Athena Owl Bag

crochet pattern by Irene Strange

This project can be made in a variety of yarns and hook sizes. Below are the yarns, hooks and other materials used to make the 4 samples.

SAMPLE 1 - Single Colour
YARN - **2 balls / 65gr Scheepjes Mighty**
(32% Jute 68% Cotton, 50 g/ 80 m/ 87 yds) in *Ice (750)*
3.75mm (F) crochet hook
FINISHED SIZE - **15 cm/6 in wide**

SAMPLE 2 - Two-tones
MAIN COLOUR - **1 ball Rowan Summerlite DK (100% Cotton,**
50g/130 m /142 yds) in *Mushroom (454)*
CONTRAST COLOUR - **1 ball Rowan Summerlite 4 Ply**
(100% Cotton, 50gr/175 m / 191 yds) in *Buttermilk (421)*
3.75mm (F) crochet hook
FINISHED SIZE - **14 cm/5½ in wide**

SAMPLE 3 - Nylon Cord
YARN - **2mm nylon cord (100% polypropylene, approx 105m)**
4.5mm (7) crochet hook
1 Faux or Real Leather Bag Strap + Hardware
FINISHED SIZE - **18 cm/7 in wide**

SAMPLE 4 - Paper Raffia
YARN - **1 ball Kraft Paper Raffia Ribbon (100% Paper, 200m)**
4.5mm (7) crochet hook
1 Faux or Real Leather Bag Strap + Hardware
(Optional) **Lining Fabric**
FINISHED SIZE - **20 cm/7¾ in wide**

YOU WILL ALSO NEED
A sew-on snap fastener
A pair of metal D-rings for attaching straps
Tapestry Needle
Sewing Needle and Thread
Stitch Markers

TENSION / GAUGE

If you want to match the sample gauge make
an eye in your chosen yarn (see page 5 for instructions).

When made in Scheepjes Mighty Yarn with 3.75mm hook,
the eye is around 6 cm/2.362 in in diameter.
When made in DK weight yarn with 3.75mm hook,
the eye is around 5 cm/2 in in diameter.
When made in Paper Raffia yarn with 4.5mm hook,
the eye is around 8 cm/3.15 in in diameter.

Matching the exact gauge isn't essential, but may
produce a bigger or smaller bag - adjust your hook
size until you get a texture you like!

CROCHET TERMS

The pattern is written in US Crochet Terms, some of the following stitches are used:

- ⬭ chain stitch (**ch**)
- ● slip stitch (**slst**)
- ✕ single crochet (**sc**)
- ⋁ single crochet increase (**inc**)
- ⋀ single crochet decrease (**dec**)
- ⌒ invisible decrease (**inv dec**)
- X̃ crab stitch/reverse single crochet (**crab st**)
- T half-double crochet (**hdc**)
- Ŧ double crochet (**dc**)
- Ⱥ double crochet decrease (**dc2tog**)
- ⬭ 6-dc bobble
- ⬱ 9-dc shell (**shell**)
- ◎ magic ring
- round (**rnd**)
- row (**row**)
- chain space (**ch-sp**)
- stitch/stitches (**st**)
- ⌣ front loop only (**FLO**)
- ⌢ back loop only (**BLO**)
- — third loop only (**TLO**)

Repeating sections within the rounds are shown in (round) brackets followed by how many times they are repeated, e.g. repeat 6 times.

Stitch totals are shown in [square] brackets at the end of each round. *Note that if a round is closed with a slip stitch (slst) that stitch is not included in the stitch count.*

Images and Charts are referenced in {curly} brackets, e.g. {img 7} or {Chart A} within the main pattern text.

Colour Changes within the text are shown in *{curly italic}* brackets in the relevant colour where possible, e.g. *{red}* or *{white}* within the main pattern text.

The samples are made with regular single crochet stitch without X twist. Feel free to substitute your preferred style of decreases throughout the pattern.

NOTES

CONSTRUCTION *The body of the owl bag is made in one piece, working in the round. Each round is closed with a slip stitch. There are two options for adding the decorative shell elements.*

Body Option 1 leaves free loops on the front of the bag for adding the shells on separately - the shells can be made in different colours for each row.

Body Option 2 makes the shells at the same time as the main body and is a little bit more fiddly to start with, but it does save time on weaving in ends! This option works great if making the bag in a single yarn colour.

YARN TIPS *This bag will work really well in cotton yarns, linen blends, cord, jute or raffia - the stiffer yarns will add structure and durability to the project. Changing up yarn thickness and hook will achieve different bag sizes.*

Got a question about the pattern? I'm happy to help!

**Get in touch on Instagram: @irenestrange
by email: hello@irenestrange.co.uk
or via my facebook page: fb.com/irenestrangecrochet**

Find more Irene Strange patterns on Amigurumi.com, LoveCrafts, Ravelry and Etsy!

1. BAG BODY- OPTION ONE

In this options the shells are added separately, after the body is complete. For Option Two go to Page 8.

Make 1 in Main Colour.

Foundation Row: Ch16, start in 2nd ch from hook and work in third loop of the chain, 15sc along the chain [15] {img 1-2}

Now work in rounds using both sides of the foundation row, increasing the shape in the corner stitches. {See Chart A on page 6}

Rnd 1: ch1, (15sc, 1sc into the side chain) 2 times, slst in first st to close [32] {img 3}

Rnd 2: ch3 (does not count as st throughout), (2dc in next st, 13dc, 2dc in 2 next sts) 2 times, slst in first st to close [38] {img 4}

Rnd 3: ch3, (2dc in next st, 15dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc) 2 times, slst in first st to close [42] {img 5}

In the next 6 rounds some of the stitches are worked in back loop only (BLO), marking the positions for adding the shells later on. If you want to anchor these stitches more try working them through both BLO+TLO.

Rnd 4: ch3, 2dc in next st, 17dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 5dc, (1dc in BLO, 2dc) 3 times, 3dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, slst in first st to close [46] {img 6}

Note: I have added stitch markers into each free front loop for the step-by-step images - feel free to leave them unmarked if you can find the loops easily without markers!

Rnd 5: ch3, 2dc in next st, 19dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 3dc, (1dc in BLO, 2dc) 5 times, 1dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, slst in first st to close [50] {img 7}

Rnd 6: ch3, 27dc, (1dc in BLO, 2dc) 7 times, 2dc, slst in first st to close [50] {img 8}

Rnd 7: ch3, 30dc, (1dc in BLO, 2dc) 5 times, 5dc, slst in first st to close [50] {img 9}

Rnd 8: ch3, dc2tog, 19dc, (dc2tog, 2dc) 2 times, 4dc, 1dc in BLO, 2dc, **1sc in BLO**, 2dc, 1dc in BLO, 6dc, dc2tog, 2dc, slst in first st to close [46] {img 10 - 11}

Rnd 9: ch3, dc2tog, 17dc, (dc2tog, 2dc) 2 times, 6dc, **6dc bobble** in next st (this is the sc from prev round), 8dc, dc2tog, 2dc, slst in first st to close [42] {img 12 - 13}

Rnd 10-11: ch3, 1dc in all 42sts, slst in first st to close *- 2 rounds*

Rnd 12: ch1, 1sc in all 42sts, slst in first st to close [42] {img 14}

Next rows shape the fold-over flap. Move the starting point of the first row if needed by adding more or less slip stitches.

Row 1: 2slst, ch1, 19sc, turn work [19]
Row 2: ch1, 19sc, turn work [19]
Row 3: ch1, dec, 15sc, dec, turn work [17]
Row 4: ch1, dec, 13sc, dec, turn work [15]
Row 5: ch1, dec, 11sc, dec, turn work [13]
Row 6: ch1, dec, 9sc, dec, turn work [11]
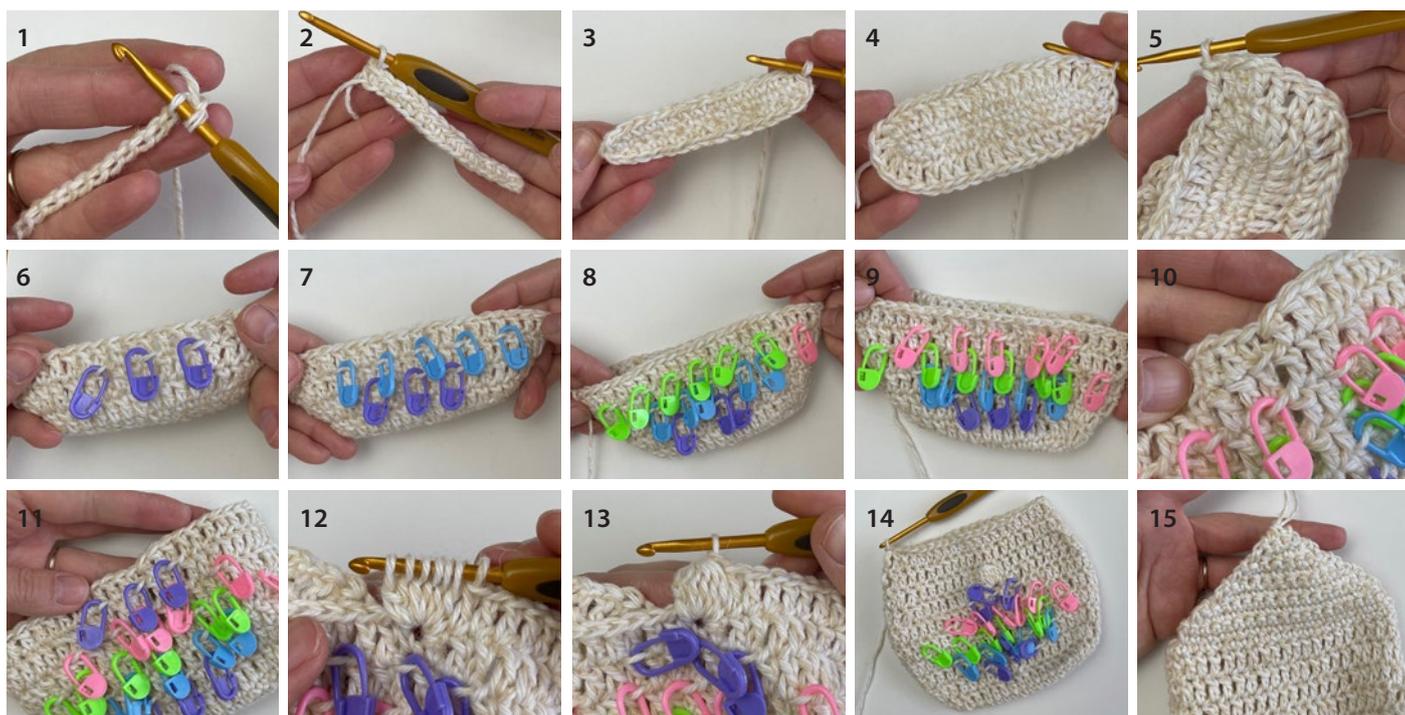**Row 7:** ch1, dec, 7sc, dec, turn work [9]
Row 8: ch1, dec, 5sc, dec, turn work [7]
Row 9: ch1, dec, 3sc, dec, turn work [5]
Row 10: ch1, dec, 1sc, dec, turn work [3]
Row 11: ch1, dec, 1sc [2]

Fasten off, weave in the end. {img 15}

2. SHELLS

Make 5 rows of shells, using the free front loops from the Option 1 bag body. {See Chart B on page 6}
For a 2-tone bag work Rows 1, 3 and 5 in a Contrast Colour.

Turn the bag so that the opening is facing you, find the first set of front loops (from Body Round 8) and join yarn to the first loop. {img 16 - 17}

Row 1: work 9dc into the next front loop, slst into the next front loop, fasten off yarn [1 shell] {img 18 - 19}

Row 2: join yarn to first loop in the next row of marked loops, (work 9dc into the next front loop, slst into the next front loop) 2 times, fasten off yarn [2 shells] {img 20}

Row 3: join yarn to first loop in the next row of marked loops, this loop is the closest to the edge of the bag {img 21}, (work 9dc into the next front loop, slst into the next front loop) 3 times, fasten off yarn [3 shells] {img 22}

Row 4: join yarn to first loop in the next row of marked loops, (work 9dc into the next front loop, slst into the next front loop) 2 times, fasten off yarn [2 shells]

Row 5: join yarn to the first front loop in the last row of marked loops, work 9dc into the next front loop, slst into the next front loop, fasten off yarn [1 shell] {img 23}

Using the hook pull all the yarn tails to the inside of the bag and weave them in. {img 24 - 25} *Don't worry if the shells are sticking up, wet or steam blocking them will relax the stitches.*

3. EYES

Make 2. {See Chart C on page 6}

For a 2-tone version start in Contrast Colour and change to Main Colour for Round 2 only.

Ch8, slst in 1st ch to join into a ring.
Rnd 1: work 16sc into the ring, slst in first st to close [16] {img 26}
Rnd 2: ch3 (does not count as st), (1dc, 2dc in next st) 8 times, slst in first st to close [24] {img 27}
Rnd 3: ch1, 1 crab st in each st around [24] {img 28}

Fasten off, leave a tail for sewing.

4. STRAP TABS FOR D-RINGS

Make 2. For 2-tone version make in Contrast Colour.

Ch4, start in 2nd ch from hook.
Rnd 1: 3sc, turn [3]
Rnd 2-9: ch1 (does not count as st), 3sc, turn [3]

Fasten off, leave a tail for sewing - adjust the number of rows for longer or shorter tabs. {img 29}
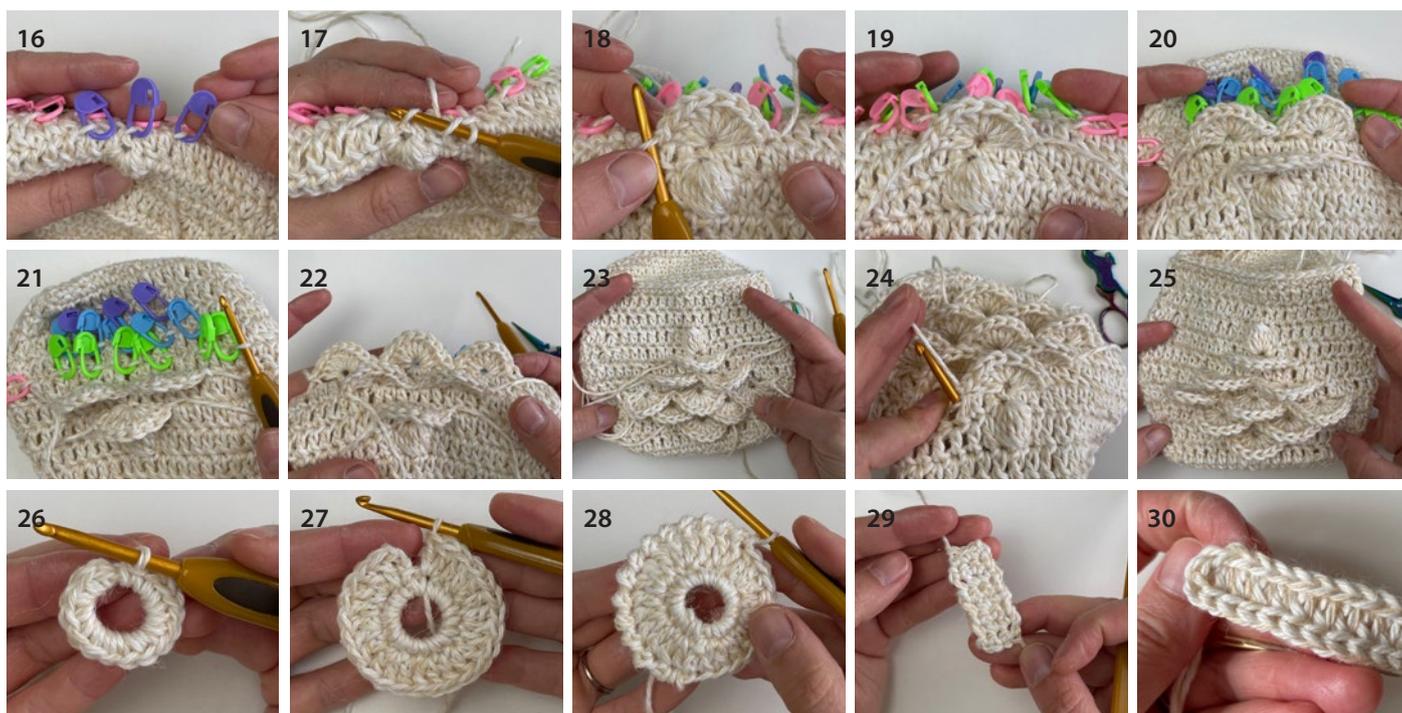
5. CROCHET BAG STRAP

Make 1 in Main Colour.

Ch150 or until the chain is a little longer than the desired length. *Tip: use a larger hook if your chain is coming out too tight for working in third loop!*

Row 1: ch2, working in TLO 1hdc in each ch [150]
Row 2: ch2, work on the top of the foundation chain creating an even edge of slip stitches all around: slst in each ch, 2slst in turning chains, slst in each hdc, 2slst in turning chains [304] {img 30}

Fasten off, leave a tail for sewing.

Symbol Key

- ⬭ chain st (ch)
- • slip stitch (slst)
- ✕ single crochet (sc)
- ⋀ single crochet decrease (sc dec)
- ⨦ crab stitch (crab st)
- ◁ join yarn
- ► cut yarn

- ⊤ double crochet (dc)
- ⋔ back loop (BLO)
- ⌒ double crochet decrease (dc2tog)
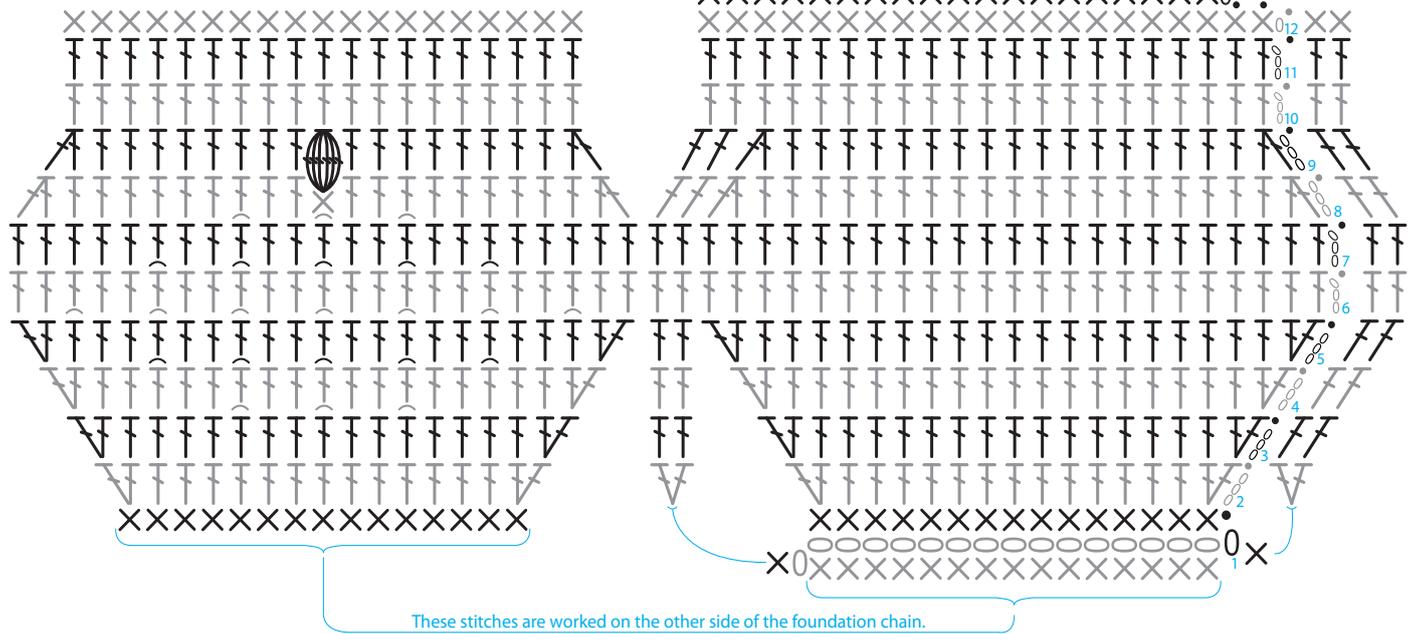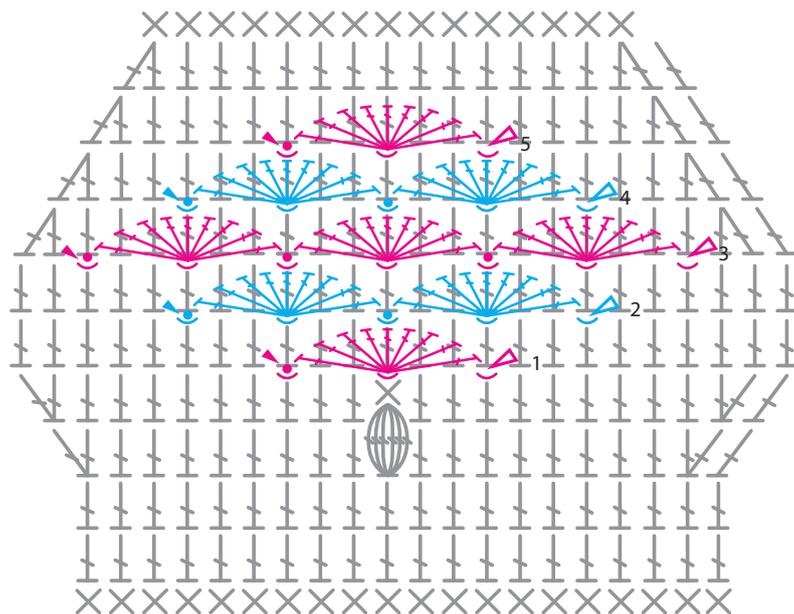- ⬯ 6-dc bobble
- ⋓ shell (9dc in one st)

CHART A

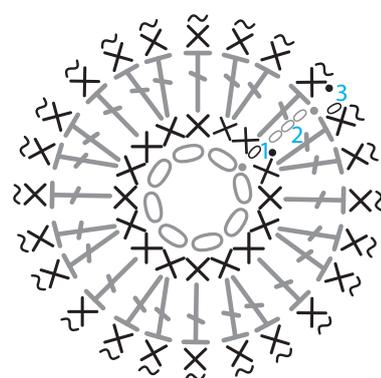These stitches are worked on the other side of the foundation chain.

CHART B

CHART C

Let's put together the elements - first we will add a round of crab stitch to the top edge and the fold over flap, then sew on the eyes and strap tabs. If you don't want to use metal D-rings you can sew the strap directly to the bag instead. If you are making a 2-tone bag work the crab stitch round in the Contrast Colour.

31
Join yarn to any stitch along the top of the bag. Work a round of crab stitch all around the opening.

32
Take care to spread the stitches evenly around the fold-over flap edge when working into the row ends.

33
Place the eye on the front and fold over the flap - mark where you would like to place the snap fastening.

34
Sew the snap fastening to the inside tip of the bag with needle and thread.

35
Sew the other half of the snap fastener above the beak.

36
Fold the strap tabs in half and put them through the D-rings.

37
Sew the tabs in place on either side of the fold-over flap.

38
Place the eyes back onto the front and sew in place, either along the outer ring edge or the inner edge.

39
For this sample I used the third loops from Round 1 of the eye, sewing all around the shape.

40
Next let's make some tassels. Cut the yarn into strands of about 12cm/4in long. Use one of the strands to tie them in the middle.

41
Fold the other strands in half and trim the end. Use the tied strands to pull the tassle into the tassel cap.

42
Separate each yarn end into individual strands.

6. TASSEL CAP

Make 1 or 2 with 3.75mm hook.

Round 1: start 6sc in a magic ring [6]
Round 2-3: sc in all 6 sts *- 2 rounds*
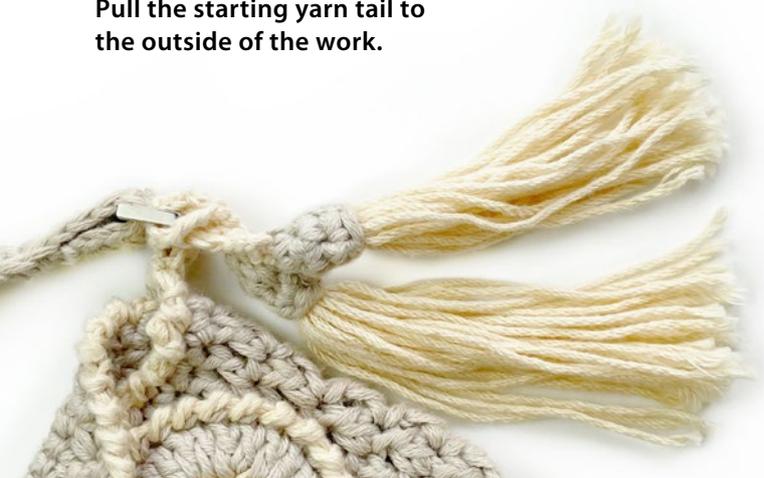
Fasten off, weave in the end.

Pull the starting yarn tail to the outside of the work.

43
Braid together the remaining yarn tails (2 from tying the tassel and 1 from the start of the cap), feed the braid through the D-ring.

44
Weave the ends into the cap to finish.

7.BAG BODY- OPTION TWO

In this Option the shells are added as short rows at the same time as the main bag, I prefer making the shells this way when working with just one colour.

Make 1 in Main Colour.

Foundation Row: Ch16, start in 2nd ch from hook and work in third loop of the chain, 15sc along the chain [15] {img 45}

Now work in rounds using both sides of the foundation row, increasing the shape in the corner stitches. {Chart D}

Rnd 1: ch1, (15sc, 1sc into the side chain) 2 times, slst in 1st st [32] {img 46}

Rnd 2: ch3 (does not count as st throughout), (2dc in next st, 13dc, 2dc in 2 next sts) 2 times, slst in 1st st to close [38] {img 47}

Rnd 3: ch3, (2dc in next st, 15dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 11dc, place stitch marker in last st, turn work. {img 48 - 49}

Short Row 1: working in back loops only, ch1, skip marked st, skip next 2 sts, 9dc in next st, skip next 2 sts, slst in next st, turn work. {img 50 - 52} To close this short row pull out the loop currently on the hook until it's large enough to fit over the remaining yarn ball. Pass the yarn ball through the loop and pull on the yarn to tighten back the loop. Return to working the main round. {img 53 - 56}

Rnd 3 continued: Put the hook into the marked stitch along the main round and pull up 1 loop to re-join the work, leave a loose strand of yarn (a yarn float) on the inside of work, taking care not to pull it too tight. Remove stitch marker. Carry on working along the main round: 4dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, slst in 1st st [42 + 1 shell]

In the following rounds catch the yarn float under the stitches as you work. {img 57} When a stitch falls above a centre of a shell or a slip stitch work it through the back loop + third loop for stability.

Rnd 4: ch3, 2dc in next st, 17dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 15dc, put stitch marker in last st, turn work.

Short Row 2: working in back loops only, ch1, skip marked st, (skip next 2 sts, 9dc in next st, skip next 2 sts, slst in next st) repeat 2 times, turn work and close the short row the same way as Short Row 1, return to working along the main round. {img 58}

Rnd 4 continued: Rejoin the main round in marked st, leaving a long yarn float on the inside of work {img 59 - 60}, remove stitch marker. Carry on working along the main round, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, slst in 1st st [46 + 2 shells]

Rnd 5: ch3, 2dc in next st, 19dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 19dc, place stitch marker in last st {img 61}, turn work.

Short Row 3: working in back loops only, ch1, skip marked st, (skip next 2 sts, 9dc in next st, skip next 2 sts, slst in next st) repeat 3 times, turn work and close the short row the same way as Short Row 1, return to working along the main round. {img 62}

Rnd 5 continued: Rejoin the main round in marked st, leaving a long yarn float on the inside of work {img 63}, remove stitch marker, 2dc in next st, 2dc, slst in 1st st [50 + 3 shells]

Rnd 6: ch3, 43dc, place stitch marker in last st {img 64}, turn work.

Short Row 4: work as Short Row 2.

Rnd 6 continued: Rejoin the main round in marked st, leaving a long yarn float on the inside of work, remove the stitch marker, 7dc, slst in first st to close [50 + 2 shells]

Rnd 7: ch3, 40dc, place stitch marker in last st {img 65}, turn work.

Short Row 5: work same as Short Row 1.

Rnd 7 continued: Rejoin the main round in marked st, leaving a yarn float on the inside of work, remove stitch marker,10dc, slst in 1st st [50 + 1 shell]

Rnd 8: ch3, dc2tog, 19dc, (dc2tog, 2dc) 2 times, 7dc, **1sc in BLO**, 9dc, dc2tog, 2dc, slst in 1st st to close [46] {img 66}
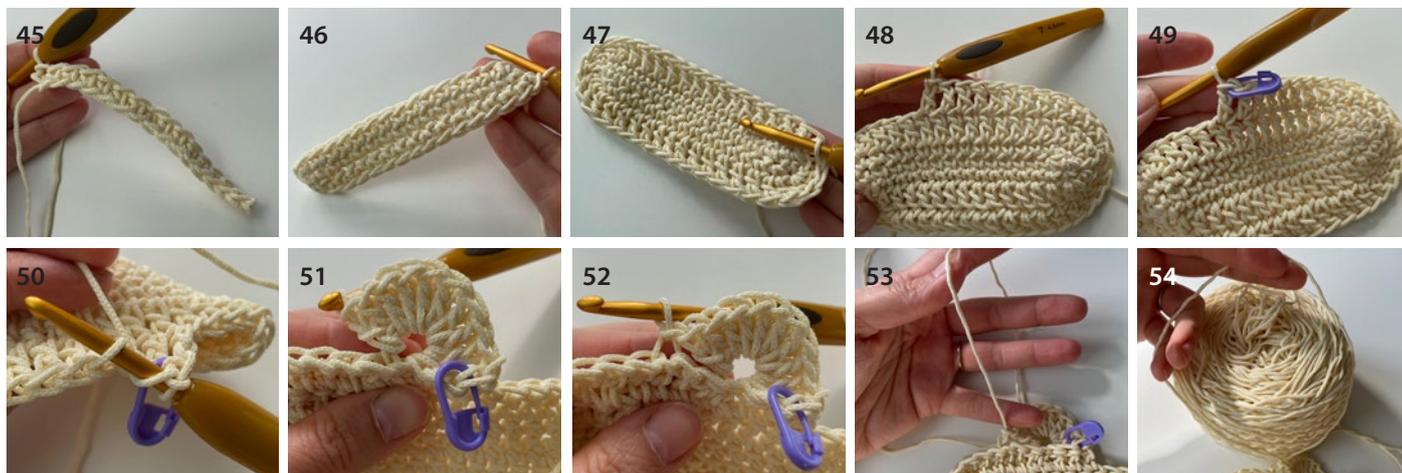
Rnd 9: ch3, dc2tog, 17dc, (dc2tog, 2dc) 2 times, 6dc, **6-dc bobble** in next st (this is the sc from prev round), 8dc, dc2tog, 2dc, slst in first st to close [42] {img 67}

Rnd 10-11: ch3, 1dc in all 42sts, slst in first st to close
-2 rounds

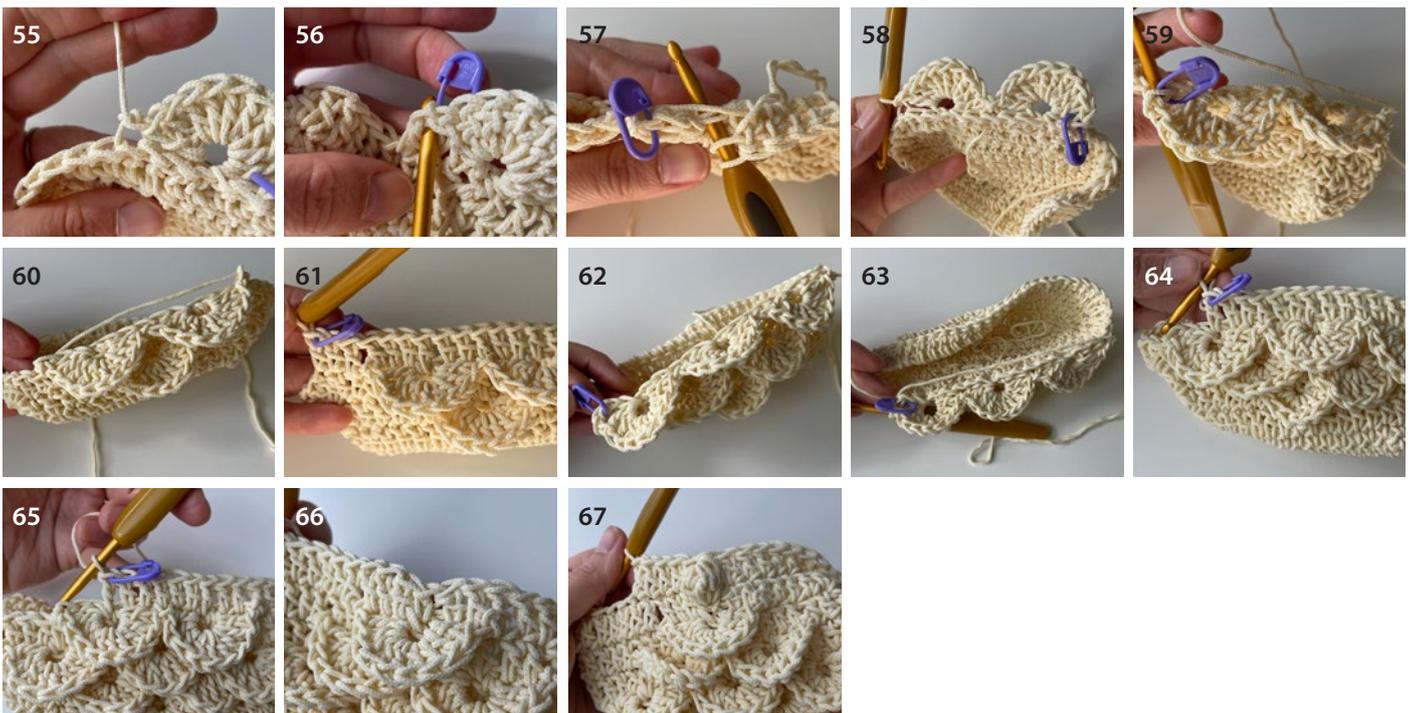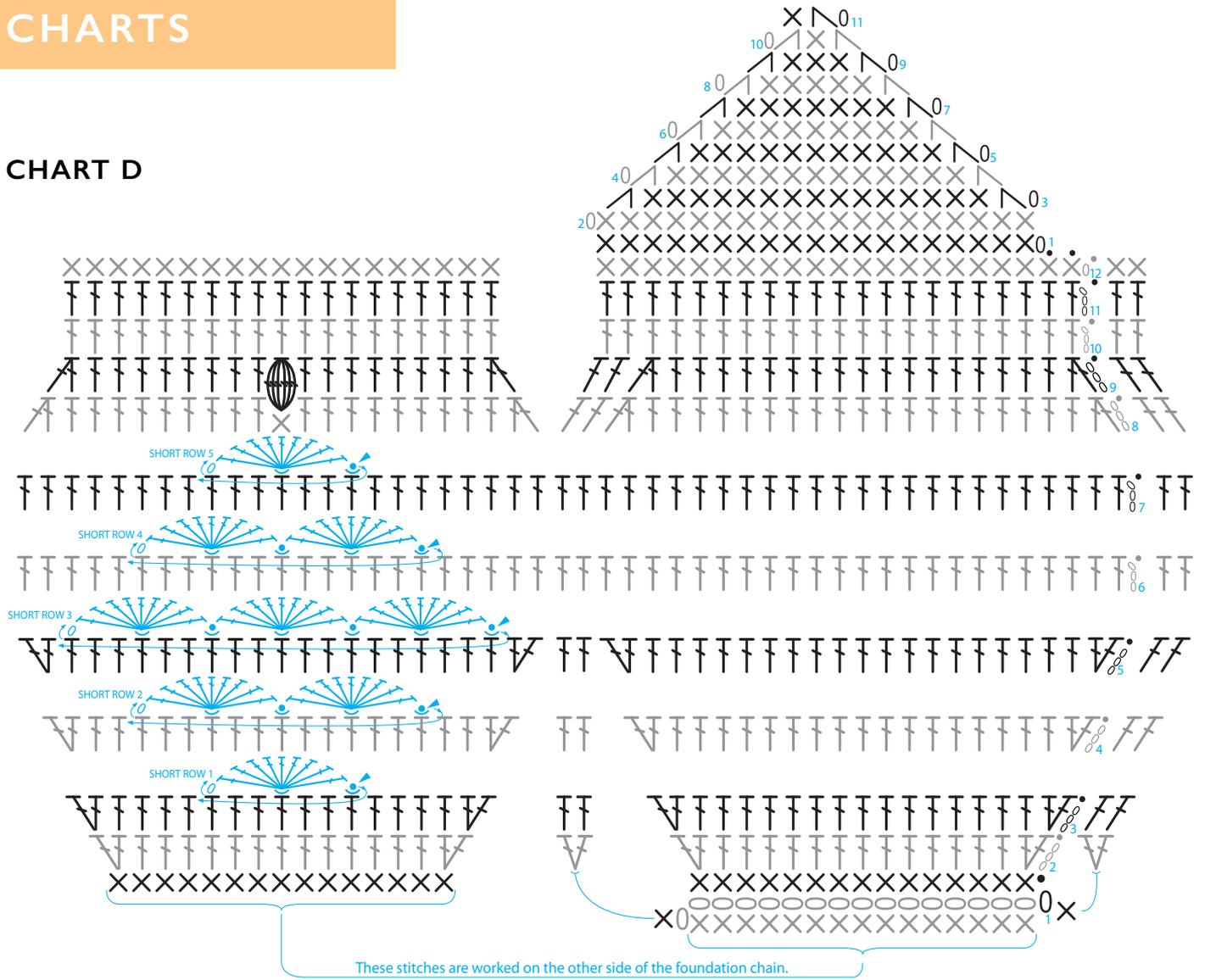**Rnd 12:** ch1, 1sc in all 42sts, slst in first st to close [42]

Next work the fold-over flap and finish the bag the same way as Body Option One.

Fasten off, weave in the end.

CHARTS

CHART D

SHORT ROW 5

SHORT ROW 4

SHORT ROW 3

SHORT ROW 2

SHORT ROW 1

These stitches are worked on the other side of the foundation chain.

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

TO FINISH...

A few more things to do before taking out your new bag for a spin!

STEP 1: BLOCKING

If your project is made in a cotton, jute or linen blend yarns, wet blocking it after assembly will help to even out and relax the stitches. {img 68 - before blocking)

First check the yarn label for what temperature the manufacturers recommend for the yarn, then fill up the sink or a bowl with water and let the project soak for about 20 minutes.

After soaking gently squeeze out the excess water, lay it flat on a towel and press down to take out more water. Then lay the project out on a flat surface, shaping it into the desired shape, smoothing out the shells and evening out the edges. *I found use for an old tennis racket for this step, to get air circulation on both sides!* {img 69 - drying}

Once dry the shells should lie flat against the body. {img 70}

STEP 2: ADDING A LINING

Bags made in chunkier yarns or raffia will look more neat with a simple fabric lining.

First trace out the shape of the bag onto paper, fold in half and cut out the lining shape.

Cut out 2 lining pieces from some cotton fabric. *(Remember to iron it first, unlike my example above!)*

Place the two pieces with right sides together and pin or clip along the long edge.

Sew the pieces together (by hand or on a sewing machine) all along the curved edge with about 1cm seam allowance.

Fold down the top of the lining and check the fit inside the main bag.

Clip or pin the lining all around the bag edge.

Stitch the lining in place with small whip stitches all around the top edge.

STEP 3: ADD THE STRAP

Every bag needs a strap!

Replacement bag straps are easy to find on Etsy, Amazon and eBay, in different colours and materials, and some come with matching tassels! Hook the strap to the D-Rings and the bag is ready to go. {img 80 - 82}

For the crocheted strap, pull the ends through the D-Rings and sew in place. {img 83}

I hope you will enjoy making your own Athena Owl Bag,

share your projects on Instagram with the tag #athenaowlbag
or on Ravelry - I can't wait to see them!

Happy Crafting!
Irina x