# Turtle Tuck Market Bag

A tall, open-weave market bag that folds into its own attached turtle shell pocket. The shell stays closed and charming from the front; the storage mouth lives underneath, where the bag can tuck away.

Three moms. One thread. A little wonderland in every stitch.

12 x 18 IN OPEN

6.5 IN FOLDED

US TERMS

ADVANCED BEGINNER



OPEN / FOLDED



*Designed for errands, markets, and a satisfying little tuck-away trick.*

KNOT WONDERLAND
knotwonderland.ca

STEP 1 / SET YOUR TABLE

# Materials and finished size

Use US crochet terms and cotton or cotton-blend yarn so the bag and shell keep their shape.

## MATERIALS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bag yarn** | Worsted weight #4 cotton, cream or natural, about 350-450 yd / 320-410 m. |
| **Turtle yarn** | Worsted weight #4 cotton: sage or olive, about 100 yd / 90 m; cream, about 75 yd / 70 m. |
| **Hooks** | 4.5 mm (US 7) for the bag; 3.5 mm (US E/4) for the shell and turtle pieces. |
| **Notions** | Tapestry needle, scissors, stitch markers, measuring tape, and removable stitch marker. |
| **Optional** | Small amount of fiberfill for the head, flippers, and tail only; 6 mm safety eyes or dark embroidery yarn. |

***Helpful tip:** Keep the shell unstuffed. It is a pocket, not a plush dome, so the folded bag has somewhere to go.*



## FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Open bag** | Approximately 12 in wide x 18 in tall, not including the handle drop. |
| **Handle drop** | Approximately 22 in from the bag edge to the top of the handle. |
| **Folded turtle** | Approximately 6.5 in wide x 6 in tall. Gauge and stuffing affect this measurement. |

## GAUGE

Bag mesh: 16 mesh spaces x 12 rounds = about 4 in square when laid flat. Shell: 6 sc x 6 rounds = about 2 in square.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain | sc single crochet | sl st slip stitch | st stitch | inc increase | dec decrease | BLO back loop only | MR magic ring

STEP 2 / CROCHET THE BAG

# Flat oval base

The base is worked around both sides of the starting chain. Count after every round so the mesh begins with a stable, even foundation.

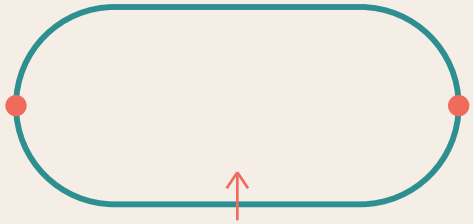
### BASE RECIPE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **R1** | Ch 49. Sc in 2nd ch and across (48 sc). Work 48 sc along the underside of the chain. | **96** |
| **R2** | Ch 1. Sc around. Join with a sl st. | **96** |
| **R3** | Ch 1. Sc around. Join. Do not turn. | **96** |

**** Helpful tip:*** *Place a marker in the first stitch of every round. A relaxed, even tension keeps the long sides from twisting.*

### STARTING-CHAIN MAP

The oval base should lie flat. If it cups, loosen your tension or go up 0.5 mm for the base only.



48 stitches on each side = 96 stitches around

### HOW TO READ THE MESH

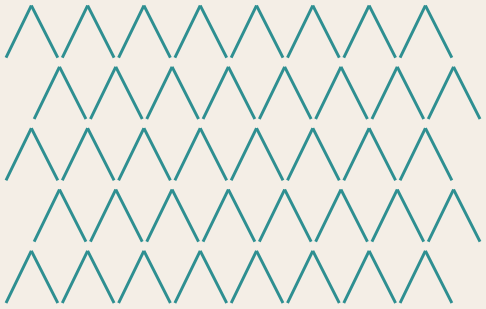
Each mesh round has 32 repeating arches. The single crochet anchors the round; the chain-3 spaces create the open fabric.

Use the stitch count at the end of the round as your checkpoint. The base stays at 96 stitches; the mesh is counted as 32 spaces.

**BASE = 96 SC**

**MESH = 32 SPACES**

### CH-3 MESH



repeat: ch 3, skip 2, sc in next

STEP 3 / LET IT BREATHE

# Open mesh body

Build the tall body from simple chain-3 arches. Work in continuous rounds or join each round with a slip stitch - just be consistent.

MESH ROUNDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **R4** | Ch 3 (counts as a ch-3 space). *Sc in next st, ch 3, skip 2 sts; repeat from * around. Join. | **32 sp** |
| **R5-30** | Repeat R4 for 26 rounds, or until the body measures 16 in from the base. | **32 sp** |
| **Top** | Ch 1. Sc in each sc and 3 sc in every ch-3 space around. Join. | **96 sc** |
| **Edge 2** | Ch 1. Sc in each st around. Join. Repeat once more for a firm top edge. | **96 sc** |

**** Helpful tip:*** *Stop by measurement, not only by row count. If your mesh is loose, use fewer rounds; if compact, add rounds until you reach 16 in.*



OPEN-WEAVE TEXTURE

MEASUREMENT CHECK

Lay the bag flat without stretching. The base should be about 12 in wide and the mesh body should be about 16 in from the base edge to the first solid top round. The shell will add about 2 in to the total folded height.

12 IN WIDE

16 IN MESH

Keep the stitch count at 32 mesh spaces each round. If you have 31 or 33, undo the last round and find the missed anchor before continuing.

STEP 4 / MAKE IT CARRY

# Reinforced handles

The handles are made in one round, then strengthened with two solid rounds for a comfortable drop.

HANDLE ROUND

Work across the top edge and make two long chain spaces. Use markers to keep the two handles centered on the front and back.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **R1** | Sc 24, ch 45, skip 24 sts, sc 24, sc 24, ch 45, skip 24 sts, sc 24. Join. | **96** |
| **R2** | Ch 1. Sc in each sc and work 45 sc into each handle chain space. Join. | **138** |
| **R3** | Ch 1. Sc in each st around, including both handles. Join and fasten off. | **138** |

**** Helpful tip:** To make a shorter drop, use ch 37. To make a longer drop, use ch 53. Keep both handles the same length.*



**front handle / back handle**

The bag is ready for the shell attachment after this edge is finished.

Before attaching the turtle, weave in the bag ends and lightly steam or wash according to the yarn label. Do not stretch the mesh wider than its intended shape.

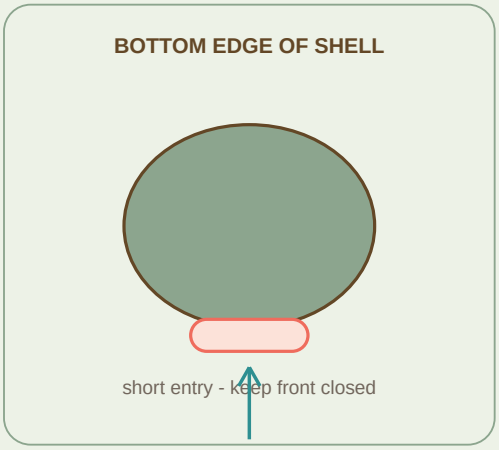
STEP 5 / BUILD THE HIDING PLACE

# Hollow turtle shell pocket

The shell is intentionally worked as a shallow cup with a short bottom-edge entry. Do not stuff it. The folded bag will live inside.

### SHELL CUP

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **R1** | MR 6 sc | **6** |
| **R2** | Inc around | **12** |
| **R3** | *Sc 1, inc; repeat around | **18** |
| **R4** | *Sc 2, inc; repeat around | **24** |
| **R5** | *Sc 3, inc; repeat around | **30** |
| **R6** | *Sc 4, inc; repeat around | **36** |
| **R7** | *Sc 5, inc; repeat around | **42** |
| **R8-11** | Sc around for 4 rounds | **42** |
| **R12** | *Sc 5, dec; repeat around | **36** |
| **R13** | *Sc 4, dec; repeat around | **30** |
| **R14** | Sc around. Fasten off, leaving the 30-st edge open. | **30** |




The shell front is the closed, decorative side. The short entry sits along the turtle's bottom edge so the bag feeds in from below.

** Helpful tip: work the final shell rounds firmly but not tightly. If the mouth pulls closed, go up 0.5 mm for the last two rounds or add one extra sc round before fastening off.*

Shell size target: about 6.5 in across at the widest point. The cavity should accept a bag folded into a compact strip, not a tightly packed ball.

STEP 6 / GIVE IT A FACE

# Head, flippers, and tail

These pieces are lightly stuffed or left flat so the turtle reads clearly from the front without stealing room from the pocket.

### HEAD / CREAM YARN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **R1** | MR 6 sc | **6** |
| **R2** | Inc around | **12** |
| **R3** | *Sc 1, inc; repeat | **18** |
| **R4-6** | Sc around for 3 rounds | **18** |
| **R7** | *Sc 1, dec; repeat | **12** |
| **R8** | Dec around. Fasten off and stuff lightly. | **6** |

Add safety eyes between R4 and R5, or embroider eyes with dark yarn. Sew the head to the top center of the shell, not to the bag opening.

### FLIPPERS x4

Ch 7. Sc in 2nd ch, hdc in next 2, dc in next 2, 5 dc in last ch. Work down the other side with dc 2, hdc 2, sc 1. Sl st and fasten off. Fold the point slightly and sew to the shell.



### TAIL x1

Ch 6. Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next, dc in next 2, 3 dc in last. Fasten off. Sew the point centered below the shell.

### LAYOUT

Sew one flipper at each diagonal quadrant: upper-left, upper-right, lower-left, and lower-right. Keep the head centered above and the tail centered below.

***Helpful tip:** Pin every piece first, then check the turtle from the front. You want exactly one head, four flippers, and one tail before sewing permanently.*

STEP 7 / JOIN THE TWO WORLDS

# Attach the shell pocket

The turtle is the bottom end of the bag. Attach it at the bag base, then keep the short bottom-edge entry free so the mesh can tuck upward into the shell.



BOTTOM-END VIEW

Like the sample, the mesh body runs directly into the turtle at the absolute bottom. The short tuck entry is underneath the shell - not a large opening on the tail side.

### HINGE ATTACHMENT

1. Lay the empty bag flat with its base at the bottom. Place the plain shell centered directly over that base edge - not several inches up the mesh body.

2. Sew the shell's upper hinge edge to the center of the bag base across 12 stitches. This seam is the attachment; the turtle hangs from the bag's bottom end.

3. Leave only the short lower entry edge free. The folded mesh is fed upward into the shell from below; the tail side stays closed.

4. Sew the head, flippers, and tail to the shell front. Keep all embellishment away from the bottom entry.

### CHECK BEFORE YOU FOLD

Find the short entry along the turtle's bottom edge. You should be able to lift that edge just enough to feed the folded cream mesh upward. If you can spread the shell open like a basket, too much of the edge is free.

The shell is not a top-opening basket. It is the bottom end of the bag with a small entry along the turtle's underside.

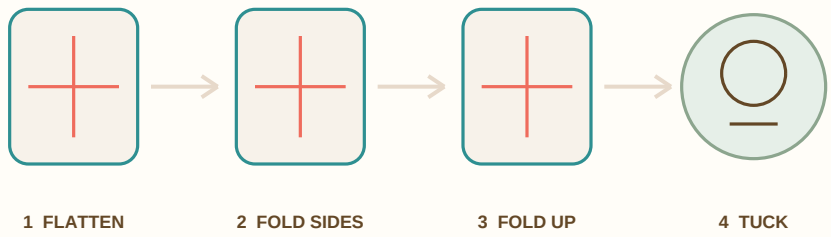
12-ST HINGE

BOTTOM ENTRY

STEP 8 / THE TUCK-AWAY TRICK

# Fold the bag into the turtle

Empty the bag first. The body folds into the turtle from the bottom edge, leaving the turtle face on the outside when it is stored.



1 FLATTEN  2 FOLD SIDES  3 FOLD UP  4 TUCK

1. Flatten the bag and tuck the handles into the center of the mesh body.
2. Fold the left and right sides inward until the body is about shell width.
3. Fold the long body down toward the turtle's bottom end in thirds. Keep the bundle soft and flat.
4. Hold the turtle with its pointed tail at the bottom. Open the short bottom-edge entry and push the folded bundle upward into the shell.

### TO OPEN IT AGAIN

Reach into the bottom-edge entry, pull the folded mesh free, then shake the bag open. The shell stays attached at the 12-stitch hinge, so nothing gets lost.

** Helpful tip: If the bundle is too bulky, fold the handles into a narrower strip and press the air out of the mesh before tucking. Never force it through the bottom entry; add one shell round if you need more room.*

STEP 9 / CHECK YOUR WONDERLAND

# Finish and troubleshoot

A few small checks make the finished piece easier to use and help the turtle keep its friendly proportions.

### FINISHING CHECKLIST

1. Weave in every end securely on the inside of the bag or shell.
2. Use a few hidden stitches to keep each flipper from flipping forward.
3. Confirm the shell is unstuffed and the bottom-edge entry is clear.
4. Wash and dry flat if your yarn label allows; reshape the base and handles while damp.
5. Test the fold with no groceries inside before carrying weight.

### TROUBLESHOOTING

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bag too short** | Add mesh rounds until the body reaches 16 in. |
| **Shell too tight** | Use a larger hook for the shell or add one sc round before the decreases. |
| **Entry collapses** | Reinforce the bottom edge with one loose round of sc. |
| **Bag will not tuck** | Fold the handles first, then fold the body into thirds. Do not roll it into a ball. |



FOLDED FRONT VIEW



OPEN BAG WITH ATTACHED TURTLE

You made a bag with a secret second life. Tag @knotwonderland.ca when your turtle goes on an adventure.