



Eco Warrior Shopping Bag by Haley Waxberg

The first incarnation of this pattern was made with a repurposed bed-sheet in [Making Stuff: An Alternative Craft Book](#) (a very cool book if you're into crafts). But lets face

it, when you sleep on 500 count Egyptian cotton you may not have the time or the inclination to deconstruct your bedding. This version is worked in a bulky weight ribbon yarn to crochet fast & easy. Use the bags for your own shopping or give them as hostess or housewarming gifts; everyone raves about them, they get used all the time, they help create a little less garbage and they're stronger and easier to carry than plastic shopping bags. For another great shopping bag in a smaller gauge check out our [Crochet Grocery Bag](#) pattern!

Materials

- 6.5mm or 7mm crochet hook
- 4 locking or split ring stitch markers
- 2 skeins of Crystal Palace Deco Ribbon (50g/73m, 70% acrylic/30% nylon) or 150m of ribbon yarn that calls of a 6.5 to 8mm needle.
- Sewing needle & thread to match yarn

Gauge

Gauge is not critical for this project, but it is preferable to work tight rather than loose.

Pattern Stitches

Ch chain
R round or row
Sc single crochet
Sl slip stitch

Tips

- In the first 4 rounds count the number of stitches/loops at the end of each round to be sure it is correct. If you make too many your bag will be too wide later.
- To keep track of your rows place a marker on the first stitch of the round after it has been completed.
- The bag will stretch with the weight you carry, so work tighter rather than loose

- To join a second ball of yarn sew the ends together with needle & matching thread. Also, instead of weaving ends in, sew them down.
- For beginner crochet help, see the following resources:
 - about.com <http://crochet.about.com>
 - crochet me <http://crochetme.com>

Directions

R1 Ch5, sl stitch into the 1st stitch at base of chain to join in the round.

R2 Ch1, place marker in this stitch, work 7sc into the loop. (8sc)

R3 *Ch2, 1sc into the next sc; repeat from * 7 x more. (8 loops
– *looks like a flower with 8 petals*)

R4 *Ch2, 1sc into the next loop, ch2, 1 sc into the same loop, ch2, 1 sc into the next loop; repeat from * 3 x more. (12 loops)

R5 *Ch2, 1sc into the next loop; rep from * 11 x more

R6 *Ch3, 1sc into the next loop; repeat from * 11 x more.

R7 *(Ch3, 1 sc into the next loop, ch3, 1 sc into the same loop, ch3, 1 sc into the next Loop); repeat from * to end. (18 loops)

R8 *Ch3, 1sc into the next loop; repeat from * 17 x more.

R9 *Ch3, 1 sc into the next loop, ch3, 1 sc into the same loop, ch3, 1 sc into the next loop; repeat from * to end. (28 loops)

R10 *Ch3, 1sc into the next loop; repeat from * 27 x more.

R11- R19 Repeat Round10, 8 x more.

R20 *Ch2, 1sc into the next loop; repeat from *to end.

R21 *Ch1, 1sc into the next loop; repeat from * to end.

R22 *1sc in each sc, 1sc in each loop; repeat from * to end.

Make Handles

- divide rim of bag into 4 equal sections (you can eyeball it) and place marker at each of the 3 remaining quarters (you should already have 1 marker in place that was marking your rounds, this will be marker #1).

First handle

- Ch30 Loosely, make sure the chain is not twisted and attach it with a sl st the rim of the bag at the next marker to the left.

- Turn and work back along chain, 1 sc in each chain stitch to end, 1sc in rim of bag, 1 sc in sc to the left. (handles need to be anchored to the rim of the bag by no less than 2 sc)
- Turn, and work back along chain, 1 sc in each sc to end, 1sc in rim of bag, 1sc in sc to the left. Cut yarn & fasten off, remove markers from this handle.

Second Handle

- Make a Sl st at the marker left of the handle you just finished.
- Repeat instructions for First Handle (above).

Finishing

- Sew ends in with needle and a matching colour of thread.



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