Bonne Bouche Bag

A Delicious Little Bag to Crochet
Designed by Barbara Kreuter

A bonne bouche is a tasty morsel, often offered as an appetizer before the meal begins in earnest. This bonne bouche gives you a taste for the sophisticated fabric made with Tunisian crochet. After just a few hours—and using only one skein of yarn—you will have a tasteful little bag to use for holding other bonne bouches, small works in progress, or as a small purse.

Materials & Tools:
- 100-gm skein chunky yarn, such as Punta Meritwist Hand Paints, min. 99 yds. Yarn labeled for knitting 12 sts/4" on US 10 ½ (8 mm) needles.
- Tunisian crochet hook, L/11 or 8 mm; a Denise Interchangeable with a 5" (13 cm) cord is ideal
- Sewing needle
- 4 removable stitch markers
- 1 ½ yards ribbon, ¼" to ⅜" wide (optional)

Gauge: 13 sts and 11 rows = 4" (10cm) in Tunisian Simple Stitch.

Gauge does not matter a great deal for this project. However, the pattern uses all but a few feet of a 99-yard skein of yarn. Yarn-saving ideas:
- Work 1 less row of Honeycomb Stitch on each side.
- Omit Crab Stitch edging.
- Make handles of ribbon rather than cord made from yarn.

Finished Size: about 7" tall x 5 ½" wide x 2" deep (18 x 14 x 5 cm)

Stitches Used:
- Tunisian Simple Stitch (TSS)
- Tunisian Purl Stitch (TPS)
- Honeycomb Stitch
  - Row 1 Forward Pass: *TSS, TPS; repeat from * across; end with TSS in final post.
  - Row 2 Forward Pass: *TPS, TSS; repeat from * across; end with TSS in final post.
  - Work Rows 1 and 2 for length needed.
- Single Crochet (SC)
- Crab Stitch, also known as Reverse Single Crochet

Make Side of Bag:
Chain 16. Work foundation row of Tunisian crochet, beginning in 2nd chain from hook and forming a total of 16 loops on hook. Finish foundation row with reverse pass. Work 2 more rows of TSS with 16 loops/sts on each row.

Increase row: Chain 4 before beginning forward pass; these form the increase on the right edge of the work. Work forward pass in TSS to end of current sts, picking up 3 loops in chain and 20 sts in posts; on this row only, do not skip the post at the right edge of previous rows and instead treat it as a workable post. At left edge of forward pass, add 4 sts using backward loop, e-loop or half-hitch cast on. On this and all remaining rows of piece, there should be 24 loops on the hook when the forward pass is complete. Work reverse pass normally.

Work 11 rows of TSS above increase notches. Work 5 rows of Honeycomb Stitch. After final reverse pass, work a bind-off row: skip first post, *slide hook into next post, pull loop through post and through loop on hook; 1 loop only remains on hook. Repeat from * across. At left edge, cut yarn, draw tail through final loop.

Make a second side the same.

Finishing Sew two side pieces together with side and bottom seams using crochet or mattress stitch; mattress stitch will use less yarn, a consideration if you are unsure you can complete the project with only 1 skein. Sew short seam across bottom of each side seam that connects the bag's base to the sides.

Mark 4 eyelet locations using removable stitch markers. Place marker at 5th stitch from side seam. Reattach working yarn by pulling loop through a bind-off stitch on the left side of either side seam. Chain 1. Work SC in each bind-off stitch up to marker, not working in the marked st. *Chain 1, skip marked st, SC to st before next marker without working the marked stitch; repeat from *, ending round at side seam where it began; slip st in initial chain. (42-44 sts worked, depending on how you worked seam)

Chain 1. Do not turn work. Work Crab Stitch in each st of previous round, whether SC or Chain. End with slip st to beginning of round. Cut yarn, pull loop through.

Weave in ends. Block if necessary.

Make cords for handles and closure. Cut 2 pieces of yarn each 2 yards long. Overtwist by hand, then fold together to ply into a thick cord. Thread cord/ribbon through all 4 eyelets created on the SC round, positioning ends of the cord on the inside. Tie ends in a strong knot so that cord/ribbon is the length you want. Thread second cord/ribbon so that the knot is on the other side of the bag. Done!