Shells Bag

(I can read charts)

Designed by Maggie Bullock ©

Welcome to my little corner of crochet heaven. I love crocheting bags and I'm thrilled to share with you my first Crochet Bag Pattern. I think some people fondly call me the bag lady. Yep, that's me alright.

Another oddity I have is I love working with Crochet Charts. Those who completed the "I can read charts CAL-Tutorial", which can be found here http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/i-can-read-charts-cal---

will be familiar with my style of pattern writing.

I'm not intending this pattern to be a tutorial as such, though I'm hoping you will find reading charts much easier after completing this bag.

Ok let's get started.

Supplies you will need:

Yarn, crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors and stitch markers (scrap of yarn or paper clips make great stitch markers)

If you intend to line your bag, you will also need fabric for the lining, sewing machine, thread and sewing needle.

For the bag I used Bendigo Classic 8 ply, in five colours,

Mallard, Cranberry, Guava, Pumpkin and Maize. Here is a link to Bendigo Woollen Mills.

http://www.bendigowoollenmills.com.au/Product/tabid/55/2328/2328/190712/CLASSIC-/Default.aspx

As an educated guess, I'll say 6 balls of 50 gm wool will be needed.

4 balls of different colour, two balls of your main colour.

If you want your bag to be sturdy and last, I recommend using a good quality wool.

I used my G 4 mm Soft Touch Clover Hook.

Gauge is not important for this pattern. Though if you crochet loosely, I recommend going down a hook size. This will make for a better finished bag.

Ta Da

49 ch, plus 3 — row 1, row 1a, row 2, row 3
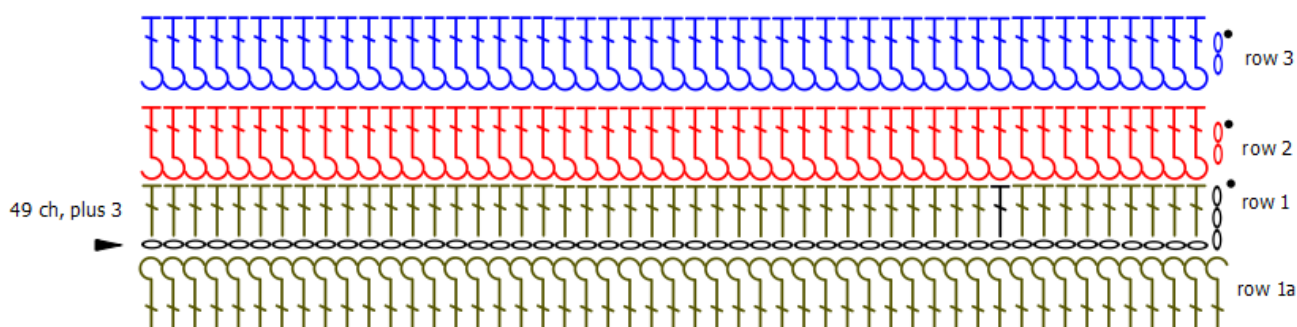
Just kidding.

Don't run off screaming yet.

The pattern won't look like this. The charts will be broken up in segments, with lots of helpful hints on reading the chart, with the written pattern included. Mostly only the repeats of the rows in the pattern will be shown in chart form. With the written pattern for guidance. In each row the symbols are shown in different colours. This for easy reading of the chart, not an indication of the yarn colour. Though I do try to match the colour with the yarn I'm using, as it helps identify each row, for future refernence.

Why don't I just present a written pattern you asked. Well let me tell you a little secret. I'm not much good at following a written pattern. Don't get me wrong, I can crochet quite well from a written pattern these days. However, I do tend to translate written patterns to charts for ease of following. So by the time you have made your bag, and you have worked from the chart, using the written pattern only as a guide as needed, you hopefully should not be fazed by charts in the future.
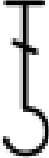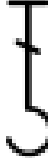
I have used US terminology in the pattern, for those aussies who find this difficult, I appologise. HoweverI have included a conversion from US to UK in the Chart Legend.

(If you are ok with reading charts and you don't need the wordy bits, Scroll to the end for the complete chart).

So come on, jump in and join the hooky fun.

Lets make a bag.

Legend of Chart Symbols

US		UK	
⬭	ch (chain)	⬭	ch (chain)
+	sc (single crochet)	+	dc (double crochet)
•	sl st (slip stitch)	•	sl st (slipstitch)
⊤	dc (double crochet)	⊤	tr (treble crochet)
	FPdc (Front Post double crochet)		FPtr (Front Post treble crochet)
	BPdc (Back Post double crochet)		BPtr (Back Post treble crochet)
	FPsc (Front Post single crochet)		FPdc (Front Post double crochet)
	5 dc popcorn (5 double crochet popcorn)		5 tr popcorn (5 treble popcorn)
	Shell (3dc, ch, 3dc)		Shell (3tr, ch, 3tr)
	v st (dc, ch, dc, ch, dc, ch, dc)		v st (tr, ch, tr, ch, tr, ch, tr)

You may want to print this page for easy reference.

The Legend has the symbols in US and UK that are used in this pattern.

Only 10 symbols, that's right, only 10.

Crochet and Craft with Maggie fb

The bag is worked in the round, from the bottom up in one piece. No nasty sides to sew together.

After row 4, all rows will begin with a standing stitch and end with an invisable join unless otherwise indicated. I changed colour each round, after round 5.

Another useful hint and one I use. Go up a half size hook when doing a row of starting chains. This avoids the first round being to tight. But don't forget to change back when you begin round one.

I suggest you read through the pattern segments before you begin. If you are unfamiliar with the stitches or techniques used, here are links to fabulous turorials

The invisable join tutorial. Thanks to the designers for sharing these helpful aides

http://www.lookatwhatimade.net/crafts/yarn/crochet/crochet-tutorials/crochet-invisible-join-vs-slip-stitch-join/

The standing stitch

http://www.mooglyblog.com/standing-double-crochet-joining/

Front Post double crochet

https://www.anniescatalog.com/crochet/content.html?content_id=65

Back Post double crochet

https://www.anniescatalog.com/crochet/content.html?content_id=66

Front Post single crochet

http://www.mooglyblog.com/post-stitches-into-single-crochet/

You will find this useful if you haven't worked the crocodile stitch before. The bag pattern has an adapted version of this stitch.

http://www.mooglyblog.com/the-crocodile-stitch/#more-6835

While you're in these sites have a poke around, you may be surprised at how much help is generously offed for free.

Let's get hooking and make a bag

Round 1. As you can see, only a section of the chart displayed. Have a good look, all the instructions are there for the beginning round.
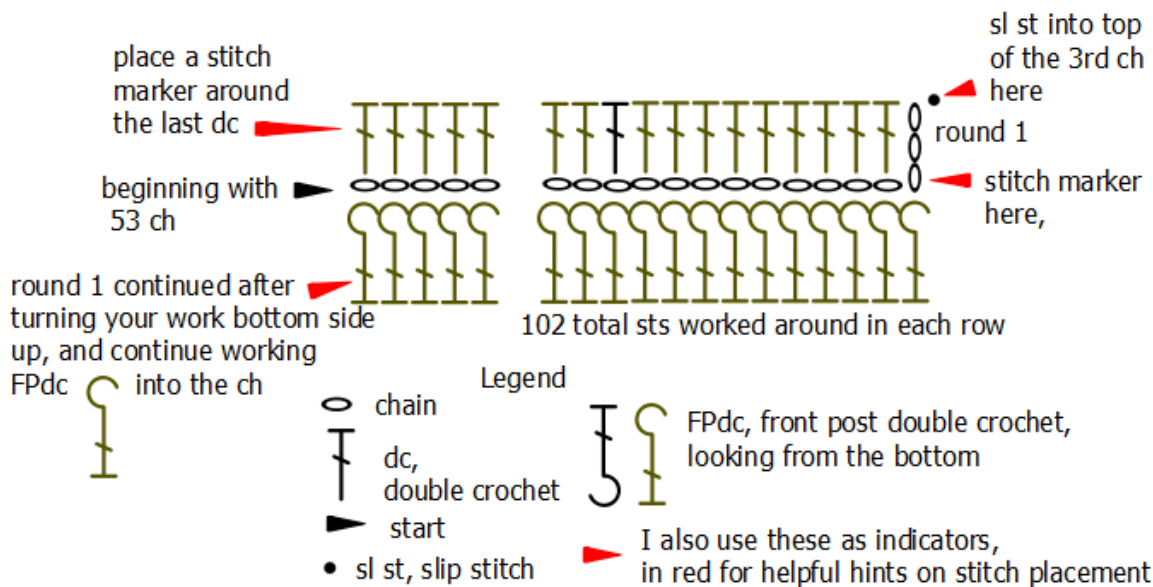
Have a go at working from the Chart, there are lots of helpful hints, including this pic.

The photo is a sample of the first round.

Helpful hints. Place a stitch marker aorund the 3rd last ch, and the 3rd turning ch (which equates to a dc) in row 1, and place one around the last dc which is worked into the beginning ch, and round the post of the first FPdc. The diagram shows where to place them. The first few rows can be a bit fiddly, using stitch markers really helps. So perservere, count your stitches, as it makes the base of the bag very strong and hardwearing.

Written pattern, or the wordy bits, as I call them.

Beginning, ch 53

Round 1.

Dc in the 4th ch from hook, dc in each ch across. 51 sts including the turning chains. Now you will be turning and working back along the row from the bottom. (These next stitches can be a bit tricky, turn your work to the side as you FPdc around the same stitch you just made. Turn again and you are to work in to the stitches that are now upside down). FPdc

in each st across. Join with a sl st to the top ot the 3rd ch at the beginning of row 1. Total 102 stitches including the 3 turning ch.

Round 2.
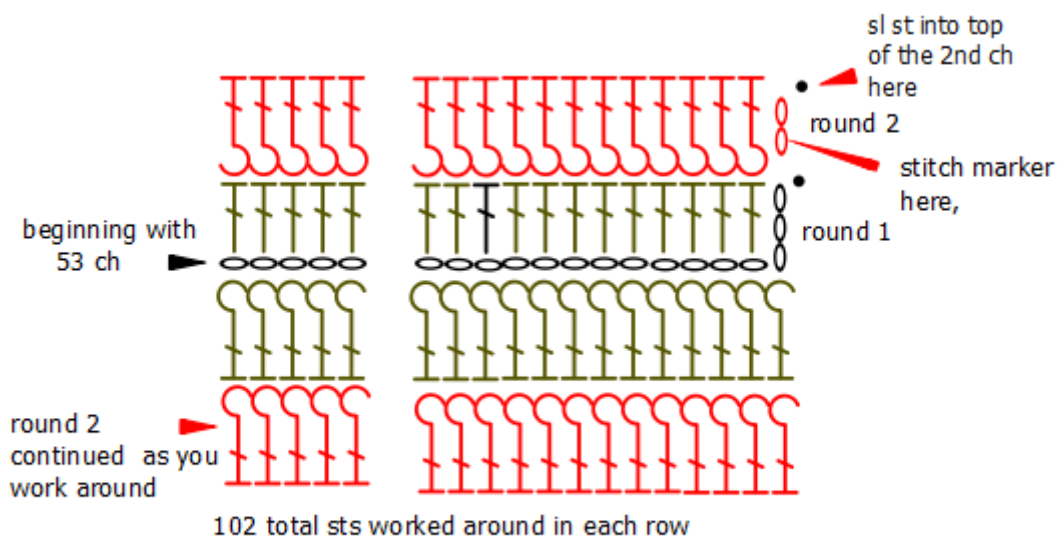
The bottom of the chart will not be displayed after this round, as you are workingin the round.

Row 2 (short sample version of pattern) front and back.

Round 2. Written Pattern

Ch 2, FPdc in next 101 sts (all the way round), sl st in top of beginning 2nd ch.

Total 101 Front Post double crochet, 2 chain.

Round 3.

Crochet and Craft with Maggie fb
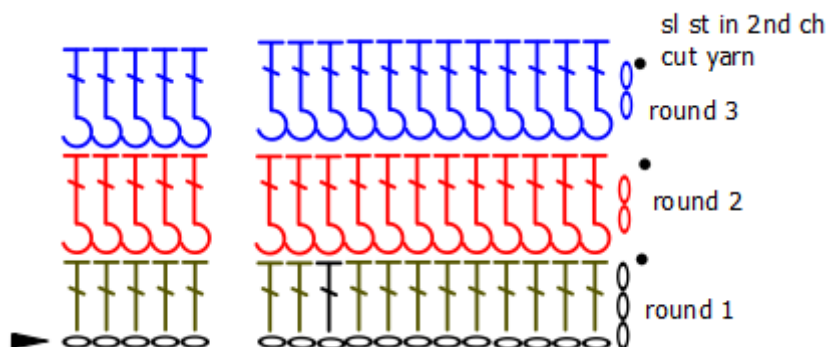
Did you notice this chart displays the rows as one row, or round. By now you are aware the pattern is worked in the round, from the bottom up. Each round ending with an invisable join and the next round begins with a new colour and a standing stitch.

Round 3. (repeat of row 2)

Ch 2, FPdc in next sts, and continue FPdc along, end with sl st in the top of the 2nd ch.

Total 101 Front Post double crochet, 2 chain.

Your work will curl, as it should. I've placed pins one end for the pic.

Round 4.
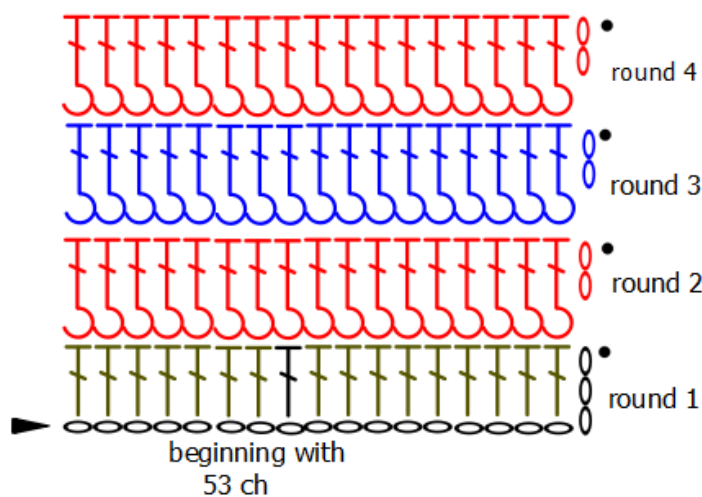
See if you can manage round 4 without looking at the written pattern.

The wordy bits.

Round 4. Written pattern

Ch 2, FPdc in nex sts, and continue FPdc along, end with an invisible join.

Total 101 Front Post double crochet, 2 chain.

Rouns 5.

this represents a sc worked into this FPdc here

this jumble of symbols represent a shell consisting of 3 dc, 1 ch, 3 dc, all worked in the same space or in this case, all worked into the FPdc that its sitting above

round 5

this 2 turning ch represents FPdc

round 4
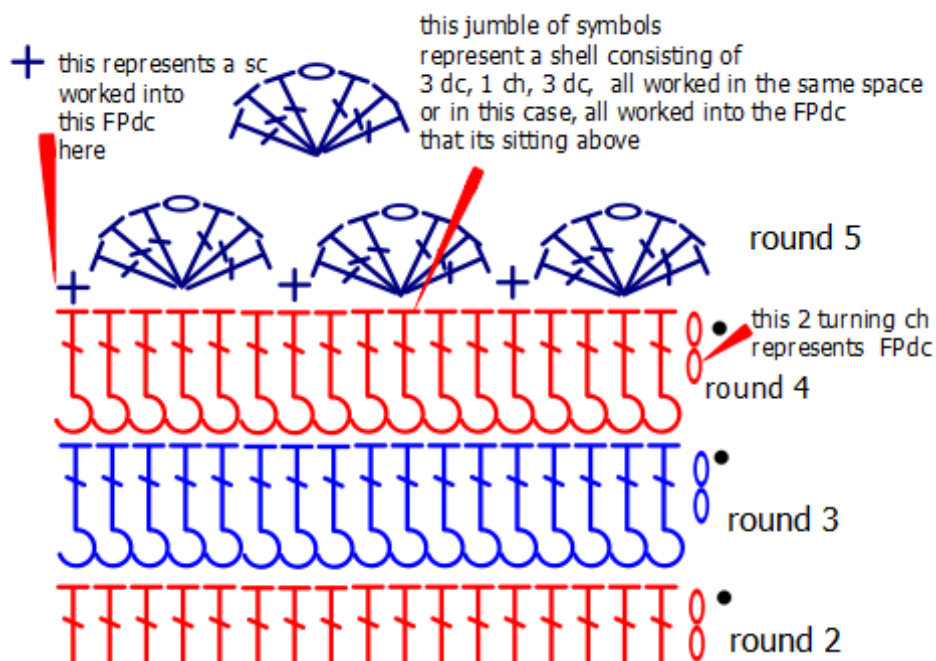
round 3

round 2

Round 5. Written pattern

Start with a standing dc in any FPdc in round 4, work (2 dc, ch, 3 dc), in the same st.

Skip 2 sts, sc in the next st, skip 2 sts (3 dc,ch,3 dc shell), in the next st.

Repeat from * to * 16 times. Skip 1 st, sc in the next st, skip 2 st, join with an invisable join in the next dc. Total 17 shell stitches, 17 sc.

Did you notice the first rounds of the chart are not shown. This is purely so the chart can fit on the page, with all the wordy bits.

Round 6

Repeat round 6, working a total of 22 rounds of shells
Total of 17 shells in each round

round 8

round 7

start here

round 6

round 5

round 4

round 3

Crochet and Craft with Maggie fb
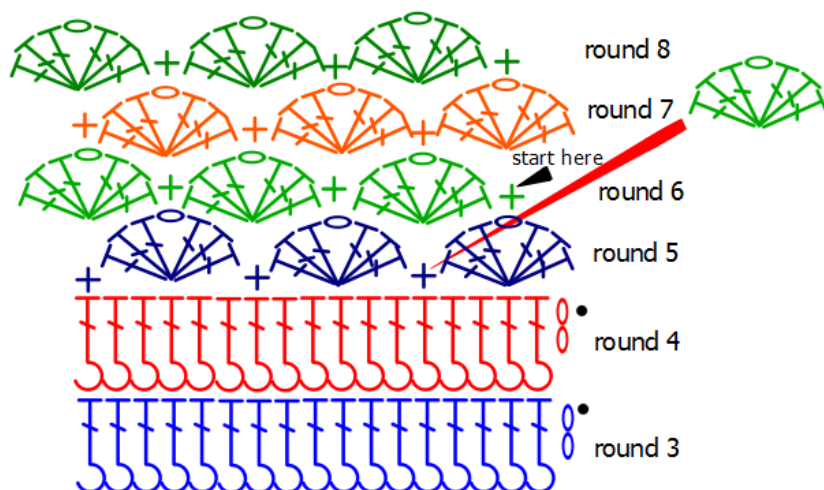
Round 6. Written pattern

Start with a standing sc in any ch space of a shell in round 5, skip 3 sts, shell (3 dc, 1 ch, 3 dc) in the next st, (which is the sc between the shells)

Skip 3 sts, sc in the next st, (which is a ch space) skip 3 sts (3 dc,ch,3 dc shell), in the next st, which is a sc

Repeat from * to * 16 times. Skip 3 sts, join with an invisable join in thenext st, (which is the starting standing sc).

Total 17 shell stitches, 17 sc.

A little tip. I usually begin a couple of repeats along after the previous round ends. This spreads out your tails for weaving in, and it makes for less messy frogging if a mistake is found in the previous round.

Round 7.

If you have a look at the chart for round 6 above, you will see that round 7 is a repeat of rocund 6.

Continue repeating round 7, 21 times. A total of 22 rounds of shells.

This shell pattern repeat gives

incredible texture.

Rouns 28
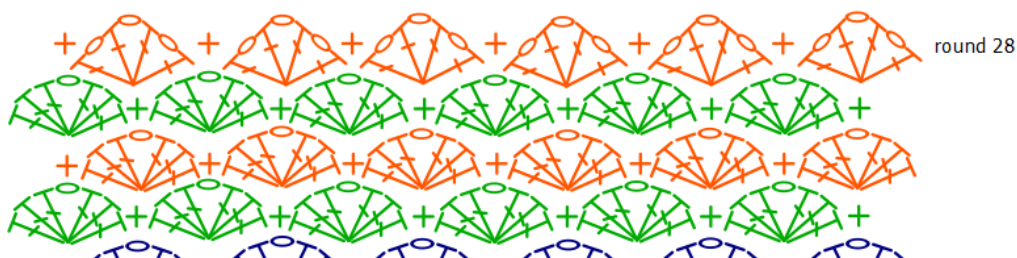
round 28

Can you work out from this chart what to do next? Remember to start with a standing stitch and end with an invisable join to the first st. You can start the v st in any sc between the shells of the previous round.

Round 28. Written pattern.

Starting with a standing dc any sc in the previous round, ch, dc, ch, dc, ch, dc all in the same sc.

skip 3 sts, v st (dc, ch, dc, ch, dc, ch, dc) in the next st, which is a sc. Skip 3 sts, sc in the ch space. Repeat from * to * 16 times. Join with an invisable join in the first dc.

Total 17 v sts, 17 sc.

Round 29.

This round is a bit tricky, and even more tricky to place in a chart. I've broken the chart down into parts.

Round 29, a version of the crocodile st

FP sl around the sc here

5 dc around the post of the dc here

5 dc around the post of dc here

round 27 sc

round 28 repeat

Crochet by numbers, the repeat for this round if you are visual this will help
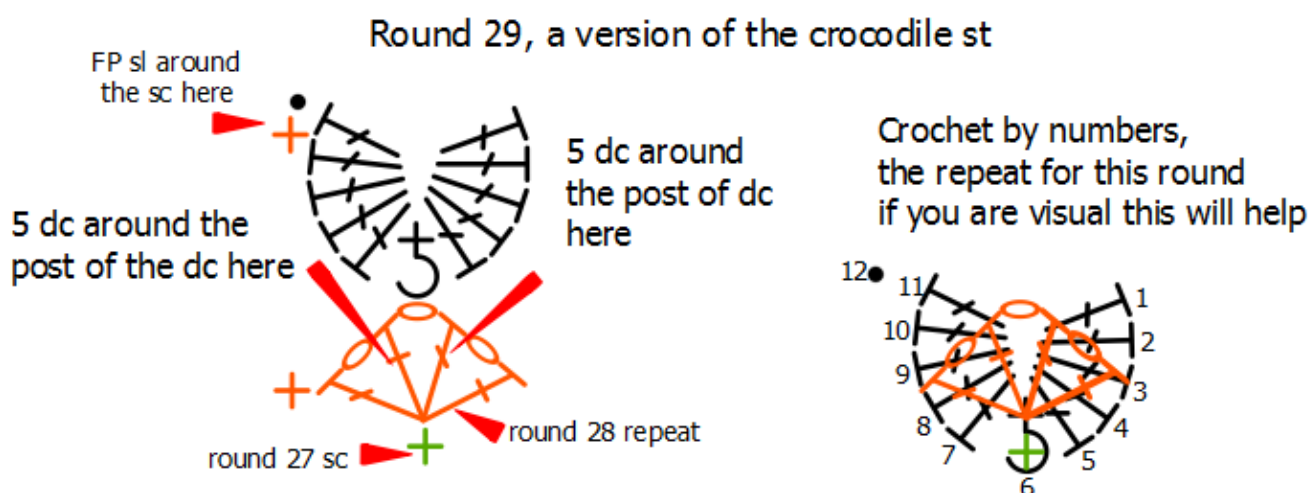
Round 29. The Chart and a pic

round 29 in black
round 28 in orange
round 27
round 26

Round 29. Written pattern.

Starting with a standing dc in the post of the 2dn dc of the repeat in round 28, work 4 more dc around the same post, FPsc around the sc in round 27, 5 dc around the post of the next dc. (It helps to turn your work onto the side to work these sts), skip a st, *FPsc st around the next sc, skip the next dc, 5 dc aorund the post of the next dc, FPsc around the sc in round 27, 5 dc around the post of the next dc, skip the next dc*.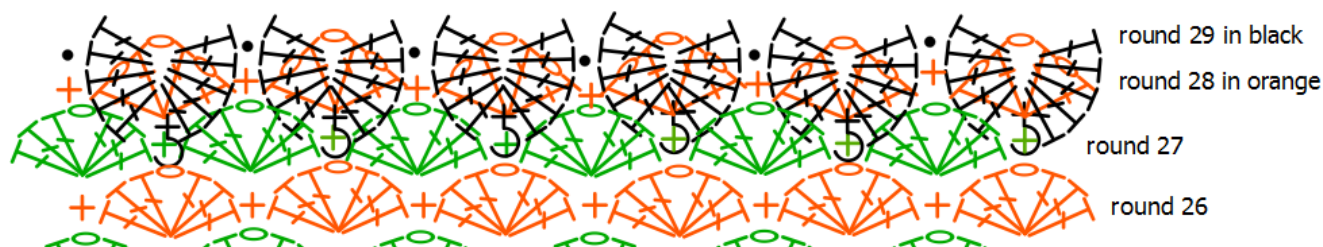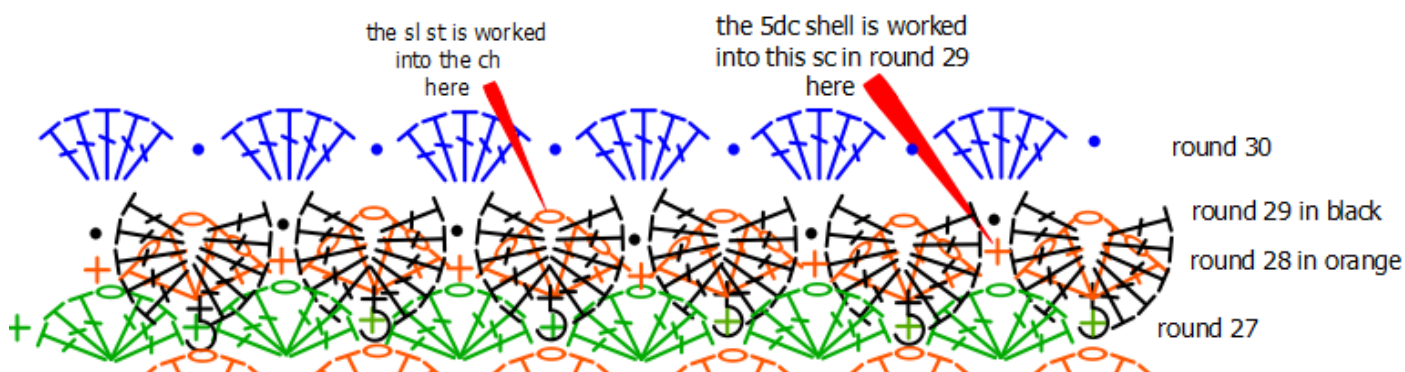 Repeat from* to * 15 times. Total 17 crocodile type repeats. 17 FPsc. I was going to appologise for this difficutl round, then thought, no, you never learn if you don't don't try.

Round 30

the sl st is worked
into the ch
here

the 5dc shell is worked
into this sc in round 29
here
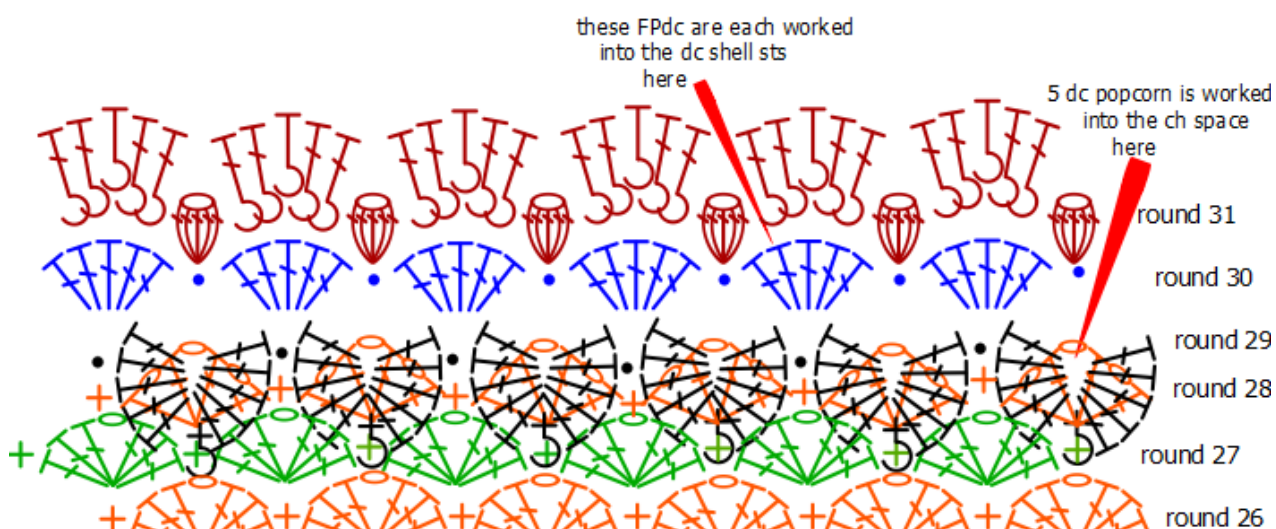
round 30
round 29 in black
round 28 in orange
round 27

Round 30. Written pattern.

Starting with a standing st, *5dc shell in the same st, which is the sc between the v sts in round 28, sl st in the ch space in the v st in round 28*. Repeat from* to* 16 times. Ending with an invisable join intothe first st. Total 17, 5 dc shells and 17 sl sts.

Round 31.

these FPdc are each worked
into the dc shell sts
here

5 dc popcorn is worked
into the ch space
here

round 31
round 30
round 29
round 28
round 27
round 26

Round 31. Written Pattern.

Starting with a standind dc, complete a * 5 dc popcorn st in the ch space of the v st in round 29, FPdc in each of the next 5 dc*. Repeat from* to * 17 times. End with an invisable join into the first Popcorn. Total 19 popcorn, 85 FPdc.

Round 32, the chart also shows the last rounds, 33 and 34

Shells Bag CAL

round 34
round 33
round 32
round 31
round 30
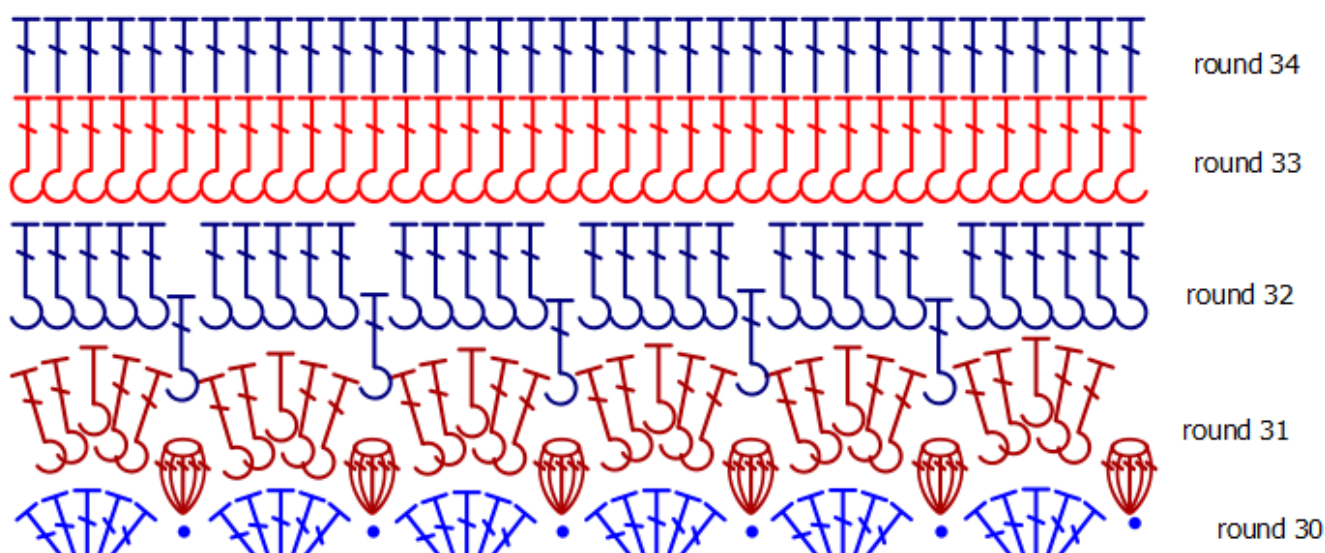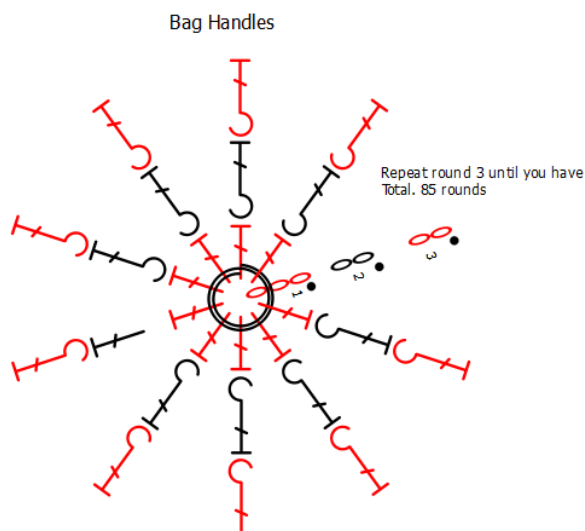
Round 32. Written pattern.

Starting with a standing FPdc, work PFdc in each st around, ending with an invisable join in the first st. Total 102 sts.

Round 33.

Starting with a standing dc in any st, dc in each st around. Total 102 sts (hopefully)

Rounds 32 ans 33 are folded inward. The linning is sewn between the fold . This gives a very tidy look to the bag.

Bag Handles. Make two.

Bag Handles

Repeat round 3 until you have
Total. 85 rounds

Written Pattern.

Rouns 1. Leave a long tail 35 cm at the beginning and end of the handles.

Starting with a magic circle, ch 3, 9 dc into the magis circle, join with a sl st into the 3rd ch.

Round 2. ch 2, FPdc in to the next 9 sts, join with a sl st into the 2nd ch.

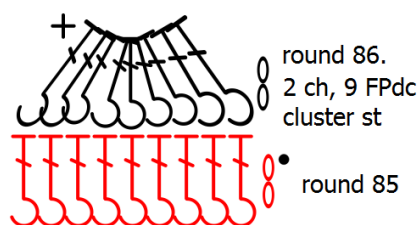**Round 3.** ch 2, FPdc in to the next 9 sts, join with a sl st into the 2nd ch.

Repeat round 3, 82 times. Total of 85 rounds. Don't cut your yarn yet, there is one last round.

Round 86. (this cluster st closely resembles the beginning dc worked into the circle.)

You wont find this cluster symbol in the legend, as it's one I made myself..

Last round of Bag Handes

round 86.
2 ch, 9 FPdc
cluster st

round 85

Round 86. Written pattern.

Ch 2, 9 FPdc cluster, (yarn over hook, insert hook into next stitch, yarn over hook, draw the yarn through the stitch, yarn over hook, draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook. 2 loops remain on the hook). Repeat from (to) 8 times. You should end up with 10 loops on your hook. Yarn over hook and draw through all 10 loops. Ch 1. pull up a long loop. Cut yarn leaving 35 cm, pull tightly closed. Your hook will need to do some acrobatsin this cluster st.

Now for the finishing touches of the bag. Linnimg, attaching handles, and a crochet flower button and button loop.

Sew the handles on very securely using your yarn talis. I placed mine 7 cm from the side. Becareful not to catch the two last rows with yout stitching.
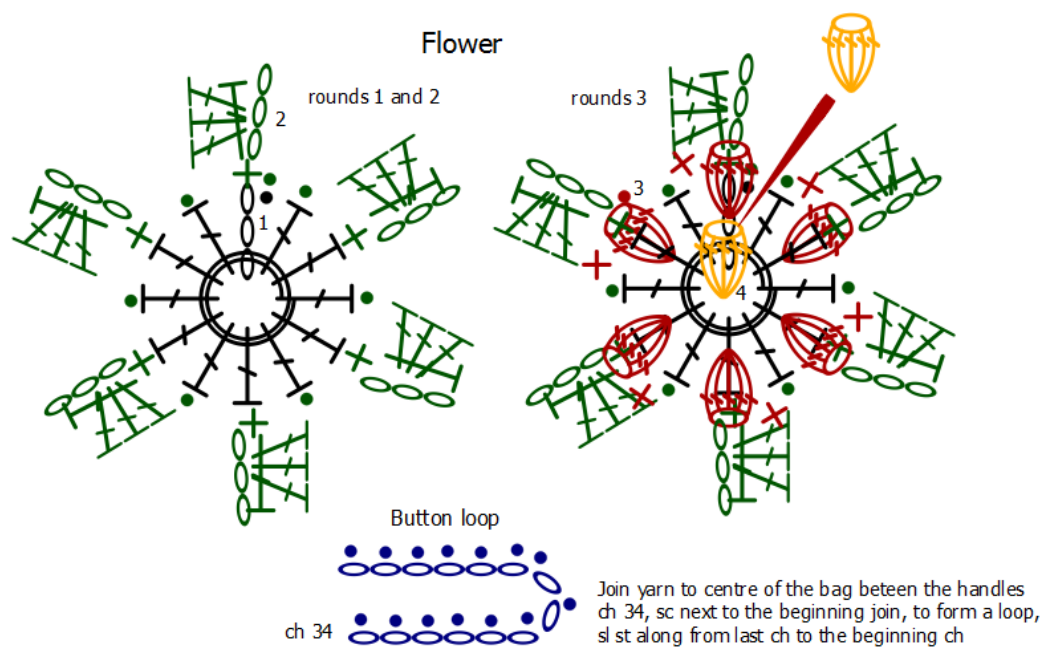

.

Now for the linning.

You will need to measure your bag. Fold your piece of fabric with the fold at the bottom. Cut the fabric to the measurements of your bag leaving a generous amount for the seam.

My finished bag measured 31 cm wide and 29 cm long. I cut a piece of fabric 40 cm wide and 65 cm long, allowing for the seams. I had to machine ziz zag the edges as the fabric had a tendancy to fray. My overlocker is still in the naughty corner, so zig zag stitch did the job well. I french seemed the sides together. Next I folded the last two rounds of crochet over sandwiching the linning between these two layers of the bag. Ensure your stitches go right through the three layers. See the pics below.

‘

Flower Button and loop.

Flower

rounds 1 and 2

2

1

rounds 3

3

4

Button loop

ch 34

Join yarn to centre of the bag beteen the handles ch 34, sc next to the beginning join, to form a loop, sl st along from last ch to the beginning ch

Here is a pic of my crochet buddy Phoebe's bag, before completion, showing a lovely colour combination.

Happy Hooking xx

The Chart Only

Shells Bag CAL

34
33
32
31
30
29 in black
28 in orange
27
26
6
5
4
3
2
1

Repeat round 6
until you have
22 rounds of shells

Beginning 53
102 total sts worked around in each round

Flower

rounds 1 and 2

rounds 3

Button loop

ch 34

Join yarn to centre of the bag beteen the handles
ch 34, sc next to the beginning join, to form a loop,
sl st along from last ch to the beginning ch

Crochet and Craft with Maggie fb