

Basic 1-2-3's of Crocheting Plarn Mats

By Cat Taylor Willoughby, for "Sarah's Bag Ladies"

1. CREATING THE MAT:

Use a hook you are comfortable with; generally anything from a J to a Q works fine with plarn.

You'll need between 500 - 700 plastic bags converted to plarn. The objective is to create a mat that measures approximately 3 feet by 6 feet.

Start by chaining a 3 ft length of plarn. Depending on the hook size you chose, this will be anywhere between 40 and 80 cha ins. Make one turning chain at the end of your starting chain and at the end of each subsequent row. (ch 1 for turning)



Turn and sc rows back and forth until your piece measures 6 feet, remembering to chain 1 at the end of each row for turning (it helps to keep the mat edges even). When your mat is the correct size, sc evenly around all 4 sides, doing 3 sc in each corner. Finish off. Weave in ends with hook.

2. MAKING THE CARRYING STRAP:

Fold mat in half length-wise. Along this folded edge, mark 1/3 and 2/3 points- roughly 6" points on top and bottom fold. You'll do the carrying strap on one edge and flip it over to do the tying strap.

With a new piece of plarn chain 50 plus one for turning. Sc 50 down the chain. Turn and crochet 50 sc down other side of chain.

Attach to first mark on mat with a slip stitch and slip stitch into the mat down and back up to strap to secure it. (Picture a horseshoe pattern of slip stitches below the strap)

Locate 2nd marker on this side of mat and attach the other side of the strap with a slip stitch. Slip stitch down and curve back up to the strap to make this end of the carrying strap secure. Tie off. Strap done!

3: MAKING THE TYING STRAPS:

Flip the mat over and find the 2/3 and 1/3 points on this side. At the first point attach a new piece of plarn and make a 3ft chain. Sc down the chain and attach securely to mat using slip stitches down around and back up mat to strap and you did with the carrying strap. At the second point, make your second 3ft tying strap. And you're done!

There are great tutorials on line. Use them to your advantage. Improve and revise this. Create your mat in whatever way works best for you. **Thank you for your generosity!**