see that chain is kinda going sideways across the front. And I'm about to run out of yarn. I'll show you what I do. I'll reach over and get some other yarn and I just wanna leave a nice long tail at the beginning as well. And I will come back and work those ends in later. I'm not gonna tie a knot or anything, I'll just keep going. That was a pretty easy join for a new yarn because I was just doing slip stitch. I just stopped with the old yarn and started with the new yarn and because slip stitch is such a simple stitch there was nothing to it. I'll show you a little later how to do it in a more complicated stitch. As I end transition round two and begin transition round three, I'm going to be working into the stitches from the first round. Let's look at round three on the chart. Here's round one where I worked into the back loop only and then I did round two, which was a round of slip stitches. Now for round three, I'll chain three, which will count as a double crochet and I will work each double crochet into the single crochets of round one and just ignore round two entirely. At the end of transition round two I'm going to slip stitch in the top two loops of the first stitch of round one. So I'm skipping that slip stitch and slip stitching here to join my round. Now chain three, to begin my double crochet round and each of these stitches is going to be worked into the top two loops of round one. You can see that's the slip stitch from round two and if you rotate it towards you a little bit the top of the stitches from round one are right here. Those are the stitches we're working into. So I will double crochet into each stitch around. That allows that slip stitch round to serve as a

decorative ridge on the surface of the bag. So work one double crochet in each stitch around. When you finish this round three, double check to make sure that you have 96 stitches because that's the number we need to set up for our first basket weave round. I finished my transition rounds and now it's time to start basket weave stitch. Basket weave stitch is made up of combinations of front post double crochet and back post double crochet which creates a highly textured fabric. Let's take a look at the chart so we can anticipate what's going to be happening with those front and back post double crochets. On round one you see this sort of interesting looking hooked symbol. Take a look at the symbol key and you'll see that the front post double crochet has a hook that opens on the left side and a back post double crochet has a hook that opens on the right side. So over here on round one, you see we chained one loosely, that's a big long chain. And then work one, two, three, four front post double crochets. And then one, two, three, four back post double crochets. Now just imagine that this goes all the way around. You'll work four fronts and four back post double crochets all the way around until you get to the end of the round which will end with four back post double crochets and then you'll join with a slip stitch to the top of the first front post double crochet. Round one begins with a loose chain one and really I just want to bring my hook up to the level of the first round. That is not going to count as a stitch. I work my first front post double crochet around that chain three which did count as a stitch. So I'm going to double crochet. So I yarn over, then I insert my hook from front to back to front, around the post of that stitch. Yarn over and pull up a loop. Then yarn over and pull through two, just as I would for a regular double crochet. Let me do that again. Yarn over, insert hook from front to back to front around the post of the stitch, not around the top two loops of the V, but around the post itself. And do that a total of four times. Then I need to do four back post double crochets. See how the front posts had made that come forward? To do a back post double crochet I work a yarn over then I insert my hook from the back around the post of the next stitch, grab a yarn and pull it up. So I have three loops on my hook and then finish my double crochet. Again, yarn over, back to front to back, around the post, yarn over and pull up a loop and complete my double crochet. I do that a total of four times. So those are my post stitches that come forward for front post double crochet and my post stitches in the back go backwards so that the tops of the stitches from the previous row come forward. I'll continue to work four front post and four back post double crochets all the way around. I'm finishing round one by ending with back post double crochets and then I'll join with a slip stitch to the top of the first stitch. Now to begin round two I'm once again going to chain loosely, that's not going to count as a stitch. And now I'm going to start working front post double crochets into the previous front post double crochets. So I'm working around the post of that stitch. So I'll work front post double crochets into all my front post double crochets and back post double crochets into all my back post double crochets. This just adds another row of texture that repeats the texture I've already started. I'll do that all the way around for round two, join at the end of the round, and then do round three which is exactly like round two. Starting with round four we'll be reversing the front and back post double crochets. So I'll be working back post double crochets into the previous rounds front post double crochets and vice versa. Here's what that looks like. We'll start with one loose chain one, which doesn't count as a stitch. Now I'm going to work a back post double crochet around that first stitch. And around the next three stitches. This is what gives us our basket weave look as we reverse the stitches every three rounds and in just a minute you'll see it start to develop. Now it's time to do a front post double crochet around the previous round's back post double crochet. So on my first eight stitches of the round you can see that these front posts have now these vertical lines, have now started to go horizontal and these horizontal lines have started to go vertically. Now's a

good time to stop for a minute and think about the fabric we're making for our bag because you may decide you want to change hook sizes based on your decisions about the fabric. If I look at the base of my bag I can see that it's a little bit firm but still flexible enough. I don't want it super-stiff but I want it firm enough to hold things. The basket weave fabric is somewhat different because it's so textured and it has a few more holes in it, but it is heavier. So you can see that it's starting to stand upright. Now if your bag isn't starting to stand upright now you're going to want to use a smaller hook so you have a nice fabric for a bag that's intended to hold things. Go ahead and complete this round and do two more rounds just like it working back post into back post and front post into front post. Then you'll do another series of three rounds the opposite way. So you'll be starting with four front posts and then four back posts. So repeating the first three rounds of basket weave stitch, for a total of nine rounds of basket weave stitch. Then join me again.

Ripple stitch section

- At the end of the basket weave stitch, you get a little bit of a breather, because the instructions for the first round of the next transition are just to single crochet in each stitch around. I've done that, I'm at the end of the first transition round and the second transition round starts with slip stitching I'm gonna end the round, then I'm going to slip stitch chain one and slip stitch in each stitch around, just like we did previously. To create that slip stitch surface crochet, all the way around. Round three is similar to the third transition round we did before, in that we are going to be working in the top loops of the round that's two rounds below, so in first transition round, and we're allowing those slip stitches to stay in front, so I chained three, that counts as a stitch, so I'm going to skip the very first stitch and work into the next one, being careful just to go under two loops, we're double crocheting around but there are some decreases, so the instructions tell you to double crochet in the first thirteen stitches, then double crochet two together, let me show you what that looks like. To double crochet two together, I begin with a regular double crochet, but it stop when I still have two loops left on my hook, and then I start the next double crochet, which is yarn over, go into the next stitch yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through two. Now I have two partial double crochets on my hook, I yarn over and pull through all three loops on my hook, which decreases one stitch, now I have one stitch at the top. The instructions tell me to double crochet in the next fourteen stitches, then double crochet two together, and repeat that all the way around. To do all the decreases I need to set up ready for the ripple stitch. I'm working on my double crochet stitches but I'm about out of yarn. Let me show you how I join a new ball of yarn when I'm working in double crochet. Have a nice long tail here, and I'll start my double crochet and do a partial stitch, so yarn over go in, pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through two, just like I did when I'm doing a decrease, however I'm going to leave this yarn tail hanging, and start a new yarn tail leaving plenty to weave in later, and just use that yarn to yarn over and pull through two so I have completed the stitch with my new yarn tail. I'll leave both those tails hanging to the back, and I'll weave them in later. Now I can continue with my new yarn. At the end of round three, transition round three, it's a good idea to stop and count and make sure that you have 90 stitches, and you've decreased correctly, to begin ripple stitch. Let's talk about what's going to happen when we work the ripple stitch. Round one of the ripple stitch is simply chain one, then single crochet in each stitch all the way around, and join. Round two begins with a long chain, and then this interesting symbol here, which is a front post treble crochet. And that front post treble crochet is worked around the post of the stitch in round three, so you're actually going down past the single crochet round, down to the third round of your transition. So around the post of the double crochet, then you have a regular double crochet in your

single crochet, then another front post treble two rows below, and alternating double in the next stitch, front post treble in the next stitch, two rounds below. All the way around ending with a front post treble, and then next to the last stitch, a double crochet in the next stitch. Then round three is another round of single crochets, and then round four is basically the same as round two, but we're alternating where the post stitches and the double crochets take place, so we start with basically a double crochet or a chain three, and we do a front post treble around the double crochet, two rounds below, a double in the next stitch, and then another front post treble around the double crochet two rounds below. Round one is single crochet each stitch around. You should be pretty comfortable with this by now. To begin round two, we'll do a nice long chain, which won't count as a stitch on this round. And then I'm going to do a front loop treble crochet around the first stitch, which in this case is the chain three, two rounds below. So to begin a treble I have two yarn overs, then work from front to back to front around the post of that stitch, skipping the single crochet round, and working into that previous round. Yarn over and pull up a loop, then yarn over and pull through two loops, three times to complete the treble. The next stitch is just worked, is the double crochet, just worked into the next stitch. And then a front loop treble around the next stitch. Two rounds below. Do that all the way around. Alternating front loop treble two rounds below. And a double crochet in the next stitch. You see that you start to have a nice in and out ripple, going with a front loop, then a flat stitch, front loop, flat stitch, so you have raised stitches appearing. Occasionally, you're going to reach a point two rounds below, you see where here I had those decreased stitches, that's a double crochet two together, and that's my next post stitch, so I worked a front post treble, then a double crochet, now my next post is actually those two stitches together, I am going to treat that as one stitch, so I'll begin my treble crochet, and work around the post of both stitches, 'cause they were decreased together, so I'm going to treat them as one stitch. Just like that. And see you can't even tell now that they were two stitches, just treat it as one stitch and continue around. So any time you come to a place where there were two double crochets and you're working a post stitch, treat those two together as one. The next round is really easy, it's just a round of single crochets, I end the round with a slip stitch, and then I chain one to begin round three, and then just single crochet in each stitch around. Round four is almost like round two in that alternating the front post treble stitches with double crochets, but in this case we begin with a double crochet or in reality it's a chain three that stands in as a double crochet, so let's begin with chain three, now we're going to do a front post treble around the double crochet two rounds down. So that was our first stitch, that was our treble from round two, now we're going to put a front post treble around that double crochet. Then double crochet in the next stitch, that's in a single crochet round that's above the front post treble from before, so we're sort of filling in the gaps here with out front post stitches, to create the alternating post stitch. Repeat rounds one through four once more, and then work rounds one and two again for a total of ten rounds of ripple stitch.

Seed stitch section

- This next transition round is simply an increase round to give us some more stitches to begin to work our seed stitch. To work the transition round, we start with an increase. Chain one to start the round, and then put two single crochets in the first stitch. Single crochet in the next 11. You want two single crochets in one stitch, and then single crochet in each of the next 12 stitches. Do that all the way around until you have a total of 97 stitches, don't forget to stop and count so that you know that you have 97 stitches before beginning the seed stitch. Once we have 97 stitches, we're ready to start seed stitch. Let's take a look at the chart and see what's going to happen. We begin

with a chain one and a single crochet into the first stitch to begin, then we're going to chain one, skip one single crochet, and single crochet into the next stitch, all the way around, chain one, skip one, single crochet into the next. At the end of the first round you actually end with a single crochet in the last stitch, so technically, you have two single crochets together, but we aren't going to join the round, we're going to keep working in continuous rounds as we did at the beginning when we were doing the oval, so then you'll just go on to the beginning of the next round where you chain one, skip that single crochet, and single crochet into the chain space, so from here on out, you'll be chain one, single crochet in the next space, chain one, single crochet into the next space, all the way around, and because we have an odd number of stitches, you'll be able to do that without taking a break at the end of the rounds, just move your marker up at the end of every round until your seed stitch measures about three inches. The seed stitch begins with a chain one, and single crochet into that first stitch. Now I'm going to put a marker in that stitch so that I'll know that's the first stitch of the round. Now, I'll chain one, whoops, and not split the yarn, just have to pull it out if the yarn splits, chain one, skip one single crochet, single crochet into the next single crochet. Chain one, whoops. Chain one, skip one, single crochet next. Do that all the way around the round. The end of the first round ends with chain one, then single crochet into the last stitch. Now, to begin the next round, I'll just chain one, skip that first single crochet, and single crochet into the chain one space between the stitches, so if this is my first single crochet, I'm going to work into that chain one space. Now, my first stitch of the round was actually that chain one, so I'm going to put my marker in the chain one space. Now, I just work around, chain one, single crochet in the chain one space. It's actually easier to work into chain spaces than it is to work into single crochet stitches. So you should find this round pretty comfortable to do. Just make sure you're working into the space and not into the top of the chain. Continue to work chain one, single crochet into the chain one space, round and round, in unjoined spiral rounds, until your seed stitch section measures three inches from the beginning.

Chapter 4 - Finish the Bag

Finish the top and attach handles

- We're closing in on the finishing rounds. As we begin the top rounds, we'll single crochet in every single crochet and chain one space around, all the way to the last two stitches. At the end of this round I will single crochet two together by pulling up a loop in the chain space, but not completing that single crochet. Then pulling up a loop in the next single crochet. So now I have three loops on my hook. Yarn over and pull through all three to single crochet two together. Now round two is single crochet your next four stitches. That's one, and I'm gonna move it. Two, three, four, then single crochet two together. Pull up a loop in that stitch, pull up a loop in the next stitch and yarn over and pull through both. So I will continue to decrease by working four plain single crochets and then a single crochet decrease all the way around. At the end of round two I stop and count to make sure I have 80 stitches. Then round three is just a plain round of single crochet but I'm going to stop two stitches before the end of the marker. I'm doing these single crochet rounds to give myself a little extra stability at the top of my bag and prepare to attach my handles. I'm ending this round two stitches before the marker because I'm gonna put a tab right here. A tab is what I'm going to use to attach this particular handle. Now your handles may be different and may have some other way of attaching. This is what I'm going to do to attach this handle securely. The tab instructions tell me to single crochet in the next five single crochets. And now I can remove this marker. I don't need it any more. And turn. Then I'm going to chain one, single crochet in the next five. And turn. So I'm doing five single crochets back and forth to create my tab. Turn and chain one.

Until I have a total of eight rows of single crochets starting with that first five, first single crochet five. The reason I'm doing eight rows is because of the thickness of my ring. If you have a thinner ring you may need fewer rows or if you have a thicker ring you may need more rows. What I'm doing is making a tab that will actually cover the ring, go all the way around the ring. And the eighth one is a wrong side row cause I've been pulling back and forth. On the next row I'm going to work across but not turn. So that's the end of my tab but now I want to work six single crochets, evenly spaced, down my row ends to make a nice finished edge on this side. Now I finished that one tab and I'm going to work into the next stitch on the top of my bag. That's the last stitch of the tab. I'll work into the next single crochet across the top of my bag and into the following 34 single crochets to get myself around to the other side of the bag and begin the second tab. Here's the last stitch before I reach the tab. Now I want to work up the side of the first tab by putting six single crochets evenly spaced along the side of that tab. Sometimes you have to dig around for the best place to put the stitch. When I reach the top of the tab, I can fasten off and really the best way to join this to the beginning, instead of doing a single crochet, I'll pull this piece of yarn out so my yarn tail's out, thread my yarn needle and then work it underneath the stitches of that first V, underneath both loops and then back down where it came from to create another V. And you can see I have a continuous series of Vs there. Now I actually have my yarn threaded and ready to go to sew the tab down through the handle. I'll take my handle and insert the tab through the handle to the wrong side. Now you see I needed eight rows to get it to wrap over there because of the thickness of this ring. Now I'm just going to sew it on using a whip stitch and I want to make sure I'm sewing securely. I want maybe go under a couple of strands of yarn here on my main part of my bag to make sure that I really got a secure seam going. Probably should have left a tail that was just a little bit longer because I want to go back now in the other direction and sew the stitches again. I want to make sure my yarn tail's not gonna come out and I wanna make sure my stitches are secure. I can go ahead and weave this in, in any way I like. I like to work in a couple of different directions so if I work under three stitches in this direction I might want to work under a few stitches in a different direction. Again, probably shoulda left a longer tail but I'm gonna leave that like this. Now there's one more bit of finishing I need to do. I have a nice edge along both sides of this first tab, but the other tab doesn't have a nice single crocheted edge along that one unfinished edge so I'm going to take my yarn. I got a slip knot on my hook, so I will just single crochet six stitches evenly spaced along this edge. You can fasten off. This time I'm gonna leave a little bit longer tail. I'll pull that end through and using my yarn tail and my yarn needle I'll go under the stitches of that V, back down into the first V to create a seamless looking edge and now I can make sure my handles are straight, put the tab through the ring and sew it down on the wrong side. This time I've got two ends because I have that end I started with just a minute ago. I've gone across, I probably want to go back in the other direction. And then I want to weave in this end. Ideally I'll go down maybe diagonally in one direction and then diagonally in a different direction. Always keeping in mind that I want my yarn tails to end up on the wrong side of the bag. So I went down diagonally this way, now I'm going up diagonally this way. Trim that end, trim the beginning end of this edging piece. Weave in all your ends securely and you'll be done with your beautiful summer sampler purse. You can use it as a tote to take to the beach. Try making it in lots of different yarns. You have plenty of options.