
Crochet a Set of Mesh Market Bags with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Crochet a Set of Mesh Market Bags

Overview

(cheerful music) - Sometimes when you make something you wonder, am I actually going to use this thing? I guarantee that the project you're about to make is not only useful, but essential. I'm Twinkie Chan. I'm a crochet designer and author, and I'm going to teach you how to make a reusable and earth friendly mesh market bag, plus a smaller matching produce bag with a drawstring closure. Most mesh bags you see are made with the classic diamond mesh stitch, but I wanted to give you something a little bit more modern and a little bit more special. With a combination of crochet chains and treble crochet stitches, you'll be making your bag in a triangular or delta mesh stitch. The open mesh on the bag allows the bag to be stretchy and strong. Solid panels of single crochet and half double crochet will make the bottom of your bag sturdy so your carrots don't poke out. These bags are easy to wash and easy to toss into your car on the way to the grocery store, the park, or the beach, and you'll use them again and again.

Materials

- Let's go over the materials that you'll need for this class. Starting with yarn, I recommend a cotton because it's easy to wash, it's strong and it doesn't stretch quite as much as other materials like wool or acrylic. I'll be using 24/7 Cotton from Lion Brand. It's also a mercerized cotton, which means it's treated in a certain way which not only allows it to take dye more easily but also makes it extra strong. If you don't want to use this particular brand or kind I would still stick with a cotton. This is also a light worsted-weight. My favorite weight is worsted-weight. It's a medium weight, it's easy to work with. But I like that this is lighter for a bag to keep our bag lighter weight. For the market bag, you'll need three balls of this yarn. For the produce bag, you'll probably want to grab one extra ball. You'll need a G or four millimeter crochet hook, a small pair of scissors, a measuring tape or a ruler, a yarn or tapestry needle, stitch markers. You'll just need four for this project. And if you make the produce bag, a wooden bead for the draw string. This one has a three eighth inch hole in the center and don't forget to print out your PDF pattern.

Market Bag

Bag base

- Our mesh bag is constructed from the bottom up, so we'll begin by giving it a rectangular base. Grab your yarn and your crochet hook. And we'll start with a slip knot on the crochet hook. However you work a slip knot is fine. And the pattern begins with a chain 16. To chain, yarn over, and pull through the loop that's on your hook. And that's one chain. Keep chaining 16 times. That's two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. This rectangle is worked in rows. So to start row one, we'll skip the very first chain from the hook and work a single crochet stitch into the next chain. For a single crochet, insert your hook into that chain. Yarn over, and pull through the first loop. Yarn over, and pull through both loops. That's one single crochet. You're going to single crochet once in each chain all the way down. Insert your hook into the next chain, yarn over, pull through one loop. Yarn over and pull through both loops. When a pattern says to

work evenly, that means you're not increasing or decreasing. You're working one stitch in each stitch down the line. At the end of row one, you should have 15 single crochets all the way across. If you're a beginner, I would recommend counting your stitches just to make sure you didn't accidentally increase or decrease. To start row two, chain one and turn your project. And you'll be working these stitches into the tops of the single crochets you just made. A single crochet here. And again, working evenly. One single crochet into the top of each single crochet from the previous row. After row two, you will also still have 15 stitches across. Rows two through 60 are exactly the same. You're just going to work your single crochets evenly. And then at the end of a row, you'll chain one and turn. And just keep going. This is creating the width of our bag. This is a good moment to put on your favorite show or listen to a podcast because it's very repetitive and super easy and meditative and you don't really have to think while you're doing it. Here's my completed bottom. Yours will be longer. Yours will be 60 rows across, which would be about 13 and a half inches. But just to show you the techniques, from now on, my piece will be smaller than yours, so just keep that in mind. Our next step is to work a row of single crochet around our rectangle as we start to create the height of our bag. This is all still in single crochet. So for this round one, chain one and turn and single crochet evenly across this short edge. Yours will be 15 single crochets across. And remember that mine is just a little bit shorter for this demonstration. One single crochet in each stitch for your stitch count of 15. You'll now keep working along this long edge. And sometimes patterns don't indicate how to do that. If you're looking at this edge and you're going, "I don't really know where to put my hook." This becomes intuitive. You'll get more comfortable with it as you crochet more, but I'll try to show you the points where I stick in my hook when I'm working on the edge of single crochet rows. So let me grab me tapestry needle and try to point out what's happening here. This is the row that we just crocheted, so don't think about that one. We're looking at just the rows from our first 60 rows. So here's the first one we're looking at. Here's the second one. You can see in the second one, I have a really nice spot to stick in my hook. The first one, this would be really tight right here. So what I do is I just work another single crochet into the same stitch I just worked. That's the second single crochet and that same stitch. And then I can move on to this row, where there's a really easy spot. That's my second stitch. Continuing on, I find it's really easy to stick my hook into this space here. And then here's that really easy spot on the side of this row. And then this hole right here, and then this really easy spot here. It's kind of hard to like verbalize what these are called just 'cause they're in the sides of these rows. But in here, this is the set inside this V of this single crochet stitch. And then there's a space right beneath it. So alternate between those two things, the V, right in the middle of the V, and then into the space beneath it. If you have other spots you like to place your hook that are comfy and make sure that your numbers work out correctly, then you can do what is comfortable for you. But hopefully, showing that is a little bit helpful as you figure this out. So since you have 60 rows that you need to work along the edge of, you should have 60 single crochets all the way down your piece. Remember to keep in mind, my sample is not 60 rows. Yours will be much longer. Here's my last single crochet of this edge. I'll turn my piece and I'll work on this short edge again. This is the bottom of your initial foundation chain. And yours should be 15 stitches evenly across. It's okay if these corners start curling up a bit, that's what they're supposed to do. So don't worry if this is not laying perfectly flat. Now, work across this long edge again. Yours, one more time, will be 60 single crochets all the way across. And this side will look a little bit different than the other side but basically, you'll be looking for the same spots. Here's sort of my space below a stitch that's easy for me to see and get my hook into. And this doesn't really look like a V anymore, but from the side, it sort of does. So there's this spot. Here's the side of my V.

Here's this spot. Here's the side of my V. This spot. Here's the side of my V. I know if you're a beginner, this is gonna look really crazy. But again, just try to mimic the spacing of your single crochet stitches when you're working in regular rows and your numbers should work out okay. We are back where we started at the beginning of the round and I would double-check and count all your stitches before finishing. You should have 15 across the short edge. Again, 60 down the long edge, 15 along the short edge, and 60 down the last long edge. And to complete the round, we will be joining our rounds, which means you slip stitch into the first stitch of the round. So stick your hook into that first single crochet and the slip stitches yarn over and pull through all the loops on your hook. And then the round one is complete. The beginning of round two, you start with chain two. One, two. You need two turning chains because our half double crochet stitch is a little bit taller. To begin, half double crochet, yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, pull through the first loop, yarn over, and pull through all three loops. Once again, this round, round two is just working half double crochets evenly all the way around. When you've half double crocheted all the way around and you're back at the beginning, you're gonna join the round again with a slip stitch. So insert your hook into the top of the first half double crochet, yarn over, and pull through all the loops. This is your round two finished. Rounds three through eight are the exact same as round two. Just chain two, turn, and half double crochet some more evenly all the way around. After round eight, your project will look something like this. Again, yours will be bigger, but you'll have your flat single crochet rectangular bottom and our half double crochet rows are starting to create the body working upward. And the next step is to start our mesh.

Mesh body

- The delta mesh is the star of this bag. It's beautiful but it can be a little bit dizzying to look at and figure out which stitch is doing what. So let's go to some paper and pencil and I'll kind of break down what the stitches are doing. This black line will represent the half double crochet round we just completed. This red I'll put here red equals tr, treble crochet. A very tall stitch. The treble crochets will be worked in these V's. And the tops and bottoms of the triangles are worked in chains. These little squiggly ovals represent four chains that are across each triangle. There are more treble crochets, there are more chains. The chain four and the treble crochet can look very similar to each other. Which makes our mesh look beautiful but you can also get a little confused about what is actually doing what. So, just remember that your treble crochets are making all of your diagonal zigzag lines and your chain stitches are creating all of your horizontal lines. Except for our beginning chain. Our beginning chain of each round will count as our first treble crochet. So let's start at that point. To begin round nine let's chain four. One, two, three, four. This is counting as the first treble crochet as I mentioned. We're gonna skip four stitches one, two, three, four. And I'll hold my fingers into this fifth spot here because that's where we're going to work our next sequence of stitches. For treble crochet, yarn over two times. And so you hook into that fifth stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Yarn over and pull through the first two. Yarn over and pull through two again and yarn over and pull through two again. In this same stitch work another chain four. One, two, three, four. And another treble crochet in the same spot. Two yarn overs and so you hook yarn over pull through one, yarn over pull through two. Yarn over pull through two, yarn over and pull through two again. See our triangle forming here. With our two treble crochets making this V and the chain four forming the top of the triangle. So this is the sequence you're going to repeat all the way around the bag. Skip four one, two, three, four. Hold your fingers into that fifth spot. Work treble crochet. Chain four and treble crochet again. Once again skip four one, two, three, four. Put your finger in that fifth

stitch, treble crochet. Chain four, treble crochet again. Continue all the way around until you get back to the beginning. One thing you might find is happening is the treble crochet that you previously worked might start curling and getting confusing. You can either use your dominant hand to hold on to the loops that are on your hook, which can be helpful. Or you can also use your non-dominant hand to pull the stitch downward. I noticed that I kind of do a combination of both while I'm crocheting very quickly. That's just helping you break down what my hands are doing. You might find that one technique is more helpful than the other or easier to execute than the other so you can play around with those. Also since this cotton is mercerized, it's really smooth and slippery which I really like. I think it makes the crocheting go really quickly. However, if you're finding it's too slippery and you can't hold onto your stitches, you might try wrapping the yarn around the finger that you feed your yarn through twice. That can give you a little bit more tension if that's helpful. For me that's usually too much tension so I stick with just one wrap, but you can play with that and see what's helpful to you. Oops, okay this is great. I was hoping I would make a mistake because I do this quite a bit and you might as well. It can be confusing especially if you're doing this while you're watching TV. You might skip some of your chain fours or you might do an extra chain four where you're not supposed to. And you can see here I have two triangles next to each other that are both upright. Whereas if we're doing the pattern correctly, you alternate a right side up triangle with an upside down triangle. So if you notice that's happening, you're gonna need to backtrack a little bit and figure out what went wrong. I can see what happened here is in this stitch you can see that I only have one treble crochet coming up, whereas I should have two forming that bottom point of the triangle. So I need to take out that first treble crochet here and you chain four. And work that second treble crochet. It's really important to fix mistakes like that because it can mess up your stitch count, which can mess up the shape of your bag and also you'll get really confused when you get to that spot later you won't know where to work your next real stitches. I am at the beginning of my row here or the beginning of my round. So I'll work my treble crochet here into this stitch which is basically the slip stitch from two rounds before. Chain four and slip stitch to the top of this first treble crochet. You might want to start using the stitch markers here. I don't because I'm familiar with what the mesh looks like but as you build more rounds this is going to look more and more confusing. So I like to put a stitch marker in my final slip stitch, so I know where the end of this round is. And as I start the next round, I'll show you where I put another stitch marker. So we're starting round 10. Start with a chain four again. One, two, three, four that counts as our first treble crochet. And you'll work your next actual treble crochet into the top of the next triangle. These triangles have two stitches at the top for each treble crochet. You wanna work into the second one that will make your mesh look more centered if you work into the first one, it's gonna look slightly askew. The treble crochet goes into the second treble crochet of this triangle point. In your chain four and you work a treble crochet into the same stitch. I'm gonna pause for a moment to put another stitch marker into the top of this first treble crochet. This is gonna help me know where to put my stitches as I come toward the end of the round. That will become more clear once they get there but this is just to help future you and future you will be very thankful to past you for doing this. Let's continue our sequence. It's very similar to the previous round. Instead of counting and skipping four stitches, you're simply hopping over to the next triangle point. And remember it's not the first stitch it's the second stitch of the triangle. Treble crochet, chain four, treble crochet in the same stitch. Hop over to the next triangle, treble crochet in that second stitch. Chain four, treble crochet in the same stitch. You can see this beautiful pattern forming. It's these triangles that are also making these hexagons. That's one of my favorites I think it's super cool. So you keep working

your sequence all the way around once again. Back in our markers now I know exactly where I need to place last treble crochet of round 10. I'll remove the stitch marker, work my treble crochet where that marker was. Chain four, and now I know exactly where to put my final slip stitch right, where that pink stitch marker is. It's the top of the first treble crochet of the round. Up through rounds 20 you're just going to keep repeating round 10 over and over again. And I just wanted to point out that don't be alarmed if the ends of your rounds start traveling toward the left, that's the nature of the pattern. You can see here this is the first chain four around nine, this is the first chain four around 10. So your seam which will be invisible will keep traveling diagonally upward in toward the left and don't worry about that, that's totally normal. And I would also suggest to check all your triangles after each round. Cause it really stinks if you have to undo a bunch of work when you find a mistake later. So make sure that all your V's have two legs and not one and not three. And that all your hexagons have six spokes coming out of the center. Sometimes I might find a stray rectangle in here because I did an extra chain four. So just check your work and continue through round 20.

Top band and handles

- Your bag is starting to look like an actual bag. The next step is to create the handles for the top. But before we do that, I wanted to show you, if you've made some mistakes, maybe what those look like and what happened with them. You can see here that sometimes the mistakes are really hard to parse out, and you need to be really vigilant. This looks pretty normal, it looks pretty good, but if you count the spokes, they are actually seven, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. That's one extra. So for here, I would need to take out my stitches and I have one extra set here of chain four in treble crochet. So you would just need to pull those out and then continue with your next treble crochet in the next spot. Another mistake I have here, let's see, oh, this is the one that I made before. You can see that this hexagon only has five spokes coming out of it because I left out a chain four in treble crochet. I have to come back to this spot, where there's only one treble crochet coming out from the top here, and add a new chain four in treble crochet back into the same spot. Another type of mistake I sometimes make is this rectangle, which does not belong in our triangle mesh. What happened here was I crocheted my last treble crochet of that sequence, and I accidentally chained four before beginning the new one, which we don't do. So you'd need to go back. Take out that extra chain four, and start the treble crochet at the top of the next triangle. I'm going to finish my last round, for you, that will be round 20. And that amount of mesh rounds should give you about 10 inches of mesh. And for me, that's a pretty good height for the bag, and you have to keep in mind that this mesh is stretchy, so once you start using it and putting stuff in it, it'll probably end up looking longer than you think. So you can totally decide how tall you want your bag to be, that's up to you, but keep in mind, there will be some stretch. I actually made my bag the first time, a little too tall, and when I started wearing it around, I thought it looked kind of weird. So round 20 for me was the sweet spot. Back, at the beginning here, we'll chain four and join. I'm going to break off my yarn here. Clip that with scissors, yarn over, and pull through the loop to create, it's own little knot. I wanna start round 21 on the side of my bag. So what I do is I flip the bag so I can see the bottom, and know that I'm finding the exact side of the bag. It doesn't matter which side, you can just pick one. And I pick the side because there will be a visible seam between my next few rounds, and I don't want that seam to be in the middle of my bag, I wanna kind of hide it on the side here. So just pick one side at the top here, and join at the top of an upright triangle. I'm gonna stick my hook in here again in the second treble crochet of this triangle, and rejoin this yarn. I put a slip knot on my hook, and then pull through. And to start this new round, round 21, chain one, work a single crochet

into that same stitch. We're essentially working a round of single crochet evenly to create a band that will be the foundation of our straps. So I have this first single crochet in this first stitch here, and in every chain four space, we'll work four single crochets. So don't work in each individual chain, you could, but I think it's easier to just dive under the whole chain into this space in single crochet. So that's one, two, three, four. When you get to the next V, skip that first treble crochet, like we have been this whole time, and work single crochet into that second treble crochet. Again, four single crochets into this next chain four space. Two, three, and four. One single crochet into the top of the triangle. Keep doing that all the way around. This is my chain four space of the round, so I'll work those four single crochets, and then you slip stitch to the top of the first single crochet to join. For the next four rounds, you're just chaining one, turning your project and single crocheting similar evenly around. This will give you five rounds of a single crochet that'll be nice and strong for the top of the bag. I'm at round 25 here, but it looks like I'm running out of yarn, so I'll show you how I join a new ball slightly different than how we rejoined onto our project before. You're not gonna break off. You wanna keep your stitch on your hook, and it's good practice to join a new yarn on the last pull through of a stitch. So here I have half of a single crochet ready for the last pull through, bring in your new yarn, and you can either just pull this right through, but I like to put a slip knot on the end of my hook, just to secure it and then pull that through. And you can tug on your old piece of yarn just to make sure that stitch is nice and neat. And you can continue on your way. As always, at the end of the round, the slip stitch to the first stitch to join. For these last five rounds of single crochet, it can sometimes be hard to see where the beginning or the end of a round is like, this looks like I might keep going just along the top of the round, I'm not supposed to. So if you want, you can always use a stitch marker and slip it in the first stitches of your rounds. Just when you come all the way back, you'll be able to see where to stop. I'll pull my hook out just to show you what this looks like right now. Look how cute, obviously, again, yours is gonna be bigger, but these five rounds of single crochet provided a nice band up here on top, and now we're going to create the straps or the handles. You don't really need to count stitches or anything for the placement of the handles here, I eyeball it and also use a ruler or a measuring tape. Definitely make sure that your bag is centered and flat so that your handles will also be centered. And measure the top of your bag. Mine is nine inches, yours will be bigger, yours will probably be about 17 inches. What you wanna do is find the center. So for me, that's at four and a half, and I'll put a stitch marker there just to keep my place. And for you, you'd want your handles to be about six to seven inches apart. For me, that's almost my whole bag, so I'm gonna make that a little shorter on mine. See, let's see what we like the look of, I might make mine three inches apart. Does that look about...? Eh, let's do four. And place another stitch marker at the end of my four-inch marks. So here's one on this side, and then one on the other side at four inches. Again, yours should be about six or seven. You wanna double check that this is centered. Measure from your outer stitch marks to the end of the bag, this is like two and a half-ish. This is two and a half. I might move this one over, so it's a little more equal. You don't need your measuring tape anymore. And then you wanna make sure that you mark the same spots as these white markers on the other side of your bag as well. We don't need this center one anymore, so I'm gonna borrow that, and mark the other side of my bag. Now we know where to start and stop as we work round 26 for the handles. Put your hook back in your project, then chain one and turn. For round 26, single crochet evenly until you hit the first stitch marker. You wanna put a slip stitch where that stitch marker is. And then you can remove it. Just to know where I put that slip stitch, I'll actually put the marker back into the stitch I just made. Now you'll create a length of chain that will become your handle or your strap. On a shoulder bag, I would chain 100, which will

give you about a 22-inch long strap. You can measure a favorite bag you have to decide how long you want yours, but a hundred for me worked well for a full-sized bag. For this one, just for the demo, I might do maybe more like 30 instead. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, oops (chuckles) and 29, 30. You wanna make sure there are no twists in your chain, which means you can see the front of the chain is this nice braid. You wanna make sure that braid has no twists or turns in it. The back of the chain looks much lumpier and bumpier, so just make sure those Vs are facing you for the full length of the chain. And skip everything here and slip stitch into your second stitch marker. You can remove that. Slip stitch one more time into the next stitch. Chain one, and turn the project. We're gonna work on this handle before continuing around the bag. For row one of the handle, you'll skip those two slip stitches you just worked, and start single crocheting evenly in each chain that you just created. There's one single crochet in that chain, your second single crochet in the next chain. So if you chain 100, you'll be working 100 single crochets evenly here. I know to stop because I have my stitch marker here. So I'm gonna pull that out, slip stitch back into that slip stitch, and then slip stitch into the next stitch. You can see our handle is slowly forming, and we're gonna give this some more width. Chain one and turn to start round two or row two of your handle. Skip the first two slip stitches, and start single crocheting evenly into your handle again. Once more, this should be a hundred single crochets for you. Rows two through five of the handle are very similar. You're skipping those first two slip stitches at the beginning of the rows, single crocheting evenly across your handle. When you get to the end, then you again, slip stitch twice evenly on the other side. You're just going to be flipping back and forth across this handle until you have five rows. At the end here again, so I'll slip stitch into the next stitch, and slip stitch again into the next stitch on the bag. Chain one, turn. This is row three of the handle, skip the first two slip stitches, and then single crochet evenly. There are my two slip stitches, chain one and turn, skip two, single crochet evenly. This is row four of the handle. All right, two slip stitches, one, two, chain one and turn, and this is row five, and the last row of our handle. Skip two slip stitches, single crochet evenly. I'm at the end of row five, and you'll slip stitch just into one stitch this time. Chain one and turn. This row is all slip stitches instead of single crochets. The smaller stitch helps keep the handle more taut. So skip that slip stitch and then slip stitch into the next stitch. Keep slip stitching evenly across your handle. You don't have to slip stitch super tightly because that will warp the shape of the handle, you just want them nice, even, and uniform. At the end of row six, slip stitch into the next stitch on the bag, and then single crochet evenly to your next stitch marker. In your pattern, there will be a section in orange brackets, which represented how we made the first handle, and you'll just repeat everything inside the orange brackets to create the second handle. So you'll start chaining again, 100. When you've finished your second handle, continue to single crochet evenly to the end of the round, and then slip stitch to the first single crochet to join. You can break off, and you're almost finished. The last thing we have to do is clean up these ends that are sticking out when we have them all in. If you haven't done that before, I'll show you one. Grab your tapestry needle, thread the yarn tail through. What you wanna do is weave your needle through the inside of a row of stitches, maybe like four or five stitches. You wanna make sure that this yarn tail doesn't show on the front or on the back, so if you wanna take a peek in here. You can tell that your needle is running through the center of the stitch because you won't be able to see it on either side, and that means you won't be able to see the yarn on either side either. Don't pull too tightly because you'll warp the shape of your fabric, but you also don't want it too loose. You don't want it looping out between any of the stitches. Then weave through to the next row, and weave back in the opposite direction. This helps lock the tail in

place, so it doesn't wiggle itself out. So again going through the middle of these stitches for about four or five stitches. Don't pull too hard, and then you can snip it close. Do that with all of your remaining yarn tails. If you had to change yarn in the middle of your mesh, it can look a little bit trickier to even the tails but I would concentrate on weaving your yarn through the center of a treble crochet, and then weaving kind of back and forth in here in the center of a hexagon. My little mesh bag is finished, and yours will look something like this. Your new mesh bag is ready to go on all your adventures with you and hold all of your treasures. This is also a really fun project and pattern to play around with. You can adjust the size of the rectangle in the beginning, which would alter the size and shape of your bag. You can play with shortening the amount of mesh or lengthening the amount of mesh. You can play with even the longer handles or just short handheld handles, there are a lot of options. You can play with color, color blocking. Let's say half the bag in one color, half the bag in another. You can try dip dyeing. There are so many options here to make this bag your own.

Produce Bag

Bag and drawstring

- I really love the idea of crocheting your own produce bags, those smaller bags in the grocery store that used to be plastic, and are now sometimes compostable but the thought of zero waste is really appealing to me. This produce bag is smaller than the mesh market bag you just finished. It's basically all meshed to keep it super lightweight. And then we'll work a really simple drawstring closure for the top. Start with about an arm length of yarn. We'll use this to sew our bag closed later, and then you'll work 80 chains which will represent the circumference of our bag. Making sure there are no twists in the chain you'll slip stitch to the first chain to join. It's a long chain so you wanna mind all these little potential twists and turns. And I wanna make sure that braid, and those v's are always looking up at me. Slip stitch into the first chain now you have this ring to work around. Round one is the same as round nine of the market bag, it's the first round of mesh. You start with chain four, skip four, triple crochet or treble crochet, chain four, treble crochet in the same chain. It's that same sequence that you're very familiar with by now. Skip four, one, two, three, four, treble crochet, chain four, treble crochet. Keep going all the way around this ring. When you finished round one round two will be exactly the same as round 10 of your mash market bag. And you'll keep repeating round 10 until you have 13 rows of mesh. Remember to make sure that all your triangles are triangular. If you run into any problems with the mash just refer to the mesh section from the market bag to follow all the tips and tricks. Round 14 of the produce bag is the exact same as round 21 of the market bag, it's just a row of single crochet evenly around. The next thing we wanna do is seam up the bottom of the bag, and that's what our long tail was for. Grab your tapestry needle. And I like to make sure the bag is folded in such a way that this tail is right on the very edge like this, and then you can just do a simple whip stitch to close this opening. So remember to pass your needle through the front and the back, the two layers that make your bag. You can just do one stitch for each set of chains. If you haven't whipped stitched before you can see my yarn is wrapping around this bottom edge here, so I'm gonna stick my needle in through the front through both layers go all the way to the back, and pull through, and come back to the front, poke my needle through both layers, and pull the yarn through here. If you have other favorite ways of seaming you can certainly use those. I just feel like the whip stitch is really fast and easy, and

most stitches here will be invisible so whatever seaming technique you choose will be totally fine. At the end just tie a knot or two, and then weave in this yarn tail. There's not a lot to work with here as far as weaving in so I'm just trying to just dig my tapestry needle through those whip stitches I just sowed going one direction, and then come back in the other making sure to catch a stitch so that this stays nice and secure. To close up the top let's make a draw string. Grab your bead, you could also use a wooden button if you want but I happened to have a bead. And your draw string is just a length of chains chain pretty tightly it doesn't matter how many, but what you want is for this length of chain to equal the circumference of the bag plus an extra three or so inches on each end so you have some chain to play with to tie a knot. When choosing a bead, what's important is the size of this center hole. I'm just gonna show you that really quick before I install the draw string just so you know that you have the right bead or button. You want two lengths of chain to fit through this hole but you don't want it to be too loose otherwise it won't function as a tightener for your draw string, but you want it to be snug enough. Oops, oh-oh, just watch out for your end tails there. So you want this to be big enough to allow both chains to pass through but you want it to be pretty snug so that it'll hold all the goodies inside your bag. So that was just a test to make sure you have the right bead for your bag. Let's thread one of these tails through, you can use your fingers too but I find that the needle to me is easier, and I'll start on one edge of the bag, and just go in and out, in and out all along the top, and skipping every other triangle. Make sure that you still have one triangle in between your two strands here so that your knot and bead don't just pop right back into your bag. And then thread both tails through the bead. Make sure the tails are both going in the same direction, and that you're not beading the tail in the opposite direction as the first one. I like to make sure that these are as even as possible before I tie a knot. It's not a fancy knot it's just simple and easy. And you can see how this cute little bead will help you keep all the produce snug inside the bag. And your last step would be to just either trim these tails, you can try weaving them in it's up to you but it can be difficult to weave in through just a chain here, and it'll probably wiggle out. So now that I am talking through it I'll probably just trim them pretty close, and call it finished. You'll get a ton of mileage when you take these bags with you on the go. However they're also so beautiful that they make wonderful storage options around the house like for more yarn.