

Granny Square Cardigan & Belt Bag Crochet



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Needle Crafts
8th Grade
Sullivan County
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Granny Square Cardigan and Belt Bag Details

1. **Gather the Supplies:** I used **scissors, five skeins of yarn** in four colors, a **5mm (H) crochet hook, stitch markers, and a large-eye, blunt-tip needle** (for weaving in the ends). I also used **T-pins, blocking mats, and a spray bottle** for blocking the squares when I finished crocheting them to make sure all of the granny squares were the same size before sewing them together. The belt bag also required a **zipper**.



I used Lion Brand Re-Spun 100% recycled polyester yarn in the following colors: amber (rust), pheasant (light orange), cornsilk (yellow), and cider (brown).

2. **Choose a Pattern.** I used pattern #32 from a book by Leisure Arts titled *99 Granny Squares*. Each granny square I made had **4 rounds**. I crocheted a total of **108 granny squares**, but I didn't use them all. **Each granny square was approximately 4 inches by 4 inches**. I worked on these granny squares when I had time throughout the winter because I wanted to get a head start on my project for this year. With the four colors of yarn I used, I came up with six different color combinations.



3. **Blocking the Squares:** Once I finished crocheting all of the squares and wove in all of the ends, I used **blocking mats and t-pins to block each square**. To block the squares, I used t-pins to pin each square to the blocking mats, making sure that they were each **exactly 4 inches square**. Once I filled my blocking mats with granny squares, I spritzed each square with water and let them dry. I had to repeat this process multiple times because I could only fit a few squares on the blocking mats at a time. It is important to block each square. Check out the photo to the right to see the reason why. The square on the left was blocked, but the one square on the right was not.



4. **Planning the Cardigan:** To make the cardigan, I laid out as many granny squares as I thought I would need for the main part of the cardigan. After sewing the main part of the cardigan together, I determined how many squares I would need for the sleeves. I used a total of 79 granny squares for the cardigan. (I wear a small size.)



5. **Assembling the Cardigan:** I used a needle and the brown color, that I used for the last round of each square, to **join all of the squares using a mattress stitch.** This method of joining did not create ridges in the seams like using a slip stitch with a crochet hook would have. I also decided to add **ribbing around the inner opening, bottom, and sleeves** for a more finished look. For the ribbing, I followed a YouTube tutorial. <https://youtu.be/cKtnocz8wNY?si=m4mJDBVy801vUzQS>



6. **Blocking the Cardigan and Belt Bag:** After I finished sewing all of the granny squares together, I blocked the sweater (and belt bag) using the same method as I did in step 3. Once everything was dry, they were ready to wear.



7. **Assembling the Belt Bag:** I used 6 granny squares to make the belt bag, and I laid them out in the manner shown in the photo to the right. I had seen something similar online, but I just ended up making the belt bag how I thought it should go together.



8. I folded two of the squares in half and doubled up the two inner squares to get the shape I wanted. I used the mattress stitch again to sew all of the squares together.

9. I made two rows of single crochet around the top of the bag.

10. I made one row of single crochet around a zipper that was the length of the opening of the bag. I chained five at each short end of the zipper.

11. I then stitched the zipper to the opening of the bag.



12. I used a single crochet stitch to make the handle.

13. I then blocked the bag like I did the sweater.



I had a lot of fun making this granny square cardigan and belt bag. I learned how to crochet in 2022, but I didn't get serious about it until December 2023. I think it is really cool that I can crochet clothes in addition to the many stuffed animals I have made. I can't wait to wear my new cardigan and carry my new belt bag!



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