



blue  
sky  
ALPACAS

# Crochet Handbag

Bulky Hand Dyes



a fine crochet pattern by blue sky alpacas

# Crochet Handbag

designed by Kathy Pususta

A funky handbag with two handle choices.

## EXPERIENCE LEVEL

Beginner with some stitching experience.

## MATERIALS

- Blue Sky Bulky (100 gram/45 yds per hank)
- 2 hanks #1005 Fawn (MC)
- 1 hank #1012 Light Blue (CC1)\*
- 1 hank #1004 Polar Bear (CC2)\*
- Size K/10.5 (7 mm) crochet hook or size needed to obtain gauge
- \* To make crocheted straps (option2), you need 1 more hank of CC1 and 1 more hank of CC2.

## OTHER MATERIALS

- 1  $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide button for closure (optional)
- 4 stitch markers
- Hand sewing needle
- Strong sewing thread for handle
- Strong string or thread for optional monk's cord handle

## FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

**Bottom length:** 9  $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**Bottom width:** 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**Circumference at top, measured around outside of bag:** 29" Height: 8"

## GAUGE

In single crochet in one loop\*, 8 sts and 8 rows = 4"

\*The bag is worked in the round, but a gauge swatch is worked in rows. To achieve the correct stitch, work the gauge swatch in the back loop only on RS rows and front loop only on WS rows.

## BOTTOM

With MC, ch13 (base-ch made).

Note: 13-st base-chain is center of oval bottom.

**Rnd 1; Side 1:** 3 sc in 2nd ch from hk, pm, sc in each of next 10 ch, pm. Rem ch unworked.

**End 1 (turn corner):** 3 sc in last ch, pm, pivot.

**Side 2:** On opposite side of base-ch, sc in rem lps of ea ch to end of ch, (10 sc made), pm. [26 sts]

**Note:** In all rnds, do not turn at end of each rnd, do not join beg and end of rnd, and move markers to current rnd as they're encountered.

If work starts to cup, make more increases at ea end. If work starts to wave, work fewer increases at ea end. In every rnd, always work the same number of inc sts at both ends.

**Rnd 2 (inc rnd):** \*2 sc in ea st to marker (3-st inc made at corner), sc in ea st to marker, rep from \* to end of rnd. [32 sts]

**Rnd 3 (inc rnd):** Rep last rnd (rnd 2). [44 sts]

**Rnd 4 (inc rnd):** \*[Sc in ea of next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st] to marker, sc in ea st to next marker, rep from \* to end of rnd. [52 sts]

**Rnd 5:** Sc in ea st to end of rnd, join beg and end of rnd with sl st. Fasten off. [52 sts]

## TURNING RIDGE

Flip over the bottom. With WS facing you, starting on the edge closest to you, and working into rnd below (top of rnd 4), cont as foll:

Join CC1 with sc in first st of rnd below, \*sc in ea st in rnd below to end of rnd, pm, remove rem markers. [52 sts]

## SIDES

If Turning Ridge was worked correctly, you will be working all rnds from outside of bag, with RS facing.

**Rnd 1:** With CC1, sc blo in first st, sc blo in next and ea st to end of rnd, move marker to end of current rnd.

**Note:** In all rnds, do not turn at end of rnd, do not join beg and end of rnd, and move marker to current rnd as it's encountered.

**Rnd 2:** Sc blo in first and ea st to end of rnd.

Rep last rnd (rnd 2) until work is 7" from Turning Ridge, or 1" less than desired height. If no buttonhole closure is desired, cont working in rnds to 8" or desired finished bag height.

Change yarn colors randomly throughout bag. Color-change at beg of ea rnd yields stripes. For a mottled effect (as shown in photo), change colors mid-rnd, working ea color for  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  rnds, as desired.

## BUTTONHOLE (OPTIONAL)

Place st marker at center front of bag.

**Rnd 1:** With color desired, sc blo in first and ea st to 1 st before center front marker, ch3 (ch2 if button is smaller), sk 3 sts (sk 2 for smaller buttonhole), sc blo in next and ea st to marker at end of rnd.

**Rnd 2:** Sc blo in first and ea st to start of buttonhole, sc in ea buttonhole ch, sc blo in next and ea st to end of rnd, sl st, join beg and end with sl st. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

## FINISHING

Sew button to inside of bag, opposite buttonhole.

## Monk's Cord Handle (Option #1)

Cut 96" length of yarn in ea of 2 colors. Knot lengths together at one end. Secure knotted end to back of chair, hinged side of closed door, or other stable item. Holding opposite end of yarn lengths in one hand, back up until yarn is taut. Twist 2 strands into a very tight length. Holding end firmly in one hand, place other hand in center of twisted length. Bring together end in hand and knotted end, letting two halves of length twist around each other. Tie ends together with a strong piece of string or thread. Tie folded end in same manner.

Make second handle in same manner.

Trim tails.

**Crocheted Handle (Option #2)** as shown With MC, ch70 (or ch to length desired for handle plus 6"). Cut yarn.

**Row 1:** Join CC1 with sc in first ch, sc in ea ch to end. Cut yarn.

**Row 2:** Join CC2 with sl st in first ch, sl st in ea st to end. Fasten off. Weave in ends. Make second handle in same manner. Trim tails.

## Attach Handles

Sew 1 handle to front of bag, centered on either side of button and placing ends 6" apart. At each end, about 3" of handle should be sewn to inside bag. Attach remaining handle to corresponding positions on back of bag.

## BLOCKING

For best results, the Bulky Bag must be completely saturated with water. To wash the bag, follow these same instructions.

## Preparation

Fill washer with warm water and small amount of mild soap. Soak bag for 20 minutes. DO NOT AGITATE! Spin, remove bag, fill washer with warm rinse water, add bag and soak for 10 minutes. Spin again.

## Shaping and Drying

Lay bag flat on clean surface with towel underneath. Let dry undisturbed. 🐾