

Moroccan Tote Bag Pattern



Pattern Description:

This is a free crochet pattern for a Moroccan tote bag. The bag uses tapestry crochet to create a nice dense fabric with a beautiful Moroccan pattern. It is worked in spirals throughout, avoiding a noticeable slip stitch seam. The pattern includes instructions for a small base, followed by the body, and is finished with leather handles, a fabric lining, and a magnetic clasp.

Skill Level:

Intermediate - Basic knowledge of tapestry crochet, working in spirals, and reading charts recommended.

Pattern Description:

Create a stunning and durable **Moroccan Tote Bag** using tapestry crochet. This bag is worked in a continuous spiral for a seamless finish and features a dense, structured fabric with a beautiful

Moroccan motif. The design includes a small oval base, a colorwork body, and elegant finishing touches like leather handles, fabric lining, and a magnetic clasp.

Materials:

- **Yarn:** Cascade Ultra Pima (DK Weight)
 - Gold - 2 skeins
 - Natural - 1 skein (This yarn provides a lovely shine and smooth finish.)
- **Hook:** 2.5 mm crochet hook (Creates a dense and sturdy fabric. Note: This may be hard on the hands.)
- **Notions:**
 - Tote leather handles
 - Magnetic clasp
 - Matching thread (for handles)
 - Fabric (for lining)
 - Stitch markers or contrasting yarn

Finished Measurements:

- **Bag Dimensions:** Approx. 36 cm wide x 30 cm tall
- **Gauge:** 28 sts and 22 rows = 10 cm square in dc (UK terms), worked tightly

Stitches & Abbreviations:

- **ch** - chain
- **st** - stitch
- **sl st** - slip stitch
- **dc** - double crochet (UK)

Note: Work all body stitches in **back loop only** (BLO) unless otherwise specified.

Notes:

- The bag is worked **in spirals** (do not join or turn at the end of rounds).
- Always move up your stitch marker to track the first stitch of each round.
- The **tapestry crochet** technique is used to carry the unused yarn inside the stitches.
- A chart is used to create the Moroccan motif.
- For a more comfortable experience, take frequent breaks due to the tight gauge.

Pattern Instructions:

Base of the Bag:

- **Foundation Chain:** Ch 79.

- **Round 1:** Work 1 dc into the **second chain from the hook** and place a stitch marker in this stitch. Work 1 dc in each of the next 76 chains. In the **last chain**, work 4 dc. Turn to work along the **opposite side of the chain**, work 76 dc. In the chain with the marked stitch, work 3 dc. **[Total: 160 sts]**
- **Round 2:** Work increases at the ends to shape the oval. Follow the increase pattern to bring the total stitch count to **168 sts**.
- **Round 3:** Work 1 dc in each st around. **[168 sts]**

Body of the Bag (Tapestry Crochet):

- From this point forward, **continue working in spirals**, using the **back loop only (BLO)** for all stitches.
- **Mark the first stitch** of this round and use a second stitch marker to track each new round.
- Begin working the **colorwork pattern using the tapestry crochet chart**:
 - Read each round **from right to left**.
 - Carry the unused yarn inside your stitches, even when the round is only one color.

Pattern Chart:

- The chart covers **Rounds 1 to 77** of the bag body.
- You will:
 - **Repeat Rounds 3 to 18 four times**
 - Then follow the **Top Chart** for Rounds **67 to 77**
- **Final Round (77):** After completing the last round, work a **sl st into the first stitch** of the round to close.

Finishing the Bag:

- **Fabric Lining:**
 - Sew a lining using your chosen fabric. (Refer to the linked tutorial in the original source; skip the zipper steps.)
 - Make sure the lining fits snugly inside the bag.
- **Leather Handles:**
 - Sew the handles onto the bag **before** attaching the lining.
 - Use a **strong matching thread** to secure them.
- **Magnetic Clasp:** Attach the magnetic clasp after installing the lining.

Tips & Techniques:

- **Tight Stitches Hack:** Try this alternate dc technique to reduce hand strain:
 - Insert hook, yarn over and pull up a loop.
 - Yarn over and pull through **one** loop.
 - Yarn over and pull through the remaining two loops.
- **Hand Comfort Tip:** Due to the tight fabric, consider using padded hooks and take frequent breaks to prevent wrist fatigue.

Care Instructions:

- Gently hand wash the tote and lay flat to dry.
- Avoid soaking leather handles.

Optional:

- Add a printable PDF version for your pattern library or gifting.