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## Vote Tote

with  
**SIMPLY SOFT®**  
**Eco**

designed by Deb Richey

**TECHNIQUE USED:** Crochet



EASY



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### FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Tote measures approximately 11"/28 cm wide x 11 1/2"/29 cm high x 2"/5 cm deep

### MATERIALS

Caron International's Simply Soft Eco (80% Acrylic, 20% NatureSpun™ Polyester): 11 oz (A), 1/2 oz (B), 1/2 oz (C)

**Shown in:** #0002 Natural (A); #0012 Wine Country (B); #0026 Dark Denim Wash (C).

One size US J-10 (6 mm) crochet hook, or size to obtain gauge.

Stitch markers

Yarn needle



### GAUGE

In single crochet, 16 sts and 20 rows = 4"/10 cm.

In (sc, dc) stitch pattern, 16 sts and 15 rows = 4"/10 cm.

### STITCHES USED

Chain (ch), double crochet (dc), half double crochet (hdc), single crochet (sc), slip stitch (slip st).

### SPECIAL TERM

**sc2tog:** Single crochet 2 together – [Insert hook in next stitch, yarn over

and pull up a loop] twice times, yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

**sc3tog:** Single crochet 3 together – [Insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop] 3 times, yarn over and draw through all 4 loops on hook.

**sc5tog:** Single crochet 5 together – [Insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop] 5 times, yarn over and draw through all 6 loops on hook.

## **BAG**

### **Back**

With A, chain 57.

**Row 1:** Sc in second ch from hook, dc in next ch, \*sc in next ch, dc in next ch; repeat from \* across, turn—56 sts.

**Rows 2–42:** Ch 1, \*sc in next dc, sc in next dc; repeat from \* across, turn. Fasten off.

### **Bottom**

**Row 43:** Working in front loops only, join A with sc in 7th st (the 7th st should be a dc), sc in next 43 sts; leave remaining 6 sts unworked, turn—44 sc.

**Rows 44–53:** Ch 1, sc in each sc across, turn. Fasten off.

### **Front**

**Row 54:** With A, ch 6, sc in 44 sts of Row 53, ch 7, turn.

**Row 55:** Working in each ch and in front loops of sc only, sc in second ch from hook, dc in next st, \*sc in next st, dc in next st; repeat from \* across, turn—56 sts.

**Rows 56–96:** Ch 1, \*sc in next dc, dc in next sc; repeat from \* across, turn. Fasten off.

## **STRAPS (make 2)**

With A, chain 112.

**Row 1:** Sc in second ch from hook, sc in each remaining ch across, turn—111 sc.

**Rows 2–4:** Ch 1, sc in each sc across, turn. Fasten off.

## **POCKET (make 1 – optional)**

With A, chain 33.

**Row 1:** Sc in second ch from hook, dc in next ch, \*sc in next ch, dc in next ch; repeat from \* across, turn—32 sc.

**Rows 2–22:** Ch 1, \*sc in next dc, dc in next sc; repeat from \* across, turn. Fasten off.

## **LETTERS (make 1 of each)**

**V:** With B, chain 27; 5 sc in second ch from hook, sc in next 9 ch, sc5tog, sc in next 10 ch, 5 sc in last ch; working along opposite side of foundation ch, sc in next 12 sts, 3 sc in next st, sc in next 11 sts; join with slip st in first sc. Fasten off.

**O:**

**Row 1:** With C, chain 25; 2 sc in second ch from hook, sc in next ch, 2 sc in next ch, sc in next 6 ch, [2 sc in next ch, sc in next ch, 2 sc in next ch] twice, sc in next 6 ch, 2 sc in next ch, sc in next ch, 2 sc in next ch; join with slip st in first sc—32 sc.

**Row 2:** Ch 1, \*[sc in next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc] twice, sc in next 4 sc, [2 sc in next sc, sc in next 2 sc] twice; repeat from \* once more; join with slip st in first sc—40 sc. Fasten off.

**T:**

**Row 1:** With B, chain 16, 5 sc in second ch from hook, sc in next ch, sc3tog, sc in next 9 ch, 5 sc in next ch; working along opposite side of foundation ch, sc in next 9 sts; leave remaining portion of opposite side of foundation ch unworked, ch 5. Fasten off.

**Row 2:** Join B with slip st in last sc made in Row 1 and prepare to work along ch-5; sc3tog over first 3 ch, sc in next ch, 5 sc in last ch; working along opposite side of foundation ch, sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog; continuing along unworked portion of opposite side of foundation ch across top of 'T', sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts; join with slip st in first sc of Row 1. Fasten off.

**E:**

**Row 1:** With C, chain 22; 5 sc in second ch from hook, sc in next 3 ch, 3 sc in next ch, sc in next 11 ch, 3 sc in next ch, sc in next 3 ch, 5 sc in next ch; working along opposite side of foundation ch, sc in next 2 sts, sc3tog, sc in next 4 sts, ch 5, dc in 3rd ch from hook, dc in next 2 ch, skip next st (along opposite side of foundation ch), sc in next 4 sts, sc3tog, sc in next 2 sts; join with slip st in first sc. Fasten off.

**FINISHING**

**Sew Letters to Tote:** Sew 'V' 3"/7.5cm below top edge of front of tote and 2 3/4"/7cm from left side edge. Sew 'E' 3"/7.5cm below top edge of front of tote and 2 3/4"/7cm from right side edge. Sew 'O' and 'T' evenly spaced between the 'V' and 'E.'

**Sew Pocket to Tote (optional):** Center pocket over back of tote and sew in place.

**Sew Sides of Tote:** Fold up front and back of tote, bending sides of front and back along side edges of bottom. With A, sew side and bottom edges together.

**Sew Straps to Tote:** With A, sew ends of one strap about 4"/10cm from each side of front. Repeat with second strap on back of bag.

Using yarn needle, weave in ends.

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