

Tote Bag

Crochet a roomy tote for everyday use or for your knitting or crochet projects. This one-handle style makes it easy and comfortable to carry over a shoulder. Although made here in corn yarn, sport-weight hemp is a long-wearing alternative.

Yarn: Cornucopia Kollage (100% corn, 100 yds/34 gr.): 6 skns of Gold, 1 skn of Brandy.

Size: Approx. 16" wide (flattened out) and 13-1/2" from bottom to beginning of handle.

Crochet hook: Size F.

Gauge: 5 sts = 1" on size F hook.



Tote Bottom

Rnd 1: Using size F hook and Gold, ch 6 and join to form ring.

Rnd 2: Ch 1, work 12 sc in ring. Fasten to first sc with sl st.

Rnd 3: Ch 1 and sc in same place. Sc around increasing 6 sts evenly spaced. Fasten to first sc with a sl st. Continue to sc in rounds, making 6 inc's evenly spaced in ea round (try to scatter them from one row to the next) until piece measures 4-1/2" measured from the center.

Next Rnds: Continue to sc in rounds, but make 3 inc's evenly spaced in each round until piece measures 6" from the center.

Next Rnds: Cont without inc's until piece measures 8-1/2" then begin stripes. Do not fasten off the Gold. Fasten on with Brandy at the beginning of a round, ch 1 and sc, sc around, and join with sl st to top of first st. Drop the Brandy to the back, pick up the Gold and work the next round. Make single or double rounds of either color, as you like. Work stripes for approx. 2-1/2 - 3". Then fasten off the Brandy and continue in Gold until piece measures 12" from center.

Next Rnds: In each of next 3 rounds dec 3 times evenly spaced.

Next Rnds: In each of next 6 rounds dec 6 times evenly spaced. Do not fasten off.

Tote Handle

Lay the tote on a surface and flatten it having one folded edge at the beginning/end of the rounds. Tie a marker at each folded edge. There should be approx. an equal number of stitches on each side of the tote (you can count to make sure).

The handle is worked in rows, and each half is worked separately.

Sc across one half of the tote to within 1" of the tie. Ch 1, turn. Sc to within 1" of the other tie. Ch 1, turn.

Next row: [Dec]twice -(a double decrease worked over the first 4 sc)- sc across to final 4 sts, then [dec]twice. Ch 1, turn. Rep this row until handle measures 1". Ch 1, turn.

Next rows: Dec at each end of every row until handle section is 2".

Next rows: Dec at each end of row on the RS only until handle section is 3" from beginning. Handle should be about 3" wide.

Work even until handle section measures 9". Fasten off. Work opposite handle to match.

Sew the handle sections together.

Finishing: Fasten on with Gold and evenly sc all around one side of the handle. Fasten with sl st to first sc, then fasten off. Rep for the other side.

Work edge trim: Fasten on with Brandy at the upper edge of the tote and work sl st going through two loops of each sc of prev round all around. Fasten off. Rep for other side.