**Kings Highway Beginner Tote**

Choose any of the wonderful ombre yarn shades available to make the perfect tote for days when you are on the go. The outer pocket is a handy addition!

**What you will need:**

RED HEART® Super Saver Ombre™: 1 skein 4935 Seaside

Susan Bates® Crochet Hook: 5.5mm [US I-9]

2 adjustable purse straps, ¾” (2cm) wide x 21-23” (55.5-58.5cm) long, large plastic canvas sheet, yarn needle

**GAUGE:** 12 hdc = 4” (10cm); 10 rows = 4” (10cm) in half double crochet. CHECK YOUR GAUGE. Use any size hook to obtain the gauge.

**TOTE Panel (make 2)**

Ch 47.

Row 1 (Right Side): Hdc in 3rd hook from ch (beginning skipped ch do not count as a st), hdc in each ch across – 45 hdc.

Row 2: Ch 1, turn, hdc in each st across.

Rows 3-27: Repeat Row 2.

Row 28: Ch 1, turn, hdc in first 10 sts, ch 2 (strap opening), skip next 2 sts, hdc in next 21 sts, ch 2 (strap opening), skip next 2 sts, hdc in last 10 sts, turn – 41 hdc and 2 ch-2 spaces.

Row 29: Ch 1, turn, hdc in each st and ch across – 45 hdc.

Row 30: Repeat Row 2.

**Facing**

Row 31: Working in back loops only, repeat Row 2.

Row 32: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Rows 33 and 34: Repeat Rows 28 and 29.

Fasten off.

**Pocket Panel**

Ch 35.

Rows 1-20: Repeat Rows 1-20 of Panel – 33 hdc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

**Notes**

1. Half double crochet stitching often begins with 2 chains as the first stitch which leaves a small gap between these beginning chains and the next stitch. In this pattern, all rows begin with 1 chain (which does not count as a stitch); work the first half double crochet in the first stitch of the row. This will eliminate the gap and produce a neater edge.

2. To make matching Panels, start at the same point in the colorway on the 2nd Panel as in the first. There is sufficient yarn in 1 skein to match the Panels.

**Tote measures 15” (38cm) wide x 12” (30.5 cm) long, not including straps.**

Find more ideas & inspiration: redheart.com
FINISHING

Optional: For stability across top edges of Tote, cut 2 pieces of plastic canvas as shown in schematic, taking care to leave smooth edges and trimming as needed to fit.

With right sides facing up, center Row 1 of Pocket on Row 5 of one Panel. Pin in place and sew around 3 sides with end tail.

With right sides held together, seam side and bottom edges of Panels together.

Fold Facing to wrong side, insert stabilizers with strap openings aligned, and sew last row of Facing to wrong side of Panels. Turn right side out. Weave in ends.

Insert straps through openings and adjust to desired length.

ABBREVIATIONS

ch = chain; cm = centimeters; hdc = half double crochet; mm = millimeters; st(s) = stitch(es).