FREE CROCHET PATTERN

Lined Moss Stitch Purse

by Katherine Holt Crochet

A sturdy, structured little purse worked in a three-color moss stitch, with a fabric lining and hidden cardboard inserts that help it hold its shape. This design started with a fabric storage bag from a sheet set. It was too nice to throw out, so I designed a purse around it! The base, back and flap are worked as one long piece, and the front and sides are picked up right from the base, so there's no separate front panel to sew on.

SKILL LEVEL	HOOK	YARN	FINISHED SIZE
Intermediate	5 mm (US H-8)	Medium #4 acrylic, about 200 g	About 8¾" W × 8" H × 4" D

Materials

Yarn

Mainstays Medium acrylic (#4 worsted weight), about 200 g total in roughly equal amounts of each color. Partial skeins work great.

- **Color A** golden yellow
- **Color B** red
- **Color C** blue

Hook

5 mm (US H-8)

Lining

The fabric storage bag from a Mainstays queen sheet set, about 9" × 4¼" × 22", with labels and Velcro removed.

Notions

- 2 D-rings
- 1 or 2 magnetic clasps
- All-purpose sewing thread (any color)
- Sewing needle and yarn needle
- Stitch marker
- Scissors
- Scrap cardboard and a straightedge
- Fabric glue (optional)

Gauge

16 sts and 20 rows = 4" (10 cm) in moss stitch, counting each sc and each ch as a stitch.

Gauge isn't critical, but it does affect the size of your cardboard inserts and how loosely the lining fits.

Abbreviations

This pattern uses US crochet terms.

ch	chain
ch-1 sp	chain-1 space
fsc	foundation single crochet
rep	repeat
sc	single crochet
sk	skip
sp	space
st(s)	stitch(es)
yo	yarn over
* … *	repeat the steps between asterisks as directed

Pattern Notes

- **Turning chains:** Each moss stitch row starts with ch 2, and the last sc of every row goes into the turning-chain space of the row before.
- **Construction:** One long strip makes the flap, back and base. The front and both sides are then picked up around the base, with *no increases at the corners*. That's what folds the piece into a box shape.
- **Fit is flexible:** Your tension affects how the cardboard and lining fit. Measure as you go, and remember you can always trim cardboard down.

Construction overview

1. **Base and back panel**
2. **Front and side panel**
3. **Liner, part 1**
4. **Seaming the crochet layer**
5. **Liner, part 2**
6. **Hardware and finishing**

Stitch Guide

Foundation single crochet (fsc)

A foundation chain and first row of sc worked at the same time. It's naturally thicker than a regular chain, which gives the edge of the flap a neat, finished look.

1. Ch 3. Insert hook in the first ch you made and pull up a loop (2 loops on hook).
2. Yo and pull through 1 loop. This is the "chain" at the base of the stitch.
3. Yo and pull through both loops. This is the sc.
4. For each following stitch, insert hook into the "chain" at the base of the stitch you just made and repeat steps 2–3.

> VIDEO HELP
> If this explanation doesn't make sense, see the Foundation Chain tutorial on my blog (katherineholtcrochet.com) or my YouTube channel.

Moss stitch

A simple repeat of alternating sc and ch 1. On every row, each sc is worked into the ch-1 space below it, so the stitches stagger and form the woven, brick-like texture.

Changing colors (every row)

Work the last sc of the row until 2 loops remain on the hook. Drop the old color, then yo with the next color and pull it through both loops to finish the sc. Turn and keep going.

Don't cut your yarn. Leave the old color hanging at the edge. Because there are three colors and you turn every row, the color you need next will always be waiting at the edge where you start. That means almost no ends to weave in, and the carried strands get hidden inside the side seams later.

1 Base and Back Panel

This long strip becomes the flap (starting at the foundation edge), then the back, and its last 21 rows become the base.

Foundation Color A	Work 35 fsc. Ch 3 for turning.
Row 1 Color A	Sc in 4th st from hook (the last fsc you made), *ch 1, sk next st, sc in next st*; rep from * across, ending with a sc in the last fsc. Stop when 2 loops remain on the hook. 18 sc, 17 ch-1 sps
Row 2 Color B	Join Color B by finishing the last sc of Row 1 with it. Turn. Ch 2, sk first sc, sc in first ch-1 sp, *ch 1, sk next sc, sc in next ch-1 sp*; rep from * across, ending ch 1, sk last sc, sc in turning-ch sp. Stop when 2 loops remain on the hook.
Row 3 Color C	Join Color C by finishing the last sc of Row 2 with it. Turn. Rep Row 2.

Row 4
Color A

Pick up Color A, which is waiting at this edge, and finish the last sc of Row 3 with it. Turn. Rep Row 2.

Rows 5–86

Rep Row 2, changing color at the end of every row in the same order: A, B, C. Row 86 is worked in Color B; finish its last sc in the same color.

Fasten off all three colors.

2 Front and Side Panel

The front and both sides are worked as one piece, picked up around the edges of the base.

Row 1 (pick-up)
Color C

Starting from the last st of Row 86, count 21 rows along one side edge. Insert your hook into the side of that row's edge stitch, with the corner to the *left* of your hook. Join Color C using your preferred method.

Ch 3. *Sk next st, sc in side of next st (or in the next st, along the end of Row 86), ch 1*; rep from * along the side, across the end of the base, and up the other side until you reach the 21st row.

If you counted correctly, a sc will land in each corner. **Do not increase at the corners.** That's what creates the bend, so you don't have to make the front panel separately. Finish the last sc with Color B.

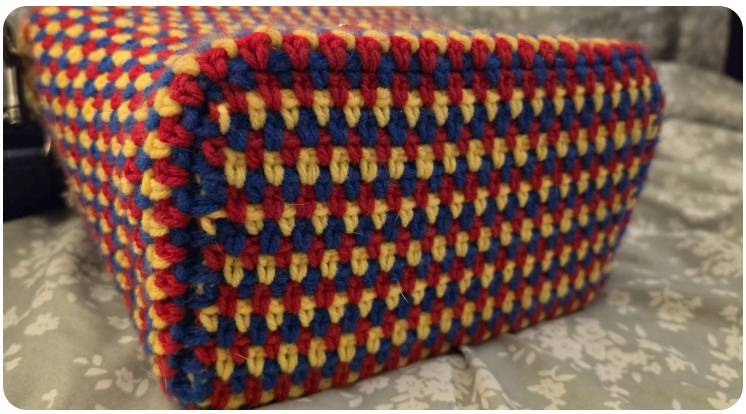
Rows 2–35

Turn. Work in moss stitch as in Step 1, Row 2, now over the longer row. Change color every row in the **reversed** order: B, A, C (Row 2 is B, Row 3 is A, Row 4 is C, and so on), so the front runs blue, red, yellow. Row 35 is Color B; finish its last sc with Color A.

Row 36
Color A

Turn. Ch 1, sc in every sc and ch-1 sp across. Fasten off all colors.

> **WHY THE COLORS REVERSE**
> The end of each side-panel row gets seamed to a row of the back. Reversing the order means every row meets a partner of the same color, so the stripes line up around the whole bag.



The base and side, with the color sequence running around the corner.

3 Liner, Part 1

Cut the cardboard inserts

Cut 3 pieces of cardboard, each about ⅛"–¼" smaller than the part of the liner it sits behind. Mine measured approximately:

- **Base (1):** 3.8" × 8¾"
- **Front and back (2):** 8¾" wide × 8" tall

The sides are left without cardboard so they can flex freely.

> TIP
> This is where some discretion comes in. Depending on your tension, you may need to size up or down. The cardboard should fit snugly between the liner and the crochet piece, but not *too* snugly, or the bag will be very difficult to assemble. You can always trim it down later.

Optional: glue the base piece

I found it easier to attach the base cardboard to the fabric first. If you'd like, glue it to the bottom of the liner with fabric glue, weigh it down with heavy objects (a bag of rice works well) and let it dry completely.

Attach the liner to the base

Line up the base of the liner with the base of the crochet piece. Sewing thread doubled twice (4 strands at once) gives maximum strength. Starting at a back corner, stitch through the liner and the crochet piece in each crochet stitch. Tie off the thread and tuck the end between the liner and the crochet piece.

This step is very flexible based on personal preference. If you're comfortable with hand sewing, use whatever stitch you like best.

4 Seaming the Crochet Layer

1. Turn the crochet piece inside out.
2. Place each loose side edge right sides together with the matching edge of the back. If you worked the front panel color changes correctly, each row will line up with its partner of the same color.
3. Using whichever color you like, sc up each edge through both layers, placing one sc in each row. This seam also hides the carried yarn along the edges.

5 Liner, Part 2

Back corners

With the piece still inside out, pull the liner over the crochet piece and sew up each back corner, using the row of sc you just made as a guide.

Check the fit

Turn the piece right side out. Slide the front and back cardboard pieces in between the liner and the crochet layer, and trim them down if they're too snug. Once the fit is right, start with the front panel.

Front corners

1. Follow the corner stitch up to the top edge and mark it with a stitch marker.
2. With the cardboard in place, sew the corner from bottom to top. Pass the thread from inside to outside, move up one row, then pass it from outside to inside, following the corner stitch as you go. You should end at your stitch marker.
3. Fasten off. Repeat on the other side.

Top edge

Line up the edge of the liner with the top stitches all the way around, then choose whether you want a lined flap:

Option A: Lined flap

1. Whip stitch the liner to the top edge of the front and sides, using the sc of Row 36 as your guide.
2. Continue the liner up the underside of the flap and whip stitch it around the flap edges, using your rows as a guide.

Option B: Unlined flap as pictured

1. Trim the liner where the back meets the flap.
2. Whip stitch the liner to the top edge of the front and sides, using the sc of Row 36 as your guide.
3. Across the back, pass the thread through the liner and the crochet piece, the same way you did on the corners.

The finished lining, with an unlined flap (Option B).

6 Hardware and Finishing

This step depends heavily on the hardware you choose, so I won't cover installation in detail. As a general guide, place a D-ring at the top of each side panel for your strap, and center the magnetic clasp under the flap with its partner on the front panel.

Straps aren't included in this pattern. The one in the photos is borrowed from another purse to show how it can be worn.

Optional: pom-poms

Some clasps look a little messy from the back, so I added two pom-poms to the flap to cover mine. They're not necessary, but they *are* cute!

1. Wrap yarn around 3–4 fingers (or a 2"-wide piece of cardboard) about 60–80 times. More wraps make a fuller pom-pom.
2. Carefully slide the bundle off. Tie a separate piece of yarn tightly around the middle with a double knot, leaving long tails.
3. Cut through the loops on both ends.
4. Fluff it up and trim into a round ball.
5. Use the long tails to tie or sew the pom-pom onto the flap.

> **CARE**
> Spot clean only. The cardboard inserts aren't washable.

That's it!

You should have a wonderful lined moss stitch purse, ready for straps. I'd love to see yours!

katherineholtcrochet.com · find me on YouTube

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