

CROCHETED POUCHES FOR ORPHANED & INJURED MARSUPIALS

These are used as outer pouches for a range of marsupials. They're just rectangles of crocheted fabric, folded in half and seamed together on the sides, leaving the top open. A sewn fabric liner will be inserted later by the rescue service, with extra fabric folded over the open top. Here's what the pouches look like finished, and in action..

Sizes can vary, as animals come in all shapes and sizes, from microbats to wombats! One service suggests the following 3 sizes for the **finished dimensions** of the pouch:

S – 6 inches square

M – 9 inches square

L – 12 inches square

Yarn should be between 4-8ply or thicker. No bumpy yarn or yarn with pills. It can be 100% pure wool, cotton, acrylic or synthetic. If using Wool, I would suggest superwash treated wool is best, since the pouches won't be getting handwashed.

Hooks

Whatever meets gauge. 3.5mm, 4mm, 5mm. Those are the most commonly used for WW and DK weight yarns

Instructions – Crochet a rectangle of fabric which is twice as high as it is wide.

6x12

9x18

12x24

You can use the size guide above for the suggested widths, but don't stress if your size is a bit different. Use the suggested hook size for your yarn, or a hook which will give you a firm gauge. It's important to use a closed crochet stitch and a fairly firm gauge to keep the animal warm. Single Crochet (sc) stitch has been recommended, although that can be quite stiff. Alternatively, try sc in the Back Loop Only (BLO) or Linen Stitch (sc, ch1, sk1) for a more flexible but closed fabric.

These are US terms – the Uk equivalent to sc stitch is dc (double Crochet).

Once you have your rectangle, fold it in half to make a square and then seam the two sides closed using whatever method you prefer. Weave in the ends. If you like, you can crochet a cord and thread it through stitches about 1cm below the opening, to make a drawstring, but this is entirely optional.

SOME SAMPLE CROCHET POUCH PATTERNS (UK Terms)

The following are some example patterns, suitable for beginner crocheters. You can make pouches in other sizes, using different closed stitches, different weights of yarn, different hook sizes or even using colourwork techniques. Just please remember to use a closed crochet stitch, and not to use an open stitch like double or trebles

POUCH 1 – Single CROCHET – Small (6 in)

- 1 x 50g (approx. 134m total) dk or ww yarn
- 3.5mm hook or hook that meets gauge
- Darning needle
- Scissors

Row 1: Chain 38, then turn.

Row 2: Ch1 (for the turning chain), sc 38, working into the back bumps of the foundation chain stitches. Turn.

Row 3: Ch1 (for the turning chain), sc 38. Turn

Row 4 onwards: Repeat Row 3 until your piece is twice as high as it is wide. Fasten off.

Fold your piece in half so that it becomes a square. Seam both sides, leaving the top open. Try seaming with a crochet sc stitch worked through the front loop of the edge nearest you and the back loop of the edge farthest away.

Fasten off and weave in all the ends.



POUCH 2 – LINEN STITCH – Medium (9 in)

- 2 x 50g (Approx 160m total) Dk or WW yarn
- 4mm hook or hook that meets gauge
- Darning needle
- Scissors

Row 1: Chain 49, then turn.

Row 2: Ch1 (turning chain), 49 sc, working stitches into back bumps of the foundation chain.

Row 3: Ch1 (turning chain), then (sc1, ch1, sk 1) to last stitch, sc1.

Row 4: Ch1 (turning chain), then sc1 in the first stitch. Work (sc1, ch1, sk 1) - working the sc stitches into the ch1 spaces of the row below - to the last ch1 space. Work 2sc. Turn.

Row 5 onwards: Repeat last two rows - working the sc stitches into the ch1 spaces below, except for the first and last stitch of every row, which will always be sc stitches worked into sc stitches - until piece is almost 18 in high.

Last Row: Work one row of straight sc.

Seam the sides using a crochet sc seam (as per Pouch 1). Fasten off and weave in the ends.

Note: Makes a stretchy, drapery fabric which is still solid. Plus, you can use all those lovely variegated, stripey and speckled yarns! In the sample, I used a variegated yarn for one side, and a plain yarn for the other, by simply changing yarns halfway through



POUCH 3 – DOUBLE CROCHET (BACK LOOP ONLY) – Large (12 in)

- 3 x 50g (Approx 240m total) Dk or WW yarn
- 4.5mm (7) hook or hook that meets gauge
- Darning needle
- Scissors

Special Stitch: scBLO = double crochet, working the dc into the back loop only of the stitch below, (instead of both loops as you normally would).

Row 1: Chain 55, then turn.

Row 2: Ch1 (for the turning chain), sc 55, working into the back bumps of the foundation chain stitches. Turn.

Row 3: Ch1 (for the turning chain), scBLO 55. Turn

Row 4 onwards: Repeat Row 3 until your piece is twice as high as it is wide. Fasten off.

Seam the sides using a crochet sc seam (as per Pouch 1). Fasten off and weave in the ends.

Note: This stitch gives a lot of vertical stretch. You could wet block it to increase the size, but the fabric won't be as stretchy and warm afterwards.

