



## Super Self-pouching String Shopping Bag

Designed by Deborah Erbach Burger

Crochet: the Extraordinary Realm

Here's a string bag actually made of string! That's right, this bag is crocheted from common cotton string from the local hardware store—cheap, lightweight, 100% cotton! The roomy bag holds as much as two plastic grocery bags, and is quite strong. Handles are wide enough not to “cut” your hand, and long enough to sling over your shoulder when both hands are full. The bag is designed with smaller “holes” in the mesh near the bottom, so small objects don't fall out, and larger mesh near the top, for ease in loading and unloading. As an added bonus, the whole bag folds inside its own double bottom for neat storage. A quick and easy way to shop greener!

### Materials

- Ace Brand Parcel Post Twine, or other lightweight cotton string #6. cone contains 5740 ft, which will make 6 to 8 bags
- Crochet Hook, US size F
- 1 stitch marker, or scrap of contrasting yarn

### Gauge

Exact Gauge is not important for this project

### Stitches and Abbreviations Used

- chain (ch)
- slip stitch (sl st)
- single crochet (sc)
- double crochet (dc)
- Round (rnd)
- stitch, stitches (st, sts)
- with (w/)

### Notes:

- Throughout directions, the ch 3 beginning a row or round of dc stitches counts as the first stitch. Be sure to skip the first stitch of a row when you ch 3 to turn, and when working the next row or round, be sure to work in the top of this “stitch”.
- When working in continuous spiral rounds, it's helpful to mark the fist stitch of each round, with a stitch marker, safety pin, or scrap of yarn. Remember to move the marker up to each successive round as you work it.
- Stitch counts for rounds are given in brackets following the directions for that round

### Directions

Bottom piece (make 2)

Rnd 1: Magic Ring, or ch 3 and join w/ a sl st to form a ring. Ch 3, 11 more dc in ring. Join w/ sl st in top of ch 3. [12dc]

Rnd 2: ch 3. 2 dc in each st around, join w/sl st [24 dc]

Rnd 3: ch 3. (2dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in next) around. Join w/sl st. [40 dc]

Rnd 4: ch 3. (2dc in next st, dc in next) around. Join w/sl st. [60dc]

Rnd 5: ch 3. (dc in each of next 2 sts, 2 dc in next) around. Join w/ sl st. [80dc]

Rnd 6: ch 3. (dc in each of next 3 sts, 2 dc in next) 19 times. Dc in each of last 3 sts. Join w/ sl st. First Bottom Piece, fasten off here and weave in ends. Second Bottom Piece, do NOT fasten off. After joining, ch 1. [100dc]

Attach Bottom pieces—holding bottom pieces, right sides together, work 75 sc in stitches of last round of both pieces. Work last 25 sts through 1 bottom piece only. At end of round, do NOT join, and do NOT turn.

Sides: Now working in continuous spiral rounds, place a stitch marker in 1<sup>st</sup> st, and move it up as rounds are completed [100 sc]

Rnd 1: Work \*ch 3, sk 1 sc, sc in next st\*. Repeat from \* to \* 49 times, ending w/ sc in 1<sup>st</sup> ch 3 arch. [50 ch3 arches]

Rnds 2 & 3: (ch 3, sc in next arch) around

Rnds 4-7: (ch 4, sc in next arch ) around

Rnds 8-13: (ch 6, sc in next arch) around

Rnds 14-21: (ch 8, sc in next arch) around

Top Binding:

Rnd 22: work 4 sc in each arch around, join w/ sl st in 1<sup>st</sup> sc. Ch 1, turn. [200 sc]

Rnds 23 & 24: sc in each st, join w/ sl st in turning ch, ch 1, turn.

Rnd 25: sc in each st, join w/ sl st in 1<sup>st</sup> st. Do NOT turn, Do not fasten off.

First Strap:

With string still attached, ch 100. Being careful not to twist ch, sk 50 sts of Rnd 25 of top binding, join ch w/sl st in 51<sup>st</sup> st. Sl st in next st. of Rnd 25, turn. Sk 2 sl sts just made. Sc in each of the 100 ch. Sl st in next 2 sts of Rnd 25. Turn. Sk 2 sl sts just made, sc in next 100 sc of strap. Continue in this manner, anchoring each completed sc row to top of bag with 2 sl sts, until handle is ½” wide, or wider if desired. At least 4 to 6 rows are recommended for comfort. At the end of final row of strap, do NOT sl st into Rnd 25 of top binding.

Second Strap:

Sc in next 50 sts of Rnd 25 of top binding. Repeat First Strap directions. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

To store bag, turn the double bottom section inside out, and stuff the mesh bag inside, leaving straps for easy grabbing. When opened, make sure the bottom opening is inside the bag, so it doesn't snag.