

# STITCHES WEST 2016

Opening Day



designs by  
Rick  
Mondragon

## Raffia & fabric tote

### BLACK TOTE

Chain (ch) 40.

**Round 1** Ch1 (counts as first hdc), half-double crochet (hdc) into second "purl" bump on back of chain, then into remaining 39 bumps. Rotate work clockwise so other half of chain is at top. Hdc into both loops of each stitch of chain—80 hdc. Mark beginning of round.

*Rounds are not joined, but spiral around. All hdc are worked around a core (a separate fabric strip) for added stability. Give the core a tug every 10 to 15 hdc to adjust its tension.*

**Rounds 2–23** With left hand holding core along top edge of work, hdc into each hdc and around core, end last round above beginning-of-round marker.

**Round 24: Opening for handle** Continuing to work around core, [Hdc in each of next 11 hdc, ch18, skip 18 hdc carrying core across opening, hdc in each of next 11 hdc] twice.

**Round 25** [Hdc in each of next 11 hdc, work 18 hdc around chain and 2 strands of core (core from previous round and current round), hdc in each of next 11 hdc] twice.

**Rounds 26 and 27** Work as for Rounds 2–23.

**Next round** Single crochet (sc) in each hdc to end. Cut yarn and fasten off.

### Finishing

Attach yarn at beginning of handle opening. Sc in each hdc around. Cut yarn and fasten off.

Weave in ends. ◡



UNIVERSAL YARN  
Yashi (100% Raffia;  
40g/99 yds) in color  
101 Spider

it's  
easy  
...go  
for it!

EASY

**Black tote**  
25" circumference × 12" tall

**Denim tote**  
23" circumference × 13" tall

10cm/4"



13

over half-double crochet

**Black tote**



**Medium weight**

250 yds

**Denim tote**



**Bulky weight**

275 yds



5mm/H-8

&

**BLACK TOTE**

25 yds fabric strips or something similar, to add stability and some contrast

**DENIM TOTE (Optional)**  
silk screen foil  
fusible web

### NOTES

Black Tote is worked with Yashi over a ½" fabric strip.

Denim Tote is worked with Denims yarn over a Denims yarn core.



UNIVERSAL YARN  
Denims (70% cotton,  
30% wool;  
100g/109yds) in color  
105 Stonewashed

# Denim tote

## Pocket

Chain (ch) 14.

**Row 1** Turn. Ch1 (counts as first hdc), half-double crochet (hdc) into second "purl" bump on back of chain, then into remaining 12 bumps — 14 hdc.

*In following rows of pocket and all rounds of tote EXCEPT Round 1, all hdc are worked around a core (a separate length of yarn) for added stability. Give the core a tug every 10 to 15 hdc to adjust its tension.*

**Rows 2–13** Turn. Using a second ball of yarn as core, and with left hand holding core along top edge of work, ch1 (counts as first hdc), hdc into second stitch from hook, hdc to end.

Fasten off last hdc, leaving an 18" tail of working yarn and a 6" tail of core.

## Main body

Ch 41.

**Round 1** Hdc into bump on back of second chain from hook, then into remaining 39 bumps. Rotate work clockwise so other half of chain is at top. Hdc into both loops of each stitch of chain—80 hdc. Mark beginning of round.

*For remainder of tote, hdc into both loops of hdc of previous rounds. Rounds are not joined, but spiral around.*

**Rounds 2–22** Using a second ball of yarn as core, work hdc into each hdc and around core, end last round above beginning of round marker.

## Place pocket

**Round 23** Hdc13, place pocket inside bag, aligning top corner with next stitch, hdc14 across and across top of pocket, skip 14 hdc from bag, then hdc to beginning-of-round marker.

**Rounds 24–28** Work as for Rounds 2–22.

**Round 29: Opening for handle** [Hdc in each of next 13 hdc, ch14, skip 14 hdc carrying core across opening, hdc in each of next 13 hdc] twice.

**Round 30** [Hdc in each of next 14 hdc, work 14 hdc around chain and 2 strands of core (core from previous round and current round), hdc in each of next 14 hdc] twice.

**Rounds 31 and 32** Work as for Rounds 2–22.

**Next round** Single crochet in each hdc to end. Cut yarn and fasten off.

## Finishing

Turn bag inside out and sew side and bottom edges of pocket to inside of tote.

*Embellish pocket if you wish...we used Wonder Under and silk-screen foil.* Cut fusible web and foil to match dimensions of pocket. Iron on fusible web, let cool, remove protective parchment and overlap foil. Follow directions on package. ◊



Iron on fusible web  
then iron on silk-screen foil.

## The makings



# Making a continuous fabric strip

Pick a fabric that is attractive on both sides — madras, hand-dyed, batik — so there is no "wrong" side.

You may rip your fabric for more rustic edges or use a rotary cutter for a smoother finish.

Fabric 42"-44" wide

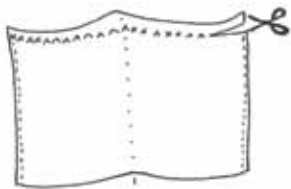


Purchase 1/2 yard

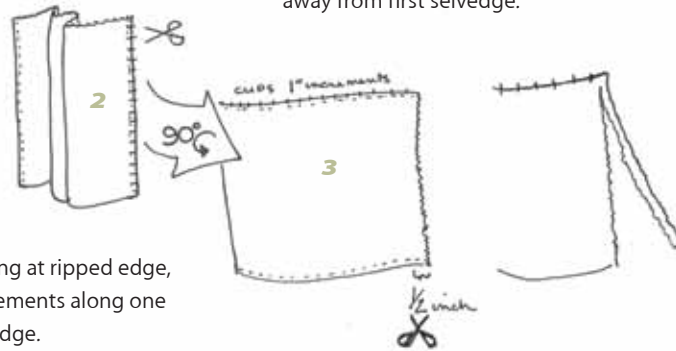


## Ripped strip

**1** Square off one cut end of fabric: Clip selvedge 1/2" from cut edge and rip across width of fabric.

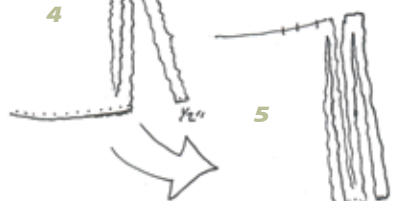


**2** Beginning at ripped edge, clip 1" increments along one selvedge edge.



**3** At opposite selvedge, clip 1/2" from ripped edge and rip across fabric, stopping 1"-2" away from first selvedge.

**4** At first selvedge, rip fabric at next clip, stopping 1"-2" away from opposite selvedge.



**5** At opposite selvedge, clip 1" from ripped edge and rip as before.

**6** Repeat Steps 4 and 5 across entire width of fabric, then wind into a ball.



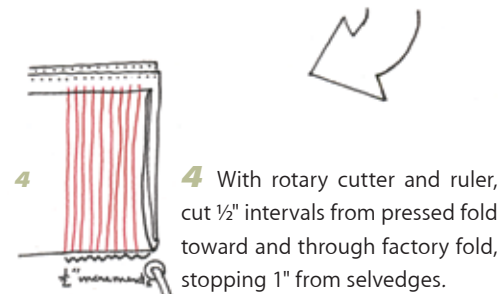
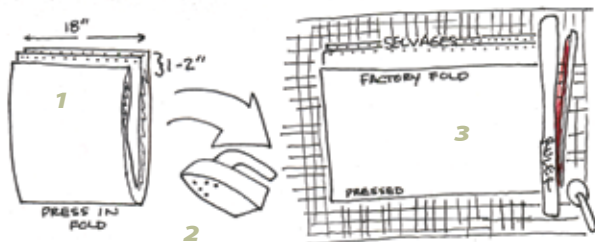
# Rotary-cut strip

If you prefer, you could use a rotary cutter, ruler, and mat.

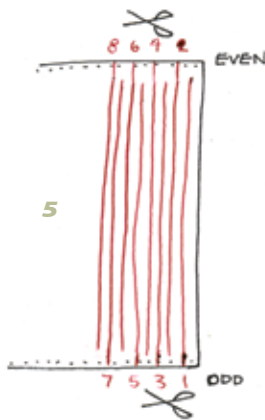
**1** Leaving factory fold in place, fold fabric once more, bringing factory fold parallel but 1"-2" from selvages and...

**2** ... press new fold.

**3** Square up one edge with ruler and rotary cutter.



**4** With rotary cutter and ruler, cut 1/2" intervals from pressed fold toward and through factory fold, stopping 1" from selvages.

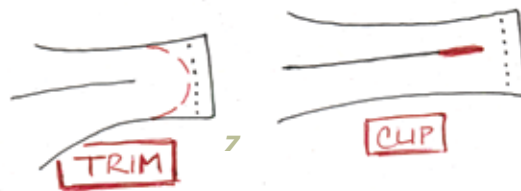


**5** Beginning at cut closest to squared edge, open up fabric, clipping first selvage at first rotary cut and then at cuts 3, 5, 7, etc. On opposite selvage, clip through cuts 2, 4, 6, etc.



**6** Wind into a ball.

**7** When working with the "fabric" yarn you may trim the selvage turns to smooth the transition or clip the rips or cuts closer to the selvages.



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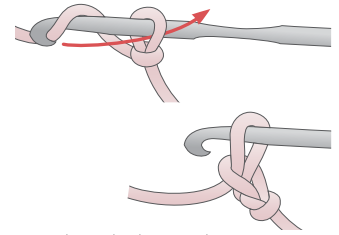
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## Crochet Wise

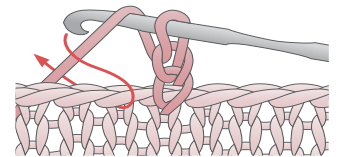
### Chain stitch



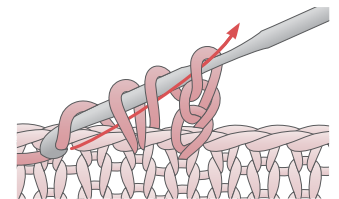
**1** Make a slip knot to begin.

**2** Catch yarn and draw through loop on hook (top). First chain completed (bottom). Repeat Step 2.

### Half-double crochet (hdc)

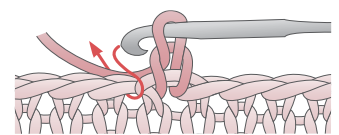


**1** Yarn over, insert hook into next stitch to the left (as shown). Catch yarn and pull through stitch only; 3 loops on hook.



**2** Catch yarn and pull through all 3 loops on hook: 1 half-double crochet completed. Repeat Steps 1-2.

### Single crochet (sc)

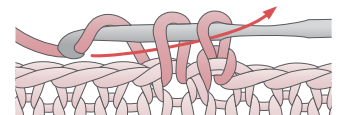


**1** Insert hook into a stitch, catch yarn and pull up a loop. Catch yarn and pull through the loop on the hook.

**2** Insert hook into next stitch to the left.



**3** Catch yarn and pull through the stitch; 2 loops on hook.



**4** Catch yarn and pull through both loops on hook; 1 single crochet completed. Repeat Steps 2-4.