

Crocheted Cotton Mesh Vegetable Bag

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Purpose: Please bring this mesh bag with you to the market so you can avoid using plastic bags.

Supplies: Crochet hook: G/6 or similar size

Two #3 100% Mercerized Cotton Cord (150 yds x 2 = 300 yards): Ex.: Aunt Lydia's brand.

General Instructions:

Base: Chain 32 stitches + chain 3 to turn. [Vary base amount for larger or smaller bags.]

Row 1: [Beginning double crochet base of bag.] Skip first 3 stitches; double crochet into 3rd stitch from the hook and every remaining chain stitch of base; chain 2, turn.

Row 2: Double crochet into 1st hole between 2 double crochets of Row 1;
Double crochet into next and each succeeding hole between double crochets of row 1 to the end;
Double crochet into end hole (32 double crochets); chain 2, turn.

Row 3: Double crochet into first and each succeeding hole of Row 2 to the end; chain 2, turn.

Row 4: Double crochet into first and every succeeding hole of row 3 to the end; chain 3. [Do not turn fabric.] [This completes 4 rows of double crochet for base of bag.]

Row 5: [Beginning mesh at first short end of fabric.]
Double crochet into first end hole nearest hook; chain 1;
Double crochet into 2nd end hole, chain 1;
Double crochet into 3rd end hole, chain 1;
Double crochet into 4th end hole, chain 1;
Double crochet into same corner hole, chain 1.

Row 6: [First Long row of mesh.]
Double crochet into first hole between two double crochets of Row 4; chain 1;
Double crochet into 3rd hole between two double crochets of Row 4; chain 1;
Continue double crochet, chain 1 (as above) into every other hole between two double crochets of row 4.
At end of first long row of mesh, slip stitch to attach to end; chain 3.

Row 7: Continue mesh (as in Row 6) for about 20 rows (or to desired length.)

Drawstring Row: Double crochet twice into each mesh hole of previous row; turn.

Finishing Row: Single crochet twice into each hole of drawstring row; tie off end.

Drawstring: Leave about 2" tail of cord; chain stitch for about 22 inches and knot at end, leaving 2 inches of cord before cutting. With crochet hook, weave drawstring (over 2 double crochet stitches, under 2 double crochet stitches...) through the drawstring row. Double knot the beginning to the end of drawstring to form a loop; snip off excess.

You've finished the project. Congratulations! Now please remember to bring your mesh bag with you to the market. :-) Maybe you're ready to make another mesh bag for a friend or neighbor. Maybe you'd like to teach an after-school program, a scout troop or group of home schoolers how to create these and other grocery bags...to reduce our use of plastic bags.

Conservation is a cause that has no end.

There is no point at which we say

"Our work is finished."

- Rachel Carson

