

Lots in one crochet basket

This is a multi-purpose basket. With the walls up, it's a nest for birds that prefer tree hollows, or a flat bottomed pouch for an animal. With the walls folded in half, it's a nest with sturdy walls for perching. With the handle gaps together, it's a carry bag, or way to carry the little passenger without having to pick them up from the bottom.

The finished dimensions will vary depending on your yarn and how big you make it, but this one has a diameter of 24cm and height of 18cm.

What you'll need:

A tape measure

Scissors

Yarn – 3 balls of either acrylic or wool in 8ply (this size requires just over 100gms of each)

A stitch marker (you could use a bobby pin)

A crochet hook – size approximately 4.5mm



Abbreviations:

Sc - single crochet

Inc - increase (2 sc into the stitch)

Rep - repeat to the end of round

St - stitch

Note – the stitches of these must be tight to avoid injury to the animals/birds so make sure you have your tension correct. This pattern is written in US terminology – but if you are used to UK terminology the only difference is that you use DC (double crochet) instead of SC (single crochet).

Don't forget to stretch and give those hands a few minutes rest as you go – we don't want any injuries to you either!

Round 1: Create a magic ring. You could also chain four and join the last stitch to the first one with a slip stitch.

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Round 2: 6sc into magic ring and pull tight on the yarn tail to close the circle. Pop your stitch marker into the first stitch as you start each round of stitches – this marks your beginning so you know when you have completed one full round.



Round 3: Increase every stitch



Note – do not join your last stitch to the first stitch. Do your last stitch into the last stitch before the stitch marker, then move on to the following round, working the first stitch of the next round into the stitch where the stitch marker is. Don't forget to move your stitch marker to the first stitch you create in the next round. You will essentially work in a continuous spiral.

Round 4: 1sc, inc, rep (18)
Round 5: 2sc, inc, rep (24)
Round 6: 3sc, inc, rep (30)
Round 7: 4sc, inc, rep (36)
Round 8: 5sc, inc, rep (42)
Round 9: 6sc, inc, rep (48)
Round 10: 7sc, inc, rep (54)
Round 11: 8sc, inc, rep (60)

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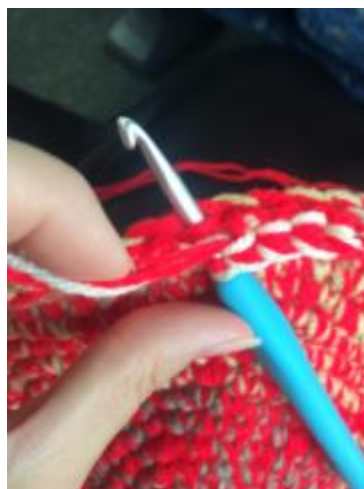
Round 12: 9sc, inc, rep (66)
Round 13: 10sc, inc, rep (72)
Round 14: 11sc, inc, rep (78)
Round 15: 12sc, inc, rep (84)
Round 16: 13sc, inc, rep (90)
Round 17: 14sc, inc, rep (96)
Round 18: 15sc, inc, rep (102)

This will make a base of approximately 24cms. You can do fewer rounds for a smaller basket, or continue on with more rounds to create a larger basket, remembering to keep increasing stitches in the same manner.

Tip: You can put a stitch marker into the stitches you need to increase so you don't need to keep count. Sc one, pop in the stitch marker, sc another into the stitch and continue with your single stitching. This way when you come to a tagged stitch you will know you need to increase –don't forget to put your marker back on after the first sc of your increase though.



Round 19 (or when you're happy with the width): Sc in each stitch through front loops only. (this means to put your crochet hook through the front loops only of the V that you would normally go through).



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Round 20: sc in each st

Round whenever you're happy with the height: Chain 11, skip 11 sts, sc into next st, sc next 39 sts, chain 11, skip 11, sc into next 39 sts. This creates your handle holes. If you are making a different size basket, your stitch count will be different – you'll need to adjust for the size you are making. You can do this by counting the number of stitches or by putting the walls of the basket together and making sure the starts of the handles line up on both sides.



Next round: sc every stitch. When you get to the handle holes, sc 11 into the chain (it's a bit tight). You can also crochet into the hole rather than the chain if you prefer.

Continue with rounds of sc until the height measures 4 cms from the handle hole to the top

Finishing off: When you have completed your last stitch of your last round, slip stitch into the first stitch where your stitch marker is and fasten off. If you want to make it more even, you can slip stitch along the whole top of the basket round to create a subtle border, but that's not essential.

Now comes the part we all dislike – you must weave in those ends securely! (I know it's a pain, but we must!).

Final step, sit back and admire your work, knowing that because of your efforts a bird or small animal will now have a safe place to rehabilitate, and pat yourself on the back!

The finished basket (as a basket, and with handles together as a bag)



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