

Free Easy Granny Square Tote Bag (Detailed Step-by-Step Guide)



If you love crocheting and have lots of leftover yarn, this project is a perfect way to turn scraps into something **useful, sturdy, and beautiful**. This tote bag uses classic granny squares combined with a clever trick—a **ready-made canvas tote as the lining**, so you avoid complicated sewing.

Why This Pattern Works

- No need to sew a full lining from scratch
- Beginner-friendly construction
- Customizable size and colors
- Great for scrap yarn projects
- Durable because of the canvas insert

Materials You'll Need

- **Crochet Hook:** 4 mm (US G-6)
- **Yarn:** ~250 g (8.8 oz) DK weight cotton or cotton blend

- **Canvas Tote Bag:** Approx. 40 × 40 cm (16" × 16")
- **Tools:**
 - Scissors
 - Yarn needle
 - Sewing needle + thread

Size & Gauge

- **Gauge:**
10 cm (4") = 5 clusters (3dc) × 8 rows
- **Finished Size:**
40 × 40 cm (16" × 16")

Tip: You can adjust size easily—just add or remove rounds to match your tote.

Important Notes Before You Start

- Work in **turned rounds** (turn after each round)
- **Ch3 counts as 1 double crochet (dc)**
- Corners are always made with **(3dc, ch2, 3dc)** structure
- For color changes:
 - Switch yarn on the last yarn-over of the previous stitch

Step 1: Make Two Granny Squares



You will crochet **2 identical squares**.

Foundation Ring

1. Chain 4
2. Slip stitch into first chain to form a ring

Round 1

1. Ch3 (counts as dc)
2. 2dc into ring
3. Ch2
4. Repeat (3dc, ch2) **3 more times**
5. Join with slip stitch to top of ch3
6. **Turn**

You now have 4 corners

Round 2

1. Slip stitch into first corner space (ch-2 space)
2. Ch3, 2dc into same space

3. 3dc into next space
4. Ch2
5. Repeat around:
 - (3dc, 3dc in next space, ch2)
6. Join + **turn**

Round 3

1. Slip stitch to corner space
2. Ch3, 2dc into same space
3. 3dc in space between clusters
4. 3dc into next corner space
5. Ch2
6. Repeat pattern around
7. Join + **turn**

Round 4

Same structure, but now:

- Work **2 cluster groups between corners**
- Continue corner pattern (3dc, ch2, 3dc)

Rounds 5–18 (Continue Pattern)

Each round increases evenly:

Round Clusters Between Corners

5	3
10	8
15	13
18	16

Keep repeating:

- 3dc in each space
- Increase side length
- Maintain corners

Stop when your square matches your tote size

Finish Square

- Fasten off
- Weave in all ends

Repeat to make **second square**

Step 2: Join the Squares



1. Place squares **wrong sides together**
2. Join yarn at a corner
3. Work **single crochet (sc)** through both layers

Join 3 sides only:

- 1 sc in each stitch
- 3 sc in each corner

This creates a **pocket**

Step 3: Finish Top Edges

- Continue single crochet along the **top edges separately**
- This strengthens the opening

Fasten off and weave ends.

Step 4: Insert Lining

1. Place canvas tote inside crochet pocket
2. Align edges carefully

Step 5: Secure Lining



- Sew along the **top edge only**
- Use small, even stitches
- Attach crochet layer to canvas

This prevents stretching and keeps shape

Optional: “Swiftie” Color Version

Inspired by Taylor Swift’s crochet dress

Materials Adjustment:

- Sport weight cotton yarn
- 3 mm hook

Color Pattern

Square One:

- 4 rounds peach
- 2 rounds each:
 - sweet orchid
 - coffee
 - off-white
 - coffee
 - off-white
 - coffee
- Repeat sequence twice (total 22 rounds)

Square Two:

- Start:
 - off-white → coffee → off-white → coffee
- Then:
 - 4 rounds peach
 - 2 rounds sweet orchid
- Repeat sequence twice

Final Result

You'll have:

- A **fully lined tote bag**
- Strong, durable structure
- Unique color design

- Minimal sewing effort

Extra Tips

- Use scrap yarn for a patchwork look
- Block squares before assembly for best shape
- Cotton yarn = sturdier bag
- Add buttons or pockets if desired

This version should be much easier to follow while you crochet step by step.