



« *Petit Frileux* » Aran handbag

I took with me on my last trip to Stockholm, the first rough version of a large wool handbag inside which I placed an old bag to make sure of keeping my belongings safe. It was a test for how I should reinforce the bag to make it “secure”!



I wanted a small bag in an Aran pattern to be both elegant and able to be used for everyday life: solid and well structured. Aran patterns naturally give a solid structure. I then had to find out how to reinforce parts of the bag as some crochet bags, whilst looking pretty, will clearly not be strong enough to carry all that a lady needs!

The «Petit Frileux» is designed with the following reinforcements:

- inside the handles
- at the seam of the handles: top side of the bag
- at the bottom of the bag

This tutorial focuses on the technical steps of building the handbag, which takes precedence over the patterns used because, after all, you can just as easily use any crochet stitch that you like!



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Tools

- Wool Phildar Partner 6: I used 6 balls of this wool. Aran patterns are very wool “greedy”
- Hook number 4 or 5: a hook of smaller size to have tighter stitches
- Pair of scissors, wool needle
- Magnetic attachment, male-female
- Thick white cotton rope
- Vlieseline: thin foam of about 1 to 2 mm found everywhere in creative art shops or on the net

Main piece : the Rectangle



- Make a rectangle of 55 cm x 30 cm
 - The rectangle is composed of 3 panels:
 - The central panel of 15 cm will be the bottom of the bag
 - the 2 outer panels of each 20 cm will be the sides of the bag



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- The 2 outer panels = total 49 stitches
 - The central motif here is made on 19 stitches: 15 stitches for the motif + 2 x 2 stitches for the borders made in cable = total of 19 stitches
 - The outer pattern is 11 stitches + 4 stitches for the borders = 15 stitches
 - You can choose to make these panels with the crochet stitch that suits you and also depending your expertise in crochet
- To get started with the patterns you see on my model:
 - central motif: Aran Diamond small size >> **Grid link in the blog at the “English corner”**
 - external motifs: Large Aran Diamond >> **Grid link in the blog at the “English corner”**
 - To learn how to make Aran patterns: a quick tour for inspiration in my Aran stitch library at www.capitannecrochet.com and my YouTube channel Anne Lee Crochet
 - To adapt an Aran pattern: choose a pattern you like and adjust the number of stitches by playing with the borders
 - **Note:** Aran patterns are worked alternately 1 row where we create the patterns with cables in the right side (Front Post double crochet or long front post double crochet) and 1 row of single crochet in the wrong side

The central panel

- After finishing the first panel of patterns, make a row of double crochet, on the “wrong” side (where you cannot see the pattern), chain 2 to turn
- Continue with a second row of **front post** double crochet. You will then be on the “right” side of the work. This will create a kind of hinge: the 2 vertical lines in the picture that frame the central panel



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- Continue with rows of single crochet for about 15 cm
- At the end of the rows of tight stitches, do again:
 - "wrong" side: row of double crochet
 - "right" side: row of front post double crochet to recreate the second hinge
- Continue with the 3rd and last rectangle panel

The bag bottom

- Place the rectangle vertically in front of you, on the "wrong" side
- The lower hinge will be used as a foundation chain for crocheting a second layer for the bottom side with single crochet





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- Make single crochet rows from this foundation chain on about 14 cm / 15 cm: you are working the second layer of the bottom of the bag
- To the desired extent, you will join the double bottom to the second hinge, with a row of single crochet



- Cut a rectangle in the vlieseline of about 13 cm x 29 cm (slightly smaller than the size of the bag bottom) and slide it between the 2 layers

Sewing both sides of the « *Petit Frileux* »

- You are ready to either sew or join with single crochet on both sides of the bag

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- Fold the rectangle in 2, positioning the patterns towards you
- To ensure symmetry, sewing should start from the top corner of the bag. You will stop the seam at the bottom of the bag



- Flip the bag around like a glove
- Sew the bottom two corners of the bag forming 2 small triangles: following the line made by the pen in the picture



Now the sides and bottom of the bag are ready!





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How to reinforce the top side

- Insert the hook at the top of the bag and make a full round in single crochet
- Make a second round with **back loop** single crochet
- Continue several rounds in single crochet, about 3 to 5 cm (or more if you wish to cover the entire inside): this part will fold inward to partially form an inner lining



Handles

- Making the handles is a bit complicated to explain in writing: do not panic >>> video tutorial

>>> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKodprlg09Y>

- The handles measure about 28 cm for the twisted part and 2/3 cm for the hinges that will be sewn to the bag



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How to reinforce the handles

- Before attaching the handles to the bag, insert a rope inside: in white cotton to avoid washing accidents!
- **Tip:** take one end of the rope and tie a knot around the hook. The hook will serve as a guide to insert the rope inside the handle. Then, fix the rope on each side by knotting it with the wool threads of the beginning and the end of the handle
- You are ready for the sewing by drawing a "square" at the hinges to secure the fastener: do not forget at the time of sewing to sew at the same time the inner lining of reinforcement

Bonus : the magnetic clasp

I propose as a final touch to put a magnetic clasp. The male/female parts can be easily be fixed using the lining of the top side



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Video tutorial : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ji7MPBQecw>

I wish you happy crocheting and as much fun as I had giving birth to this «Petit Frileux»!
And please share without moderation pictures of your bags on my social networks!

Anne Lee