

# Crocheted Fragmented Strips Bag



**T**he finished bag measures approximately 19cm (7½") wide by 21cm (8¼") high, with an 8cm (3⅛") flap. If you want a larger bag, simply add more stitches to the instructions as given – just a few more per strip will make the bag a few centimetres larger. Or, if you want a much larger size, make extra strips.

The crocheted strips for this bag were worked using mainly dc (US sc) and half treble (US hdc) or trebles (US dc), together with highly textured yarns and some FUNky FX to add interest.

Refer to the suggestions for the previous knit version of this bag for ideas on how to make fragmented strips.

## *You will need*

A selection of specialty yarns in your chosen colour combination, plus some plain coordinating yarn that will add contrast and achieve unity. (Use any finer yarns doubled or even trebled to avoid significant differences in strip width.)

Crochet hooks, 4.5mm (US 6) and 5mm (US 7). The larger hook should be used for any bulky yarns. When making fabric for a bag, use a smaller sized hook than usual to ensure a firmer fabric.

Lining of your choice

Button or bead



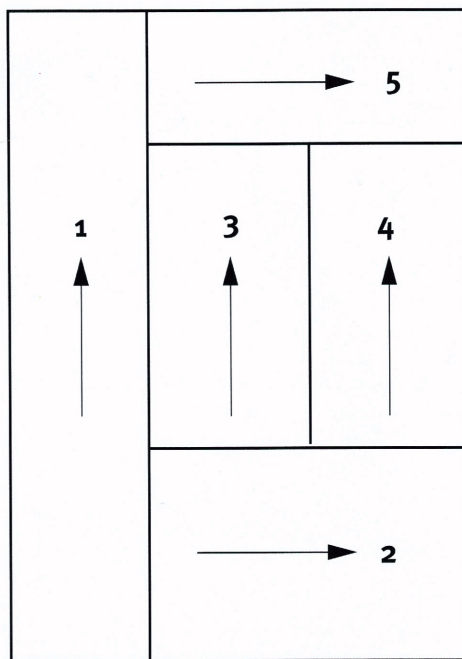
Fig 78

### ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ch</b>	chain
<b>dc(sc)</b>	double crochet (single crochet)
<b>dtr(tr)</b>	double treble (treble)
<b>htr(hdc)</b>	half treble (half double crochet)
<b>tr(dc)</b>	treble (double crochet)
<b>tr tr (dtr)</b>	triple treble (double treble)
<b>st(s)</b>	stitch(es)
<b>RS</b>	right side



Fig 79: Diagram showing how bag was constructed



### *Instructions — first strip*

The crocheted version of this bag was constructed using the following diagram. You may of course change any of the components to suit your own design.

**Note:** Turning chains aren't always necessary when working in a freeform manner. At the beginning of each row, work 1 chain (not counted as a stitch), and then work into each loop of the previously worked row. Initially, it may help to keep count as you work until you determine that you are keeping a constant number of stitches in your work.

**Stripes 1 & 2:** Ch 10, miss (US skip) 1 ch and work 2 rows of htr (US hdc) (9 sts).

**Stripe 3:** Work 1 row of trebles (US dc), turn. Work 4 dc (US sc), ch 3, miss (skip) 3sts, dc (US sc) to end. This makes a horizontal slit.

**Stripe 4:** 1 row of dc (US sc), 1 row of loop stitch, and then 1 row of dc (US sc).

**Stripe 5:** 2 rows of trebles (US dc).

**Stripe 6:** Work 3 dc (US sc), 1 trailing stitch, 2 dc (US sc), 1 trailing stitch, 2 dc (US sc).

**Stripe 7:** 1 row of dc (US sc), 1 row of crumpled stitch — instead of using double treble (US tr) you can use tr tr (triple treble) (US dtr) for a more textured effect. This is sometimes necessary when using finer yarns. Then 1 row of dc (US sc).

**Stripe 8:** 2 rows of trebles (US dc).

**Stripe 9:** 1 row dc (US sc), 1 row wrapped bobble and 1 row dc (US sc).

**Stripe 10:** 1 row tr (US dc), 1 row dc (US sc) with horizontal slit, 1 row tr (US dc).

**Stripe 11:** 1 row dtr (US tr), 1 row dc (US sc).

**Stripe 12:** 2 rows htr (US hdc).

**Stripe 13:** 1 row tr (US dc) if using a heavily textured yarn, otherwise work 2 rows of tr (US dc).

**Stripe 14:** 1 row dc (US sc). *Do not turn.* Work 1 row of corded rib stitch into *front loop only* of previous row.

**Stripe 15:** 1 row tr (US dc) into back loops left in previous row, 1 row tr (US dc). **Stripe 16:** 1 row long loop stitch, 1 row dc (US sc).

**Stripe 17:** 2 rows tr (US dc).

### **Instructions — second strip**

To make the second strip, turn the first strip sideways, and with RS of work facing, work a row of treble (US dc) along 20 st (or number required to measure 15cm [6"]). Continue working stripes as before, using plain stitches together with an occasional row of a FUNky FX stitch until the work measures 9cm (3½") or width desired.

### **Instructions — third strip**

The third strip is added by working across 7 stitches starting at the junction of where the first strip meets the second strip (approximately 6cm [2¾"] in width). Work stripes as before.

### **Instructions — fourth strip**

The fourth strip is added by working across the remainder of the stitches at the side of the first strip. Work stripes as before.

Before adding the fifth strip, you will need to stitch the third strip to the first strip and the fourth strip to the third strip.

### **Instructions — fifth strip**

Now work the fifth strip by working across the top of the already joined third and fourth strips. Continue in stripes as before until this final section is the same length as the first strip. Stitch strip 5 to strip 1 and finish off according to the following instructions.

### **Lining**

**Tip:** Remember to pre-shrink any lining fabric that may have a tendency to shrink when washed.



Since this is a freeform bag and you will certainly have used different yarns from those I used, it's likely that your bag won't measure exactly the same as mine.

The general procedure for determining the size of the lining is as follows:

- Measure the total length of the bag less the length of the flap, and then add 4cm (1½") for the hem.
- Measure the width of the bag and add 4cm (1½") for the seam allowance.

Fold bag at 29cm (11¼"), leaving 8cm (3") for a flap. Sew sides together.

Fold lining in half and sew sides together. Without turning bag inside out, insert the lining into the bag. Fold under the top 2cm (¾") of the lining and slip stitch to the top of the bag, just below the edge.

**Note:** I didn't line the flaps of my bags, but if you choose to do so you will need to cut out a pattern to include this extra length and stitch the lining down accordingly.

### *Flap*

Mark the centre of the flap with a pin. With a yarn of your choice, work in dc (US sc) until within 1.5cm (½") of centre. Work a chain loop to measure 3cm (1¼") from 1.5cm (½") past the centre, insert hook into the fabric and continue working dc (US sc) to the end. Sew on button.

### *Strap*

Make a strap measuring 115cm (45") using two ends of yarn as per the instructions for Caterpillar Braid in the 'FUNky FX' chapter and attach securely to the sides of the bag.

**Note:** This bag is designed to be worn across the chest rather than over the shoulder.