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AREQUIPA AVENTURA and CHUNKY MERINO SUPERWASH Crochet Tote



Approximate Finished Measurements: Height: 9" Circumference at the top of the bag: 20"

Materials: 1 - 100g ball Arequipa Aventura color 500 (Black) 1—100g ball Chunky Merino Superwash color 106 (Light Gray) Gauge: 14 SCs, 24 rows= 4" Hooks/Notions: Crochet hooks I-9 (5.5 mm) and J-10 (6 mm), pins for marking, 1 button (approx 1")

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Begin

With Chunky Merino Superwash and the smaller hook, CH 13.

Work a SC in 2nd CH from the hook and each CH to the end. Continue around to the other side of the CHs and work SCs into each one. (24 SCs). Slip st into the first CH and CH 1. Place a pin on this CH to mark the beginning of the round .

Round 1: Working into the back loop only, *SC in 3 SCs, 2 SCs in the next SC. Repeat from * to the end. Slip st into the first st of the last round and CH 1. Move the pin up to this CH and note that the CH 1 is not a stitch. (30 SCs)

Round 2: Continuing to work in the back loop, * SC in 4 SCs, 2 SCs in the next SC. to the last st, slip st into the first st of the last round, moving the pin.

Continue in rounds, adding 1 SC between the increases. There will be 6 additional SCs after each round. When there are 10 SCs between the increases and a total 76 SCs in the round, the base of the bag is complete. Do not cut the Chunky Merino and leave a pin here to denote the beginning of the round at the base.

Change to the Aventura and work 2 rounds of SC working the last st, then a slip st into the first SC in the round and CH 1 to begin the next round. Use another pin to denote the beginning of the rounds as you work up the bag. After the 2 rounds, change to 1 round of the Chunky Merino.

Note that the Aventura is thicker and it is more difficult to determine where to insert your hook. Make an attempt to go into the back loop but it's not necessary unless are working into the Chunky Merino where the back loop is easily identifiable. It's easy to add or subtract sts and that, again, is not a problem. (Better to have fewer sts than too many!)

Continue working 2 rounds of Aventura and 1 round of Chunky Merino three more times. Drop the Aventura beginning the third row of Chunky Merino and decrease as follows: * 3 SCs, 2 SCs in the next st. Repeat from * around. Work 2 more rows of Chunky Merino and fasten off.

Handle:

Fold the bag in half and put another pin at the base of the bag at the halfway point . Working at the beginning of the round on the base and using the smaller hook, insert the hook into the second stitch from the pin and CH 1 (counts as a SC) Work a SC int the next 4 sts. (The center st will be at the pin)

Turn and CH 1, SC in next 4 sts.

Repeat this row until handle measures 35" or desired length. The end of the handle will be sewn to the base of the bag at the opposite side where you placed the pin when you began the handle section.

Buttonhole Tab:

Find the center point on either side of the top of the bag and place a pin. With right side facing and using the smaller hook, insert it into the 3rd st to the right of the pin.

Row 1: CH 1, 6 SCs and turn.

Row 2: CH 1 , 6 SCs and turn.

Row 3: CH 1, 1 SC, CH 3, skip 3 SCs, 2 SCs. Turn.

Row 4: CH 1, SC across the row, working 3 SCs over the skipped sts. Turn.

Row 5: CH 1, Decrease in next 2 sts, 1 SC, Decrease in next 2 sts. 1 SC. Fasten off.

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