



Complete & Detailed Tutorial: Shell-Lace Handbag with Cord Handles

This is a **fully expanded, beginner-friendly guide** based exactly on your diagram. Every step is broken down so that anyone in the U.S. (using **US crochet terms**) can successfully complete the bag from start to finish 🛍️✨

COMPLETE TUTORIAL: SHELL-LACE HANDBAG WITH CORD HANDLES

1 MATERIALS & US Stitch Legend (Key Terms)

- Sport/Dk weight cotton yarn (e.g., 200g Blue)
- Size E/4 (3.5mm) Crochet Hook
- Tapestry Needle
- Optional lining fabric

STITCH LEGEND (US TERMS)

- = ch = Chain Stitch
- = sl st = Slip Stitch
- ↗ = sc = Single Crochet
- ↘ = hdc = Half Double Crochet
- ↖ = dc = Double Crochet
- 🌸 = Shell = A specific stitch combination (e.g., 5 dc in one loop)
- ↗ = inc = Increase
- ↘ = dec = Decrease

2 Base & Bottom

STEP 1 (BASE)

Rnd 1: 8 sc in MR.
Rnd 2: inc x8.
Continue inc rounds (stitch)



Note on working BLO for the transition.
Rnd Y: work BLO sc.

STEP 2 (BOTTOM PANEL)

work hdc around in joined rounds for bottom stability

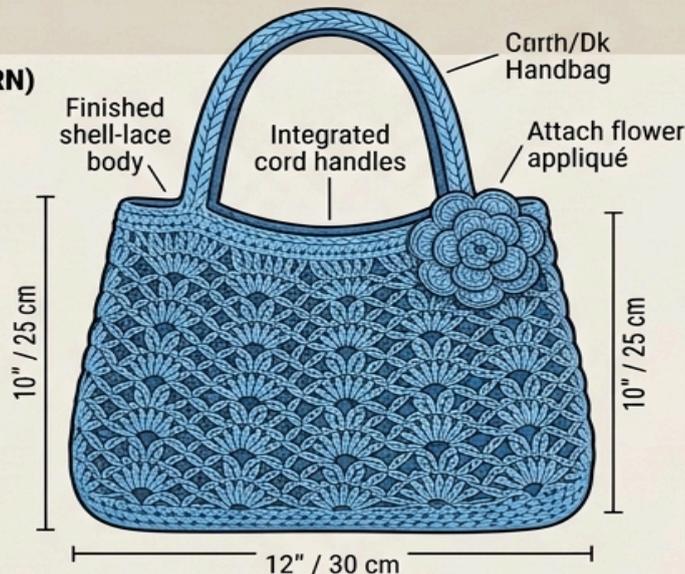


3 Main Shell Body

STEP 3 (SHELL-LACE PATTERN)



Row 1: *sc, skip 2 sts, shell of 5 dc in next st, skip 2 sts; rep*



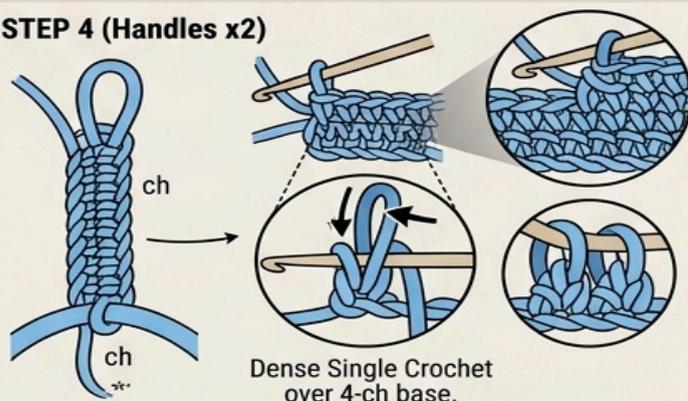
Detailed description of stacking, e.g., working shells over previous sc



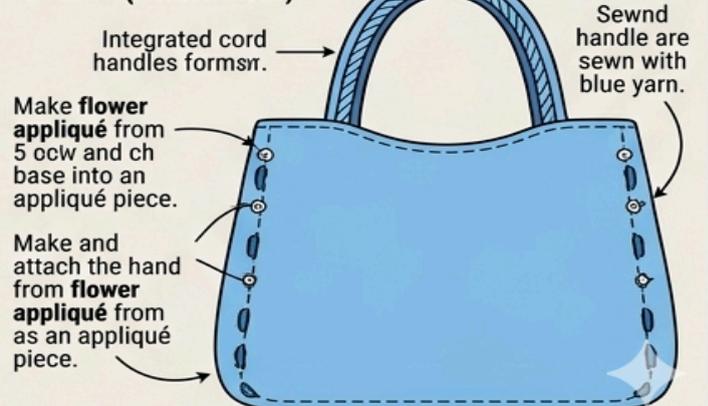
Perfecting color changes:
Join new blue yarn with sl st at end of row, ch 1 to start next.

4 Handles & Assembly

STEP 4 (Handles x2)



STEP 5 (Attachment)



Materials & Tools (Detailed)

- **Yarn:** Sport/DK weight cotton yarn (~200g)
 - Cotton is recommended because it holds structure well
- **Hook:** Size **E/4 (3.5 mm)**
- **Tapestry needle** (for sewing and weaving ends)
- **Scissors**
- **Optional:**
 - Stitch markers (very helpful!)
 - Fabric lining + sewing needle/thread

👉 Tip: Choose a **non-stretch yarn** like cotton to prevent sagging.

Stitch Guide (US Terms – Expanded)

- **ch (chain):** Yarn over, pull through loop
- **sl st (slip stitch):** Insert hook, yarn over, pull through all loops
- **sc (single crochet):** Insert hook, yarn over, pull up loop, yarn over, pull through 2
- **hdc (half double crochet):** Yarn over, insert hook, pull up loop, yarn over, pull through all 3
- **dc (double crochet):** Yarn over, insert hook, pull up loop, yarn over, pull through 2, yarn over, pull through 2
- **inc (increase):** 2 stitches in same stitch
- **BLO (back loop only):** Work only into the back loop of stitch

Special Stitch: Shell

- Work **5 dc into the same stitch**
- This creates the fan/lace look of the bag

Step 1: Creating the Base (Very Detailed)

This is the foundation of your bag.

Start with Magic Ring (MR)

1. Wrap yarn around fingers to form a loop
2. Insert hook into loop
3. Pull up a loop and chain 1 (this secures ring)

Round 1

- Work **8 sc into the magic ring**
- Pull tail to tighten ring
- Join with **sl st into first sc**

👉 Count: 8 stitches

Round 2 (Increase Round)

- Work **2 sc in each stitch around**
- Join with sl st

👉 Count: 16 stitches

Round 3

- *(1 sc, inc)* repeat around

👉 Count: 24 stitches

Round 4

- *(2 sc, inc)* repeat

👉 Count: 32 stitches

Continue Expanding

Keep increasing in this pattern:

- Round 5: *(3 sc, inc)*
- Round 6: *(4 sc, inc)*

Continue until your base reaches approximately **12 inches (30 cm)** wide.

👉 Shape Note:

- Your base will become slightly oval as it grows
- This is correct and desired

👉 Important Tip:

- Lay your work flat after each round
- If it curls → too tight
- If it waves → too loose

Step 2: Bottom Panel (Structure Building)

Now we stop increasing and build height.

Round Transition

- Work **1 round of sc in BLO (back loop only)**

👉 This creates a sharp edge → helps the bag stand upright

Build the Bottom Panel

- Work **hdc in each stitch around**
- Continue in **joined rounds** (sl st at end of each round)

Repeat for several rounds (about 1–2 inches tall)

👉 This section:

- Strengthens the base
- Prevents sagging
- Gives a clean foundation for lace

Step 3: Main Shell-Lace Body (Highly Detailed)

This is the decorative and most important part.

Row 1: Shell Foundation

- *sc in next stitch*
- skip 2 stitches
- **5 dc in next stitch (shell)**
- skip 2 stitches

Repeat from * all the way around

Join with sl st

👉 What to watch:

- Shells should be evenly spaced
- Do NOT skip too many or too few stitches

Row 2

- Slip stitch into first shell space if needed
- Work:
 - **sc into center of shell below**
 - then create a shell in the space between shells

👉 Pattern builds like “stacked fans”

Key Rule for All Rows

- Each shell sits above a **single crochet from previous row**
- Each sc goes between shells

Continue Pattern

Repeat rows until height reaches:

 **10 inches (25 cm)**

Visual Tip

Think of the pattern like this:

- Shell = fan
- sc = anchor

You are building:

fan → anchor → fan → anchor

Common Mistakes

- Misplacing shells → causes pattern shift
- Skipping wrong number of stitches
- Uneven tension → lace looks messy

👉 Fix early if something looks off!

Step 4: Color Changes (Optional but Clean)

At end of a round:

1. Finish with **sl st**
2. Cut yarn (optional)
3. Attach new yarn with sl st
4. **ch 1** to begin next round

👉 Keeps joins neat and invisible



Step 5: Making the Handles (Very Detailed)

Make 2 handles

Step 5A: Create Base Chain

- Chain about **40–50 stitches** (or desired handle length)

👉 Test length by holding it like a bag handle

Step 5B: Build Thickness

- Work **tight single crochet across chain**
- Then rotate and crochet around the chain

👉 You are creating a **cord**, not a flat strap

Step 5C: Reinforce

- Work additional sc rounds over the cord

Goal:

- Thick
- Firm
- Slightly rounded



Tip

If handle feels floppy:

- Add another round of sc
- Use tighter tension



Step 6: Attaching the Handles

1. Position handles evenly on bag opening
2. Use stitch markers to hold in place
3. Sew using yarn + tapestry needle

👉 Sew through:

- handle ends
- top edge of bag

Repeat multiple passes for strength

Reinforcement Tip

- Go over stitches **2–3 times**
- This prevents tearing under weight

Step 7: Flower Appliqué (Optional but Beautiful)

Create Flower

1. Make a magic ring
2. Work:
 - chains + dc clusters to form petals
3. Add second layer behind first for fullness

Attach Flower

- Sew near handle area
- Secure tightly

👉 Adds decorative, handmade touch

Step 8: Final Finishing

- Weave in all loose ends
- Trim excess yarn
- Optional:
 - Add fabric lining
 - Light steam block (if cotton)

Final Size

- Width: **12 in (30 cm)**
- Height: **10 in (25 cm)**

Pro Tips for Best Results

- ✓ Use stitch markers for shell placement
- ✓ Count stitches every round
- ✓ Keep consistent tension
- ✓ Use cotton yarn for structure
- ✓ Fix mistakes early