



## RIVIERA Bag

The RIVIERA Bag is a summery bag with a structured pattern - perfect as a beach bag, for shopping at the market or for a long walk on the Riviera ;-)

The bag has an oval basic shape and is crocheted in the round, the bottom of the bag is worked in single crochet stitches and the body in a structured pattern with crossed, long crochet stitches, crocheted in rows below the previous row. You can choose between a variant made of raffia and one made of cotton. The raffia variant is more dimensionally stable and robust, but the material is a bit "harder" to work with. The cotton bag is not quite as stable or 'steady' and more like a bag, but more comfortable to crochet. The instructions for the cotton version start on page 8. For a better overview and handling, the complete instructions with the changes (without photos) are listed here again.

Crochet stitches and techniques used: chain stitches, single crochets, double crochets, slip stitches.



#### SIZE

One size

Width: approx. 34-36 cm/13.4-14.2", height: approx. 27 cm/10.6", depth: approx. 15-17 cm/5.9-6.7".

The size of the bag may vary slightly depending on the yarn and dye used. The specified dimensions are guidelines.

#### NEEDLES

Crochet hook size 4,0 mm (US 6/UK 8)

#### YARN

300 g ‚Papyrus‘ by Kremke Soul Wool

(100 % Paper, 153 m / 100 g), here in color Schokolade, Schlamm and Hellsand.

or

300 g ‚Ra-Ra-Raffia‘ by Wool and the Gang

(100 % long-fiber wood, 250 m/ 100 g), **crocheted double stranded**, here in color ‚Tropes Tan‘.

**NOTE!** This pattern is written in US terms and sizes.

These differ quite significantly from UK terms and sizes!

You can find the UK terms and sizes in the legend on the last page.

#### TIPS FOR CHOOSING YARN

Crocheting with raffia is a bit more strenuous and time-consuming than using classic cotton or virgin wool. However, the effort is worth it, you get a dimensionally stable, robust bag. Two qualities of raffia are recommended in the instructions:

‚Papyrus‘ is a rather stiff yarn and a bit more difficult to process, but the bag is very stable and the price-performance ratio is unbeatable.

‚Ra-Ra-Raffia‘ is a slightly thinner yarn and is more supple to work with. However, it has to be crocheted double stranded so the bag has the desired stability and therefore, the material costs are relatively high. Because of that, the material here is calculated rather tightly, i.e. 3 cones of Ra-Ra-Raffia are enough for one bag. If you don't want to work with raffia yarn, you will find a **cotton variant** for the bag on page 8.

#### MAIN PATTERN

Single crochets for the bottom and upper end of the bag.

Structured pattern with crossed stitches (see pattern instructions) for the body of the bag.

Slip stitches for the final border around the handles.

To reduce the length of the pattern, several consecutive stitches are given in this style: e.g. 10 sc = 1 sc in each of the following 10 sts.

#### GAUGE / TENSION

Single crochets using crochet hook size 4,0 mm: 14 sts x 13 - 15 rows = approx. 10 x 10 cm/4" square (slightly stretched) It is crocheted rather 'tight', if you crochet loosely, you should choose half a needle size smaller.

*Tip: „It's not too important to get the exact gauge/tension, it is more of a guideline. During my numerous tests on the bag, I noticed that the raffia yarn shows slight differences in thickness or "stiffness" depending on the quality and color. This means that the yarn may have been processed differently and that the gauge does not always exactly matches..“*

## METHOD

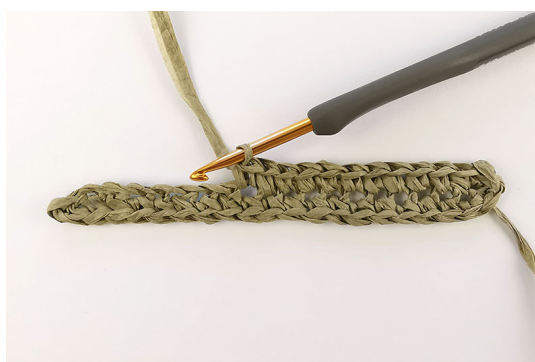
### Bag bottom

The bottom of the bag is crocheted in the round in an oval shape. Important: Always close the round with a sl st into the first sc. Start the next rnd with a ch st and crochet the first sc after the ch st into the first sc of previous rnd, i.e. into sc in which also the sl st was worked.

Using crochet hook size 4,0 mm crochet a chain of **21 ch sts** and crochet as follows:

**Rnd 1:** 1 sc into second ch st from hook, 1 sc into next 18 ch sts, 2 sc into last ch st, turn work 180 degrees and continue working at the opposite side of the ch st-chain. Crochet 19 sc into next 19 ch sts, 2 sc into last ch st, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 42 sc (**Pic. 1 - 3**).

For orientation: after the first rnd, work should be approx. 14 - 15 cm/5.5-5.9" long and 1,5 cm/0.6" wide.



**Pic. 1**

Work is turned 180 degrees, and sc are crocheted along the opposite side of the ch st-chain.



**Pic. 2**

Close rnd with a sl st into first sc of previous rnd (see arrow).



**Pic. 3**

Crocheted piece after first rnd, beg of rnd is not in the center, but a little left of center.



**Pic. 4**

Crocheted piece after rnd 12, the oval shaped bag bottom is finished.

**Rnd 2:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 18 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x3, 18 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x2, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 48 sc.

**Rnd 3:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 20 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x2, 20 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x2, 1 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 54 sc.

**Rnd 4:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 22 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 22 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 60 sc.

**Rnd 5:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 24 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 24 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 66 sc.



**Rnd 6:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 26 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 26 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 72 sc.

*Tip: „Keep stretching the work as you crochet and straighten the edge if it curls up or seems too 'tight'."*

**Rnd 7:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 28 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 28 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 78 sc.

**Rnd 8:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 30 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 30 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 84 sc.

**Rnd 9:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 32 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 32 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 90 sc.

**Rnd 10:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 34 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 34 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 96 sc.

**Rnd 11:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 36 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 36 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 102 sc.

**Rnd 12:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 38 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 38 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 108 sc.

The increases to form the bottom of the bag are now finished (**Pic. 4**). If necessary, the bottom of the bag can be gently steamed under a damp cloth so that it is nice and flat.

The oval should be approx. **32 - 34 cm/12.6-13.4"** long and **15-17 cm/5.9-6.7"** wide. If the bottom of the bag turns out to be much larger than the given measurements, you can omit an increase round or crochet tighter.

Crochet sc for **3 rnds** into the **108 sc** of the bottom of the bag, without increases, as follows:

**Rnds 1-3:** ch 1, 1 sc in to each of the following sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 108 sc.

### Body

The body of the bag is worked in a structured pattern, using crochet sts that cross each other and are worked into the row below the previous row (**Pic. 5 - 12**):

**Rnd 1:** ch 2 (counts as first dc), skip first sc of previous rnd and crochet 1 dc into next sc, then insert hook into last sc of previous rnd, from front to back, yarn over hook, pull up a long loop, yoh again and pull yarn through both loops on hook, \*skip 1 sc, 1 dc in each of the foll 2 sc, insert hook into skipped sc from front to back, yoh, pull up a long loop, yoh again and pull yarn through both loops on hook, rep from \* throughout, end rnd with a sl st into second ch st (is upper ch st) of start of rnd (the upper ch st is a bit difficult to see, a bit of tugging and pulling might be necessary, to get hold of it).



**Pic. 5**  
ch 2 (counts as first dc), skip first sc of previous rnd  
crochet 1 dc into next sc.



**Pic. 6**  
Insert hook into last sc of previous rnd, from front and  
o back (see arrow Pic. 5) ....



**Pic. 7**  
...yarn over hook (yoh), pull up a long loop...



**Pic. 8**  
...yoh and pull yarn through both loops on hook.



**Pic. 9**  
Skip 1 sc, 1 dc into each of the foll 2 sc (see arrow Pic. 8)...



**Pic. 10**  
... insert hook into skipped sc, from front to back....



**Pic. 11**  
... yoh, pull up a long loop, yoh and pull yarn through both loops on hook.



**Pic. 12**  
Close rnd with a sl st into second (= upper) ch st, the upper ch st is a bit difficult to see, a bit of tugging and pulling might be necessary, to get hold of it.

Crochet rnd 2 as follows (**Pic. 13 - 18**):

**Rnd 2:** ch 2 (counts as first dc), 1 dc into next dc, insert hook into last long st/loop of previous rnd, from front to back (**Pic. 14**), yoh, pull up a long loop, yoh and pull yarn through both loops on hook, \*skip 1 LL (= long loop), 1 dc into each of the foll 2 dc, insert hook into skipped long st/loop from front to back, yoh, pull up a long loop, yoh and pull yarn through both loops on hook, rep from \* throughout, end rnd with a sl st into 2<sup>nd</sup> ch st.





**Pic. 13**  
Ch 2 (counts as first dc), 1 dc into next dc.



**Pic. 14**  
Insert hook into last long st/loop of previous rnd,  
From front to back (see arrow Pic. 13) ...



**Pic. 15**  
... yoh, pull up a long loop, yoh and pull yarn  
through both loops on hook.



**Pic. 16**  
Skip 1 LL (= long loop), 1 dc into each of the foll  
2 dc (see arrow Pic. 15).



**Pic. 17**  
Insert hook into skipped long st/loop of previous  
rnd, from front to back...



**Pic. 18**  
... yoh, pull up a long hook, yoh and pull yarn  
through both loops on hook.

Rep rnd 2 another **15 -16 more times**, or until the structured pattern of the body of the bag measures approx. **21 cm/8.3"**. With each round, beg of rnd shifts a bit to the right, so that it is approximately in the middle of the long side at the end of the structured pattern.

Subsequently crochet **2 more rnds** of sc, as follows:

**Rnds 1 and 2:** ch 1, 1 sc into each st, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 108 sc.

Cut yarn.

## Handles

Place the bag long side up (**Pic. 19**), join yarn at the center of right side (see arrow) and crochet as follows:

**1. Rd: Rnd 1:** ch 1, 16 sc, ch 106 (= first handle, approx. 80 cm/31.5"), skip 22 sc, 32 sc, ch 106 (= second handle), skip 22 sc, 16 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 276 sts.

**Tip:** „The length of the handles can of course also be individually adjusted. It is best to 'try on' the bag as soon as the chain stitches for the first handle are worked. Take into account that the handles shrink by approx. 2-4 cm/ 0.8-1.6" after they have been edged with slip stitches"



**Pic. 19**  
Join yarn at the right side of the body.



**Pic. 20**  
Skip 22 sc and crochet a chain of ch sts above these skipped sc, to form the handle.

**Rnd 2:** ch 1, 16 sc, 106 sc (into ch sts of first handle), 32 sc, 106 ch st (into ch sts of second handle), 16 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 276 sts. Stretch or pull out the handles regularly while crocheting.

The next row is worked with slip stitches. If you use yarn quality 'Ra-Ra-Raffia', you should not work this round double stranded, but only use one strand, so the edge stitches are not too bulky.

**Rnd 3:** 1 sl st into each of the foll sc, stretch work at regular intervals. Cut yarn

For more stability, the insides of the handles are also edged with sl sts. Join yarn at the right side of the skipped sts of the body (**Pic. 21**), crochet 22 sl st into the 22 skipped sc, then crochet 1 sl st into every ch st of opposite side of handle (**Pic. 22**), close rnd with a sl st into first sl st. Cut yarn.

When using the 'Ra-Ra-Raffia' quality, the sl st is also worked single stranded on the inside of the handle.



**Pic. 21**  
Join yarn at the right side of the skipped stitches...



**Pic. 22**  
... and crochet sl sts into the skipped sc as well as into the chain sts of the inside of the handle.



## FINISHING

Weave in all ends. If necessary, gently steam the bag under a damp cloth and reshape it a little.

## COTTON VERSION

The cotton version of the bag is crocheted in the same way as the raffia version, only with a slightly thicker needle and more stitches. The cotton bag is not quite as stable or 'steady', but it is more comfortable to crochet and the material costs are relatively low.



### SIZE

One size

Width: approx. 36 cm/14.2", height: approx. 27 cm/10.6",  
depth: approx. 16 cm/6.3"

### NEEDLES

crochet hook size 5,0 mm (US 8/UK 6)

### YARN

350 g ,Cotton 8/8' by Cotton Kings (100 % Cotton,  
75 m / 50 g), here in color 34

or

350 g ,Ica' by Lamana (100 % Cotton, 80 m/ 50 g),

or

350 g ,Paris' by Drops (100 % Cotton, 75 m / 50g)

or

350 g ,Cotton Creative Aran' by Rico Design (100 %  
Cotton, 85 m / 50g)

### GAUGE / TENSION

Single crochets using crochet hook size 5,0 mm (US  
8/UK 6): 18 sts x 21 rows = approx. 10 x 10 cm/4"  
square

## METHOD

### Bag bottom

The bottom of the bag is crocheted in the round in an oval shape. Important: Always close the round with a sl st into the first sc. Start the next rnd with a ch st and crochet the first sc after the ch st into the first sc of previous rnd, i.e. into sc in which also the sl st was worked.

Using crochet hook size 5,0 mm crochet a chain of **27 ch sts** and crochet as follows:

**Rnd 1:** 1 sc into second ch st from hook, 1 sc into each of the foll 24 ch sts, 2 sc into last ch st, turn work 180 degrees and continue working at the opposite side of the ch st-chain. Crochet 25 sc into next 25 ch sts, 2 sc into last ch st, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 54 sc (*Pic. 1 - 4, page 3*). For orientation: after the first rnd, work should be approx. 14 - 15 cm/5.5-5.9" long and 1,5 cm/0.6" wide.

**Rnd 2:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 24 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x3, 24 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x2, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 60 sc.

**Rnd 3:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 26 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x2, 26 sc, (2 sc into next sc)x2, 1 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 66 sc.

**Rnd 4:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 28 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 28 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 72 sc.



**Rnd 5:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 30 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 30 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 78 sc.

**Rnd 6:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 32 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 32 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 84 sc.

**Rnd 7:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 34 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 34 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 2 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 90 sc.

**Rnd 8:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 36 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 36 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 96 sc.

**Rnd 9:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 38 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 38 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 3 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 102 sc.

**Rnd 10:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 40 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 40 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 108 sc.

**Rnd 11:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 42 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 42 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 4 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 114 sc.

**Rnd 12:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 44 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 44 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 120 sc.

**Rnd 13:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 46 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 46 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 5 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 126 sc.

**Rnd 14:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 48 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 48 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 132 sc.

**Rnd 15:** ch 1, 2 sc into next sc, 50 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 7 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 50 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 6 sc, 2 sc into next sc, 7 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 138 sc.

The increases to form the bottom of the bag are now finished. The oval should be approx. **32 cm/12.6"** long and **15 cm/5.9"** wide. Crochet **4 more rnds** of sc into the **138 sc** of the bottom of the bag, without increases, as follows:

**Rnds 1-4:** ch 1, 1 sc into each st, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 138 sc.

### Body

Work the body of the bag in structured pattern in the same way as described for the Raffia version. Crochet rnds 1 and 2 as described on pages 4-7.

Rep **rnd 2** another **23 -24 more times** or until the structured pattern of the body of the bag measures approx. **21 cm/8.3"**. With each round, beg of rnd shifts a bit to the right, so that it is approximately in the middle of the long side at the end of the structured pattern.

Subsequently crochet **3 more rnds** of sc, as follows:

**Rnds 1-3:** ch 1, 1 sc into each st, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 138 sc.

Cut yarn.

### Handles

Place the bag long side up (*Pic. 19, page 7*), join yarn at the center of right side and crochet as follows:

**Rnd 1:** ch 1, 21 sc, ch 130 (= first handle, approx. 75 cm/29.5"), skip 27 sc, 42 sc, ch 130 (= second handle), skip 27 sc, 21 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 344 sts.

Depending on how long you want the handles to be, work more or less chain sts. Take into account that the handles shrink by approx. 2-4 cm/0.8-1.6" after they have been edged with slip stitches.

**Rnd 2:** ch 1, 21 sc, 130 sc (into ch sts of first handle), 42 sc, 130 ch sts (into ch sts of second handle), 21 sc, close rnd with a sl st into first sc = 344 sts.

Rnd 3: 1 sl st into every sc. Cut yarn.

For more stability, the insides of the handles are also edged with sl sts. Join yarn at the skipped sts of the body (*Pic. 21, page 8*), crochet 27 sl st into the 27 skipped sc, then crochet 1 sl st into every ch st of opposite side of handle (*Pic. 22, page 8*), close rnd with a sl st into first sl st. Cut yarn.

## FINISHING

Weave in all ends. If necessary, gently steam the bag under a damp cloth.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ch st	=	chain stitch
dc	=	double crochet
foll	=	following
rep	=	repeat
rnd(s)	=	round(s)
sc	=	single crochet
sl st	=	slip stitch
st(s)	=	stitch(es)
yoh	=	yarn over hook
*	=	rep instructions after * as often as indicated

## LEGEND:

US	UK
hook size 6	hook size 8
Hook size 8	Hook size 6
chainstitch	chainstitch
slipstitch	slipstitch
single crochet	double crochet
double crochet	treble