

# The Crochet Cottage Bag

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This eye-catching bag has all the charm of an old English cottage. It's a small messenger-style bag measuring 28cm/11" high by 21cm/8" wide, by 5cm/2" deep, with a shoulder strap 89cm/35" long.



**Please note: US crochet terms used throughout. Yes I know I'm British in everything else, but I do hop the pond when it comes to crochet terminology.**

## Yarn

I used Scheepjes Softfun with shades from both their solids and 'Denim' ranges. Softfun is a DK (light worsted) yarn that I picked in part because its subtle variegation is perfect for masonry and roof tiles. It's 60% cotton, which gives it strength and rigidity useful for this project. Scheepjes is a Dutch brand, available with worldwide delivery at the time of writing from [www.woolwarehouse.co.uk](http://www.woolwarehouse.co.uk) and [www.deramores.com](http://www.deramores.com). I used the following shades and quantities:-

Scheepjes Softfun 'Denim'. Taupe (508): 4 balls. Brown (510): 3 balls. Grey (502): 1 ball.

Scheepjes Softfun solids. Grey (2510): 1 ball. White (2412): 1 ball. Cornflower Blue (2512): 1 ball.

Random old oddments of 4-ply yarn in green, yellow, red, and brown, for the embroidered flowers, window box, and house number.

In case you wish to substitute for another yarn, Scheepjes Softfun has a *knitting* gauge listed on the ball band as 21r x 30s to 10 x 10cm using 4mm needles. Balls are 50g / 140m. Also see project gauge below.

**Hook:** 3mm. This is a fairly small hook for the thickness of yarn, but the stitches need to be dense and tight.

**Other equipment:** Two small magnetic bag clasps, easily available from craft suppliers. A bead for the door handle. To line your bag, you'll need cotton fabric, medium-weight iron-on interfacing (one metre/yard of each), and thread.

**Gauge and dimensions:** In brick stitch (described below), 22 stitches by 26 rows = 10x10cm / 4inchesx4inches. That said, it's a *bag*: let's not stress if your bag is 2cm wider than my bag.

## Important stitches

There are two major stitch formations that you'll need to use for this pattern:-

1. Crocodile stitch. If you've not tried this, it can look intimidating, but just have a practise with some spare yarn and you'll soon be flying along. A photo-tutorial and instructions are on my website: <http://thetwistedyarn.com/2015/09/10/easy-crochet-crocodile-stitch-tutorial/>

2. A stitch that I'm going to call brick stitch, for obvious reasons. See instructions for the back of the bag, to learn how it works. A version of brick stitch is also used to make the windows. A photo-tutorial is available on my website: <http://thetwistedyarn.com/2015/10/21/how-to-crochet-the-brick-stitch/>

Finally, remember that when changing colours of yarn, introduce the new shade for the last pull-through of the previous stitch. That way, your colour changes will look neat. OK, I know, you're an experienced crocheter and you know these things already, but I just thought I'd mention it.

### Structure

The bag is worked in separate pieces which are then joined using single crochet stitches. This is done in order to give more pronounced corners than would be possible if it was made in one piece. Instructions below will guide you through working the back, the roof, the front, the sides-and-bottom, the shoulder-strap, the embroidery, joining the pieces, adding the fastenings, and the (optional) lining. My sewing ability is pretty rudimentary, so details on the lining are minimal. I've provided fairly comprehensive instructions for everything else, so please forgive me if you're an experienced crocheter who doesn't need to be told every last thing.

### Abbreviations:-

ch = chain

dc = double crochet

st(s) = stitch(es)

tr = treble crochet

sk = skip

dtr = double treble crochet

ss = slip stitch

RS = right side

sc = single crochet

WS = wrong side

***And.....GO!***

### Make the back of the house in brick stitch

Shades: Brown (510) for the bricks, labelled 'B' below, and Taupe (508) for the mortar, labelled 'M' below.

Using M, chain 45. All rows are 45 stitches.

1. RS. Using M, ch1 for turning chain. Skip one ch, then 1sc into every chain. Turn.

2, and all subsequent even-numbered rows. WS. Using same colour as previous row, ch1. 1sc into every stitch. Turn.

3. RS. Switch to colour B. (From now on, always run the inactive colour up the edge of your work, switching between the two shades as needed. No need to cut your yarn!) Ch1. 1sc into the first st below. (Ch1 and skip 1 st. 1sc into the next 3 sts) 11 times. Turn.

5. Using M, ch1. 1sc into next st. (Ignoring the next st, instead work 1dc into the unworked M-coloured st 3 rows below, that you skipped 2 rows below. This action creates the vertical mortar between adjacent bricks. 1sc into the next 3 stitches) 11 times. Turn.



7. Using B, ch1. (1sc into the next 3 sts. Ch1 and sk1) 11 times. 1sc into final stitch. Turn.

9. Using M, ch1. (1sc into each of the next 3 sts. Ignoring the next st, work 1dc into the unworked M-coloured st 3 rows below) 11 times. 1sc into the last stitch. Turn.

Repeat rows 3-10 a further 8 times, until you have a wall 18 bricks high, ending with a row 10. Cut yarns and pull through.

### Make the front of the house

In addition to the same shades used for the back of the house, add in your chosen colour for the door (D), white for the window frames (W), and grey (solid, not Denim) for the glass (G). Cut 4 short (30cm) pieces of M-coloured yarn to be used separately from the main ball of M yarn. Make 4 little bobbins of the grey yarn, one for the glass panels in the door and one for each window. Make 4 bobbins of white yarn, one for each window, and one for the fanlight.

When working the door and each window, trap the colours you're not using (including the B or M shade) on the WS behind each stitch. Drop the door/window colours at the end of the door/window section on each row so that they're ready to pick up again on your way back on the next row.

Using shade M, chain 45. All rows are 45 sts (except rows for the fan light over the door).

1. RS. Using M, ch1 for turning chain. Skip one st, then 1sc into every chain. Turn.

2. WS. Using M, ch1. 1sc into every stitch. Turn.

3. RS. Switch to B. Ch1. 1sc into the first stitch. (Ch1 and sk1. 1sc into the next 3 sts) 7 times. Change to colour for door (D) and sc 11 sts whilst trapping B behind each st. Then drop D (ready to pick up again when you come back along the next row) and with B, 1sc, ch1 and sk1, 1sc in the next 3 sts. Turn.

4. WS. Using B, ch1. 1sc into the first 5 sts. Pick up D, and whilst trapping B behind your sts to carry it across, 1sc in each of the next 11 sts. Drop D. Using B, sc in each st to end. Turn.

5. RS. Using M, ch1. 1sc into the next st. (Skip the next st and instead work 1dc into the skipped M-colour st below from row 2. 1sc into the next 3 sts) 7 times. Work 11sc for door as in row 3. Using M, 1sc, 1dc into skipped st on row 2, 1sc into last 3 sts. Turn.

6. WS. Using M, ch1. 1sc into each st below, changing colour to D and back again to continue with door. Turn.

7. RS. Using B, ch1. (1sc into next 3 sts. Ch1 and sk1) 7 times. 1sc into next st. Change to colour D and work 11 sts of door, trapping B behind D. In B, 1sc into next 3 sts. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc into last st. Turn.

8. As row 4.

9. Using M, ch 1. (1sc into the next 3 sts. Skip the next st and instead work 1dc into the skipped st directly below in row 6) 7 times. 1sc into next st. Change to D and work door stitches as described above. Change to M and repeat ( → ) once. 1sc in final st. Turn.

10. As row 6.

11. Using B, ch1. 1sc into next st. 1sc into the next 3sts. Switch to one of your short pieces of M yarn. (In M, whilst holding B behind, 1sc in next st. In B, holding M behind, 1sc in the next 3sts) 3 times, although drop M completely for the final 3 sts of the final repetition. Continuing in B, (ch1 and sk next st. 1sc in the next 3sts) 3 times. Switch to D. 11sc. Switch to D, 11sc. Switch to B, 1sc, ch1 and sk the next st. 1sc in each of the last 3sts. Turn.

12. Using B, ch1. 5sc. Change to D, 11sc. Change to B, 14sc. Change to W, 10sc whilst holding B behind. Change to B, 5sc. Turn.

13. Using M, ch1. 1sc. Ignoring the next st on this row, instead 1dc into the skipped st 3 rows below. 3sc. Change to W, 10sc. Change to M, 2sc. (1dc into skipped st below, 3sc) 3 times. Switch to D, 11sc. Switch to M, 1sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 3sc. Turn.

14. Using M, ch1. 5sc. Swap to D, 2sc. Swap to G (holding D and M behind), 3sc. Swap to D (holding G and M behind), 1sc. Swap to G (holding D and M behind), 3sc. Drop G and swap to D, 2sc. Using M, 14sc. Leave W loose for now. (Use G to ch1 and sk1, then 2sc) 3 times. Ch1 and sk1. In M, 5sc. Turn.

15. In B, ch1. 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. In G, 10sc. Using one of your short pieces of M, 1sc. Drop M. (Yes I did mean 'M', there. It will make sense in a few rows' time, I promise.) In B, (3sc. Ch1 and sk1) 3 times. 1sc. In D, 2sc. In G, 3sc. In D, 1sc. In G, 3sc. In D, 2sc. In B, 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. Turn.

16. In B, ch1. 5sc. In D, 2sc. In G, 3sc. In D, 1sc. In G, 3sc. In D, 2sc. In B, 13sc. Picking up your short piece of M yarn used for the stitch directly below, use it to make 1sc. In G, 10sc. In B, 5sc. Turn.

17. In M, ch1. 3sc. Skipping next st, 1dc into skipped st 3 rows below. 1sc. In G, 10sc. In M, 4sc. (1dc into skipped st below. 3sc) twice. 1dc into skipped st below. 1sc. In D, 2sc. In G, 3sc. In D, 1sc. In G, 3sc. Cut G yarn. In D, 2sc. In M, 3sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 1sc. Turn.

18. In M, ch1. 5sc. Complete door stitches as for previous rows. In M, 14sc. (In W, ignore the next st in current row and instead work 1 fairly loose tr into the skipped st directly below on row 13, to make a vertical section of window frame. Continuing in W, 2sc.) 3 times. Work one more tr into st below on row 13. In M, 5sc. Turn.

19. In B, ch1. 1sc. Ch1 and sk1. 3sc. In W, 10sc. In B, 2sc. (Ch1 and sk1) 3 times. Complete door stitches as above. In B, 1sc. Ch1 and sk1. 3sc. Turn.

20. In B, ch1. 5sc. Work door stitches as above. In B, 14sc. Work window as row 14. In B, 5sc. Turn.

21. In M, ch1. 1sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 3sc. In G, 10sc. In M, 2sc. (1dc into skipped st below. 3sc) 3 times. Work door stitches as above. In M, 1sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 3sc. Turn.

22. In M, ch1. 5sc. Work door stitches as above. In M, 14sc. In G, 10sc. In M, 5sc. Turn.

23. In B, ch1. 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. In G, 10sc . Using a short piece of M yarn, 1sc. Drop M. (In B, 3sc. Ch1 and sk1) 3 times. 1sc. Work door stitches as above, but drop G completely after its last st and cut yarn. In B, 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. Turn.

24. In B, ch1. 5sc. In D, 11sc. In B, 13sc. Pick up short piece of M from previous row and work 1sc. Work window as row 18. In B, 5sc. Turn.

25. In M, ch1. 3sc. Skipping next st, 1dc into skipped st below. 1sc. In W, 10sc. Cut W yarn. In M, 4sc. (1dc into skipped st below, 3sc) twice. 1dc into skipped st below, 1sc. In D, 11sc. Cut yarn D. In M, 3sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 1sc. Turn.

26. In M, ch1. Sc across the entire row! Blissfully simple! Turn.

27. In B, ch1. 1sc. (Ch1 and sk1. 3sc) 7 times. In W, 1dtr into the M-coloured st directly above the middle of the door, ie skipping 5sts. 12 more dtrs into this same stitch (which should make a nice fan shape). Cut W yarn. In B, ss into the st directly above the last stitch on the left of the door, i.e. 5sts on from centre point. 1sc. Ch1 and sk1. 3sc. Turn.

28. In B, ch1. 5sc. 1ss into the 2<sup>nd</sup> dtr up on the left hand side of fanlight. Drape B yarn across back of fanlight and continuing in B, 1ss into 2<sup>nd</sup> dtr on right side. 1sc into the first sc on the right of the fanlight. Continue working sc sts across to the end of the row. Turn.

29. In M, ch1. 1sc. (1dc into the skipped st below. 3sc) 7 times. 1sc into the ss immediately below. 1ss into the 3<sup>rd</sup> dtr on right side. Drape M yarn across back of fanlight. 1ss into 3<sup>rd</sup> dtr on left side. 1sc into ss immediately below. 1sc into sc below. 1dc into the skipped st below. 3sc. Turn.

30. In M, ch1. 7sc, the last one of these worked into the ss on previous row. Ss into 4<sup>th</sup> dtr on left side. Drape yarn across back to make ss on 4<sup>th</sup> dtr on right hand side. 1sc into ss on previous row. Then sc across to end of row. Turn.

31. In B, ch1. (3sc. Ch1 and sk1) 7 times. 4 sc, the last one into the ss on previous row. 1ss into 5<sup>th</sup> dtr on right side. Drape yarn across to ss into 5<sup>th</sup> dtr on left side. Sc into ss on previous row. 1sc. Ch1 and sk1. 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. Turn.

32. In B, ch1. 9sc, the last of these into ss on previous row. 3sc, each one into the end of one of the middle 3 dtrs. 1sc into the ss on the row below. Sc to the end of the row. Turn.

33. In M, ch1. (3sc. 1dc into skipped st below) 7 times. 3sc. Skipping next st, 1sc into st on row below. (You're trying to fudge a little vertical bit of mortar, here.) 7sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 3sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 1sc. Turn.

34. In M, ch1. Sc all the way across. Turn.

35. In B, ch1. 1sc. (Ch1 and sk1. 3sc) 11 times. Turn.

36. In B, ch1. Sc all the way across. Turn.

37. In M, ch1. 1sc. (1dc into the skipped st directly below. 3sc) 11 times. Turn.

38. In M, ch1. 5sc. In W, 10sc. In M, 15sc. In W, 10sc. In M, 5sc. Turn.

39. In B, ch1. 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. In W, 10sc. Using one of your short pieces of M, 1sc. In B, (3sc. Ch1 and sk1) 3 times. 2sc. In W, 10sc. In B, 3sc. Ch1 and sk1, 1sc. Turn.

40. In B, ch1. 5sc. \*In G, (ch1 and sk1, 2sc) 3 times. Ch1 and sk1.\*\* In B, 14sc. Picking up the short piece of M from the row below, 1sc. Repeat \* → \*\* once. In B, 5sc. Turn.

41. In M, ch1. 3sc. 1dc into skipped st directly below. 1sc. In G, 10sc. In M, 4sc. (1dc into the skipped st below, 3sc) twice. 1dc into skipped st below. 2sc. In G, 10sc. In M, 3sc. 1dc into skipped stitch below. 1sc. Turn.

42. In M, ch1. 5sc. In G, 10sc. In M, 15sc. In G, 10sc. In M, 5sc. Turn.

43. In B, ch1. 1sc. Ch1 and sk1. 3sc. In G, 10sc. In B, 2sc. (Ch1 and sk1, 3sc) 3 times. Ch1 and sk1. In G, 10sc. In B, 1sc. Ch1 and sk1. 3sc. Turn.

44. In B, ch1. 5sc. \*(In W, ignore the next st in current row and instead work 1 fairly loose tr into the skipped st directly below on row 39, to make a vertical section of window frame. Continuing in W, 2sc.) 3 times. Work one more tr into st below, ignoring current st.\*\* In B, 15sc. Repeat \* → \*\* once. In B, 5sc. Turn.

45. In M, ch1. \*1sc. 1dc into skipped st below. 3sc\*. In W, 10sc. In M, 2sc. (1dc into skipped st below. 3sc) 3 times. 1dc into skipped st below. In W, 10sc. In M, repeat \* → \*\* once. Turn.

46. In M, ch1. 5sc. \*In G, (ch1 and sk1, 2sc) 3 times. Ch1 and sk1.\*\* In M, 15sc. Repeat \* → \*\* once. In M, 5sc. Turn.

47. In B, ch1. 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. In G, 10sc. Pick up your short section of M yarn from below: 1sc. In B, (3sc. Ch1 and sk1) 3 times. 2sc. In G, 10sc. In B, 3sc. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc. Turn.

48. In B, ch1. 5sc. In G, 10sc. In B, 14sc. Picking up the short M yarn from previous row, 1sc. In G, 10sc. In B, 5sc. Turn.

49. As row 41.

50. As row 44, EXCEPT using M instead of B for wall stitches, and dropping the tr sts down to the skipped sts on row 45.

51. As row 43, EXCEPT using W for window stitches rather than G.

52. As row 46, EXCEPT using B rather than M for wall stitches.

53. As row 45, EXCEPT using G for window stitches rather than W.

54. As row 42.

55. As row 47.

56. In B, ch1. 5sc. \*(In W, ignore the next st in current row and instead work 1 fairly loose tr into the skipped st directly below on row 51, to make a vertical section of window frame. Continuing in W, 2sc) 3 times. Work one more tr into st below, ignoring current st.\*\* In B, 14sc. Picking up your short piece of M yarn, 1sc. Repeat \* → \*\* once. In B, 5sc. Turn.

57. As row 41, EXCEPT using W instead of G for window stitches.

58. In M, ch1. Sc all stitches. Turn.

59. In B, ch1. 1sc. (Ch1 and sk1. 3sc) 11 times. Turn.

60. In B, ch1. Sc all stitches. Turn.

61. In M, ch1. 1sc. (1dc into skipped st below. 3sc) 11 times. Turn.

62. As row 58.

63. In B, ch1. (3sc. Ch1 and sk1) 11 times. 1sc. Turn.

64. As row 60.

65. In M, ch1. (3sc. 1dc into skipped st below) 11 times. 1sc. Turn.

66. As row 58.

67 – 74: Repeat rows 59 – 66.

Cut your yarns.

Now it's time to decorate the front of your house. Obviously you can do this in any way you choose, but here's what I did:-



1. Sew on a bead as a doorknob.

2. Use chain stitch to embroider a house number on the fanlight.

3. Use green and another colour 4-ply yarn to embroider rambling roses climbing the front wall. The flowers were worked in lazy daisy stitch.

4. Make a small window box by crocheting rows of sc stitches in fine brown yarn. Sew this on, and embroider flowers in/over it.

5. Add a few strands of grass or weeds growing at the bottom of the wall.

To make the sides and bottom of the bag

These are made in brick stitch using your shades for brick (B) and mortar (M). They are each 11 stitches wide.

Make the first side panel. Using M, ch11. Turn.

1. In M, ch1. 1sc into every st. Turn.

2, and all subsequent even-numbered rows. Using same colour as previous row, ch1. 1sc in each stitch. Turn.

3. Change to B, ch1. 1sc in the first 3sts. (Ch1 and sk1. 1sc in the next 3sts) twice. Turn.

5. Change to M, ch1. 1sc in the first 3sts. (Skipping next st, 1dc into the M-coloured st below, that you skipped 2 rows ago. 1sc in the next 3sts) twice. Turn.

7. Change to B, ch1. 1sc in next st. Ch1 and sk1. (1sc in next 3sts. Ch1 and sk1) twice. 1sc. Turn.

9. Change to M, ch1. 1sc in next st. Skipping next st, 1dc into the M-coloured st below, that you skipped 2 rows ago. (1sc in the next 3sts. Skipping next st, 1dc into the M-coloured st below, that you skipped 2 rows ago) twice. 1sc into next st. Turn.

11. Repeat rows 3-10 a further 8 times. You will now have a wall 18 bricks high. Cut yarn.

Make another identical piece for the other side.

To make the base, make as for the sides, except repeat rows 3-10 only 6 further times, to make a wall 14 bricks high.

### To make the shoulder strap

The strap is worked in brick stitch, as a tube in the round. Again, you will need the shades for brick (B) and mortar (M).

1. Using M, ch24. Join the end of your chain to the beginning with a slip knot, to make a loop. Be careful not to twist your chain as you do this.

2, and all subsequent even-numbered rounds. In the same colour as the previous round, ch1. 1sc into each st of the 24 sts of the round. At the end of the round, ss into the first st of that round.

3. Using B, ch1. (1sc into the first 3st of this round. Ch1 and sk1) 6 times. Slip stitch into the first st of the round.

5. Using M, ch1. (1sc into the first 3st. 1dc into the M-coloured st below, that was skipped 2 rounds ago) 6 times. Finish with a ss into the first st of the round.

7. Using B, ch1. 1sc into first st of round. (Ch1 and sk1. 1sc into next 3sts) 5 times. Ch1 and sk1. 1sc into next 2 sts. End with a ss into the first st of the round.

9. Using M, ch1. 1sc into first st of round. (1dc into M-coloured st below that you skipped 2 rows ago. 1sc into next 3 sts) 5 times. 1dc into the skipped st below. 1sc into next 2sts. Ss into first st of round.

Repeat rounds 3-10 a further 26 times, so that you have a tube that is 54 bricks long, and 6 bricks in circumference. Cut your yarn and pull through.

### To make the roof

You'll need the subtly variegated grey Denim shade for this. The roof is worked in a version of crocodile stitch. (See notes at start of pattern.)

1. Ch43. Just to orientate you, you're beginning at the bottom of the roof and working upwards.

2. Pinch your last chain and ch3 (to act as your first dc). 1dc into the st you've pinched. (Ch1. Sk2 links of chain and work 2dc into next stitch) 14 times. (44 st.) You should have made something that looks rather like a ladder.

3. Turn your work clockwise through 90° so that your ladder is hanging downwards. To make the first roof tile, you're going to work sts into the gap between the pair of dc posts, initially from right to left down the first dc, and then back up the other side via the other dc in this first pair. You will then have created a lovely crocodile scale, which we're pretending is a roof tile. So, ch3 (counts as your first dc), then, working from right to left along the first dc, make 4dc. Ch1. Turn your work through 180° so that the rung of the ladder you're working on is now at the bottom. Working from right to left, make 5dc in the second of the pair of dc stitches from row 2. Ch1. You've made a roof tile.

4. Turn your ladder through 180° again, so that's it hanging downwards. Skip the next pair of dc sts from row 2 and instead work 5dc from right to left into the first dc of the following pair. Ch1, then turn your work through 180° and work another 5dc back up the other dc of the pair. Ch1.

5. Continue in this way, working down and then up every alternate pair of the dcs that you made in row 2. You should finish on the final pair of dcs and should now have 8 scales. Instead of your final ch1, work a ss into the top of the middle of the last scale, so that its right hand side curves nicely at the top. Your scales won't look very neat at the moment but don't worry, as you work the next (set-up) row, you'll anchor them in place and make them behave.

6. Hold your work horizontally with the scales facing you and pointing downwards and with your initial chain at the bottom. You'll now make a new row of pairs of dcs, each pair separated by a ch1, with each pair worked into the gap between one of the pairs of dcs below. Where this coincides with the edges of two scales (ie alternate occasions), you work your dcs into the ch1 between scales as well as into the gap between dcs, thus anchoring these together. The first dc of *the very first pair only* should be replaced by a ch3. As before, you should end up with 15 pairs of dcs.

7. You're now going to work across again with another set of scales. However, on this row you will only make 7 scales, because they're slightly offset from the previous row. So, no need to begin with a ch3 this time. Instead, work 5dcs from top to bottom into the first post of the *second* pair of dcs. Ch1. Work 5dcs up the other side. Ch1. Continue working scales across the row until you have 7. This time, you'll finish the final scale with a ss into the last pair of dcs, and your scale will not protrude any further than these pair of posts.

8. Make the next set-up row, as in row 6. Ch3 (to act as your first dc). 1dc into the base of this ch3. (Ch1. Sk2 stitches and work 2dc into next stitch) until the end of the row.

Repeat 2-7 a further 4 times. You should now have 10 rows of scales.

9. Repeat 2-5 once. You should now have 11 rows of scales.

10. Ch1. Work one row of scs across, each sc pinning the top of the top row of scales to one of the stitches of the last set-up row. (43 sts.)

Yay! You have finished making all the components of the bag (apart from the lining). Now it's time to join them together.

### Joining

1. Using sc stitches and continuing in this same variegated grey yarn that you used for the roof, attach the top of the roof to the top of the back wall. (The top of the back wall is the end that you finished with.) Because the wall is 45 stitches wide and the roof is 43 stitches wide, you will need to skip the first and last stitches of the wall in order to do this.

2. The sides, base, front and back of the bag are all joined using prominent sc seams in mortar-coloured yarn down the outside edges of the join. These look neat and attractive, and are strong.

Hold the 2 panels that you're seaming with their wrong sides together, and work sc stitches to join them, 1st in from the edge. You'll need to pull your stitches quite tight, and occasionally skip a stitch, to ensure that the seam is straight and taut.

3. If you're lining the bag, remember to insert the lining of the strap before closing the ends of the strap. Then use mortar-coloured yarn to securely sew the ends of the strap to the top of the sides of the bag.

### Lining

This *really* isn't the place to come for sewing expertise, because I have none. That said, I managed to make a decent, strong lining for this bag using some cream-coloured cotton fabric, medium-weight iron-on interfacing, cream thread, and my little sewing machine. I bought a metre each of the fabric and the interfacing.

First, I very carefully measured the inner dimensions of my finished bag. There's no point in me telling you what they were, because yours will be very slightly different. Then, on a huge piece of paper, I used the measurements to draw a shape that, when folded, would make a perfectly-shaped lining for the bag and the flap. (Make the edge well within the edge of the flap, so that the lining won't be visible from the outside.) Fold this paper into shape and check that it does indeed fit into the bag.

Assuming the fit is right, use the paper template to cut out a piece of interfacing in the same shape. Then cut out a long strip of interfacing that will fit inside the shoulder strap widthwise, but which will protrude from each end of the strap by about 1cm.



Lay each piece of interfacing dotty-side down (i.e. sticky-side down) onto your fabric, and iron as per instructions until they are joined. Then cut the fabric around each interfacing shape, leaving an approximately 1cm seam allowance all the way round.

Cut the seam allowance fabric at every corner to enable you to fold it over twice, and sew this down onto the edge of the interfaced shape.

Fold your lining into a bag-shape, and work tiny neat little stitches up its sides to hold them closed. Make sure that the right side is on the *inside* and the wrong side is on the *outside*.

Insert the shoulder strap lining inside the shoulder strap tube (so that it is completely invisible apart from the small amount protruding from each end).

Insert the bag lining into the bag. Ensure that the strap lining ends are hidden behind the top of the side lining. Hand-sew neat and tiny stitches around the stop of the bag and around the flap lining to fix it permanently in place, as well as to attach the strap lining to the bag lining.



### Clasps

I used 2 small magnetic clasps to keep the bag closed. For each, I sewed one side on the reverse of the bag flap and the other side onto the front of the bag , above the middle of the upstairs windows. I made sure that I got the heights right so that when closed, the roof comes right down to the top of the upstairs windows.

And that, my friend, is all you need to do!