

## THE JACKFIELD TILE BAG



### MATERIALS AND EXTRAS:

- Two Jackfield Tile squares.
- One jute/canvas/hessian bag, 12" x 12" x 7" approx. (external measurements), available from Holland & Barrett Health Food Stores in the U.K. (Logo will be hidden by the crochet!) Can also be found online from other outlets - search for jute, canvas or hessian bags. **The pattern can be adjusted to fit any size or depth of bag as long as the front and back are square. Measure carefully!**
- Matching leftover yarn to make the side and base panel (worsted/Aran or DK).
- 5.5mm hook (if using worsted/Aran yarn).
- 4.5mm hook (if using DK yarn).
- Stitch markers.
- Sewing needle and polyester sewing thread to tone with last round of squares.
- Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.
- Beads for optional decoration and/or tassels.

**Please read through all the instructions before you start.**

**Two versions** are given for the side panel, depending on how adventurous you feel! Both will look equally good in the colours you've used for your main squares. No exact pattern is given for either so that the size can be varied – your choice will depend on your confidence with fancy stitches and calculation of stitch repeats. There are plenty of resources for striped crochet patterns online to inspire you.

First make sure your squares are the same size as the front of your bag – slightly too small is better than too large as the cover looks better if stretched a little to fit.

If you need to adjust the size in any way the final stitch count will change but that doesn't matter, as the side and base panel will match the stitch count you have.

Now's the time to add any extra decoration to the squares – wooden or sparkly beads in toning colours look good. (See appendix)

## **LONG PANEL FOR SIDES AND BASE - BOTH VERSIONS**

Count the stitches around the whole square (including all corner stitches), **divide by 4** and **multiply by 3**. Make a chain of exactly this number of stitches, dc into 4<sup>th</sup> ch from hook, dc to end. *(Make your base chains loosely so this row doesn't 'pull' later; use a size larger hook if it helps but remember to change back afterwards.)* Or make a chainless foundation row of **the same number of dcs, minus 2. (Recommended)**

*(Example: if you have followed the pattern for DK yarn – without adjustment - your stitch count will be 184.  $184 \div 4 = 46$ .  $46 \times 3 = 138$ . Make a chain of 138, dc in 4<sup>th</sup> ch from hook, dc to end. You will have 136 dcs (turning chain count as 1dc.). Or make a chainless foundation row of 136 dcs.)*

### **Section 1(a) SIMPLE VERSION:**

- **Worked lengthways, backwards and forwards in stripes, with a finishing row of sc worked all around the edge.**
- **Plan your colours so that the final sc round matches the last round of your squares.**

Begin as above. Now work in plain rows, varying stitch sizes and colours as required, until your piece measures about 6 ½" deep (or about ½" less than the depth of your bag). **Make sure your edges are straight, and your stitch count is the same at the end as it was at the beginning!** Fasten off and weave in all ends.

**Now go to section 2.**

### **Section 1(b) MORE DECORATIVE VERSION**

- This is also worked lengthways, but starting with the stripe right along the centre. You crochet half the panel, then invert the piece, attach yarn to the base of your starting row and make the other half to match. Then you work single crochet around the entire piece.
- Plan your colours so that you have enough yarn to complete both sides to match, and so that the final sc round matches the last round of your squares.
- The centre stripe (your foundation row) occurs only once.
- "Wrong side" and "right side" rows should be the same on each half of your panel; this will affect which corner you start the second side from.

Make your foundation chain and first row or chainless foundation, **calculated as above**. Now work in rows using stitches of your choice, plain or patterned, varying stitch height and row colour as required, until your work measures 3½" (or about half the depth of your bag). **Make sure you keep the edges straight when turning!** Ripple stitches are best avoided but shell patterns, front posts, clusters or bobbles are fine – **just make sure that your last row is straight and has the correct stitch count**. You may have to fudge the beginning and/or end of any fancy rows to allow for the pattern repeat. **Check that the last row has the same number of stitches as when you started**. Fasten off and weave in ends.

**Now turn your work upside down** so that your foundation chain/row is at the top, and rejoin your yarn at the top corner. (See last note above and photo.) Complete the second side of your panel to match the first, so that the finished piece measures about 6½" deep, or about ½" less than the depth of your bag. Fasten off and weave in ends.





## **Section 2 EDGING**

Choose which you would like to be the right side, and with this side facing, rejoin your edging yarn anywhere and work single crochet around the whole piece. Turn the corners with 3 scs in the first and last stitch of each long side, working one sc in each remaining stitch on the long sides, and placing enough evenly-spaced stitches across each short side so that it's neither puckered nor stretched (*c.28scs for DK version*). **Now you should have the correct number of stitches for joining to the main squares.** Put a stitch marker in the corner stitch (*the centre sc of 3*) at the beginning of both short sides.



## **ASSEMBLY**

Make sure all ends are woven in. Beginning at the last stitch of any side of one square (*the first of the two centre corner dcs*), join this stitch to one of your marked stitches (*the centre corner stitch*) on the side panel by putting your hook through both at the same time (wrong sides together, right side of square facing) and working 1sc. Join the **next** stitch on your square to the **same** stitch on the side panel (just once).

Now continue to join with scs along three sides, matching stitch for stitch, picking up both loops of each stitch, and **working 3scs into each of the two corner stitches** at the base of the squares. It will help to pin the two pieces together every few stitches. When you reach the end, your stitches should match neatly at the top corner. (*If not, keep the tops correct and fudge the bottom corners.*)

Repeat with the other side. I like to use the same yarn as all the edging rounds for these joins but of course that's up to you. Fasten off and weave in loose ends.





You now have a nice floppy bag cover. Ease it carefully around your canvas bag, lining up all the edges and corners. Pin all around the top edge so it overlaps very slightly and stitch into place with matching sewing thread, with the inside of the bag facing you, using a whip stitch and neatening the top corners as you go. *(Fold the handles inside the bag while you sew past them. Pink used in photo for clarity!)*

Now use your needle and thread to catch along the other six edges to hold the cover in position, smoothing the edges flat and again pinning before you start. One firm stitch through all thicknesses every couple of inches should suffice, with the thread carried along under the crochet cover. The canvas can be quite stiff in these areas; take care or use a thimble! Put a few more strong stitches along the centre line of the side/base panel, especially at the points where the creases meet, to hold everything in place. This is all a bit fiddly, but just think... you get strength, shape, stability, a ready-made lining that fits and handles, all in one go!

If you want to decorate your bag with tassels, Polly Plum has a great tutorial on her website <http://everytrickonthehook.com/patterns-2/basic-tassels/> If you like, add a closure with a crocheted loop and button.



Finished! Store yarn in your new bag, use it for projects or take it out shopping!

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## APPENDIX – BEAD DECORATION

You'll need 16 beads with holes large enough to allow a threaded needle to pass through twice.

Choose yarn in a suitable colour and cut a length of 3 – 4 feet (*Photos show a contrasting colour and short length for clarity*). Thread through a blunt-ended tapestry needle. Secure at the back of your work (near the centre) and bring through to the right side between any 2 dcs in R1 (Fig. 1). \*Thread a bead on to the yarn, pass your needle from right to left under the top threads of the 3dc cluster in R3 immediately above and slightly to the right of your exit point (Fig. 2), pull through. Now put your needle back through the same bead and down into the same exit point, bringing it back up one stitch further along to the left (Fig. 3)\*\*. Repeat from \* to \*\* (Figs 4 – 8)), pulling your yarn taut as you go along – finish off by threading your needle through to the back after your second pass through the last bead, and securing the thread.



Thank you to my excellent pattern testers: Lara, Helen and Diane