FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

Spike Stitch Crochet

How to crochet the spike stitch, plus a striped tote bag in 2 sizes · US terms

SKILL LEVEL **Advanced beginner**	PRACTICE **Tote bag, 2 sizes**	YARN **Worsted (#4) cotton, 3 colours**
HOOK **5 mm (US H-8)**	STITCHES **ch, sc, spike sc**	TIME **About 8 / 12 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton, small: 210 yd blue, 150 yd cream, 150 yd mustard
- Market: 290 yd blue, 230 yd cream, 230 yd mustard
- 5 mm (US H-8) hook, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

sc single crochet

RS right side

spike N below Insert the hook in the st N rows below the next st, yo, pull up a long loop, yo, pull through both loops

Gauge: 16 sc and 18 rows = 4 in (10 cm), a typical worsted cotton value. Skip the stitch above each spike: the spike replaces it.

Tote, Small

Foundation	With denim blue, ch 51.	
Row 1	Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across (50 sc). Turn.	**(50)**
Rows 2–4	Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. Change to the next colour on the last yarn over of the last row of the stripe.	**(50)**
Row 5 (spike row, RS)	With cream: ch 1, sc in the first st, *sc in the next st, spike 1 below, spike 2 below, spike 3 below, spike 2 below, spike 1 below*; repeat 8 times, sc in the last st. Turn.	**(50)**
Rows 6–8	Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn.	**(50)**
Rows 9–60	Repeat the last 4 rows, changing colour every 4 rows in the order denim blue, cream, mustard. That's 15 stripes; the panel measures about 13.3 in (34 cm). Fasten off.	**(50)**
Second panel	Make a second panel the same.	
Straps (make 2)	With denim blue, ch 89, sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Work 3 more rows of sc (88 sc, 4 rows).	
Make up	Hold the panels wrong sides together and sc them together down one side, across the bottom and up the other side with denim blue (3 sc in the corners). Sew the strap ends to the inside of the top edge, 3 in (8 cm) in from each side.	

Tote, Market

Foundation	With denim blue, ch 63.	
Row 1	Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across (62 sc). Turn.	**(62)**
Rows 2–4	Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. Change to the next colour on the last yarn over of the last row of the stripe.	**(62)**
Row 5 (spike row, RS)	With cream: ch 1, sc in the first st, *sc in the next st, spike 1 below, spike 2 below, spike 3 below, spike 2 below, spike 1 below*; repeat 10 times, sc in the last st. Turn.	**(62)**
Rows 6–8	Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn.	**(62)**
Rows 9–72	Repeat the last 4 rows, changing colour every 4 rows in the order denim blue, cream, mustard. That's 18 stripes; the panel measures about 16.0 in (41 cm). Fasten off.	**(62)**
Second panel	Make a second panel the same.	
Straps (make 2)	With denim blue, ch 97, sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Work 3 more rows of sc (96 sc, 4 rows).	
Make up	Hold the panels wrong sides together and sc them together down one side, across the bottom and up the other side with denim blue (3 sc in the corners). Sew the strap ends to the inside of the top edge, 3 in (8 cm) in from each side.	

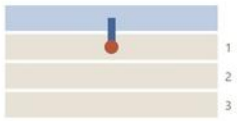
What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	Every row modelled: spikes on RS rows only, each landing in the stripe below, whole V repeats.
Calculated	Stitches, rows and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

How to Crochet the Spike Stitch

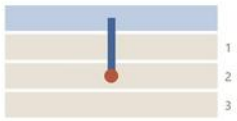
a single crochet worked into a stitch 1, 2 or 3 rows below · long spikes of colour

1 · Spike 1 below



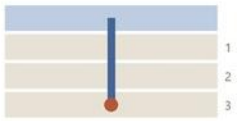
Insert the hook into the stitch ONE row below the next stitch, yo, pull up a long loop to the height of the row, finish the sc.

2 · Spike 2 below



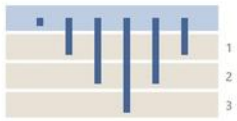
Same, but 2 rows below. Pull the loop up loosely so the fabric doesn't pucker.

3 · Spike 3 below



3 rows below: the deepest spike of the V, into the first row of the stripe below.

4 · The V



sc, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1 below, repeated: the new colour drops down in little V's.

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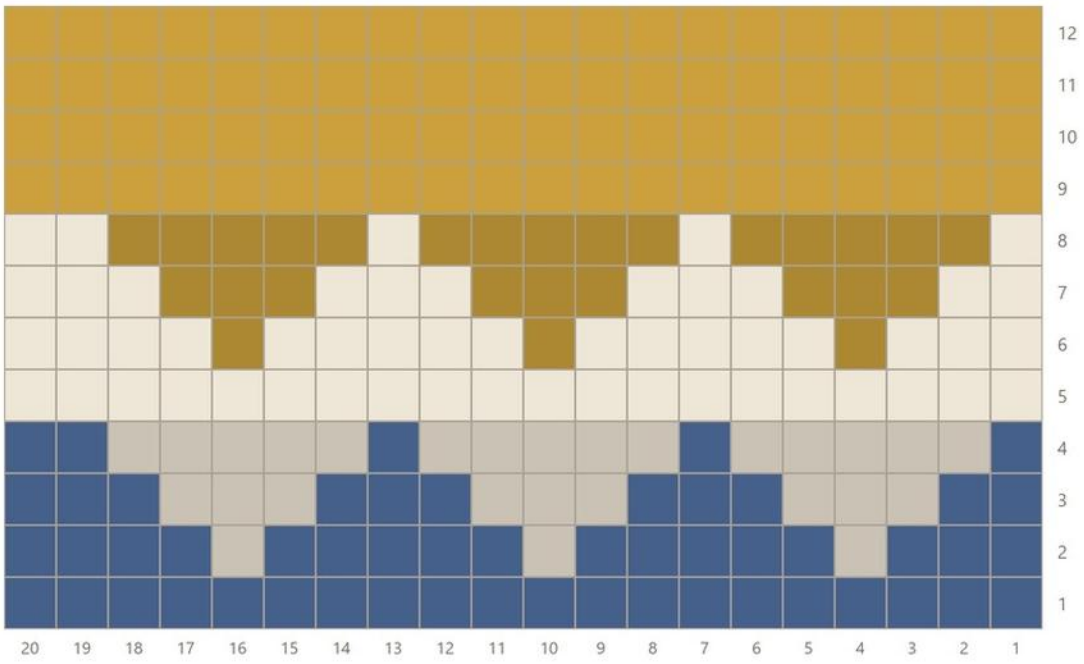
Spike Stitch · Colour Chart

20 sts × 12 rows · stripes of 4 rows · V of spikes on the first row of each stripe



Each square is one sc. The darker squares are the spikes: the new colour reaching 1, 2 or 3 rows down into the stripe below.

Rows read from the bottom up; spike rows are always right-side rows.

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Spike Stitch Tote · Sizes

Worsted (#4) cotton · 5 mm (US H-8) hook · gauge 16 sc × 18 rows = 4 in

Size	Panel	Start	Sts	Rows	Worsted: blue / cream / mustard
Small	12 × 13 in (30 × 33 cm)	ch 51	50 (8 V's)	60 (15 stripes)	210 / 150 / 150 yd
Market	15 × 16 in (38 × 41 cm)	ch 63	62 (10 V's)	72 (18 stripes)	290 / 230 / 230 yd

Any width: a multiple of 6 + 2 sts. Straps 22 / 24 in long, 4 rows of sc.

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