Crochet Beaded Gypsy Bag

Things You Will Need:
- Worsted weight yarn-7 oz. beige
- 2 spools crochet thread-325 yards each, ecru
- H and D crochet hook
- 153 pony beads-assorted neutral colors
- Muslin
- Straight pins
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- Iron
- Sewing needle and thread
- Yarn needle
- Leather belt
- 1" D-rings-2
- 7/16" metal eyelets-2 sets
- Tools needed for attaching eyelets
- 1" toggle button

Abbreviations:
- ch(s) = chain(s)
- st(s) = stitch(es)
- sl st = slip stitch
- sc = single crochet
- sk = skip
- dc = double crochet
- sp(s) = space(s)
- rnd(s) = round(s)
- dc-bead = double crochet with bead
Special Note:
3-strand combination (yarn and 2 strands crochet thread) is used throughout.

Adding a Bead:
Yarn over, insert crochet hook into the sp. Grab yarn, pull back through sp. Slide one bead to the st. Grab the loop on the other side of the bead. Pull through two loops on hook. Yarn over, pull through remaining two loops on hook. Dc-bead made. Note: All beads will be on the back of the stitch, but the right side of the bag is the side with the beads.

Body (Make 2):
*Hold one strand of beige yarn and two strands of ecru crochet thread together and thread the strands onto a yarn needle. String 60 pony beads onto the strands in no particular order. You will slide the beads down the strands until they are needed. Remove the yarn needle.

Using a K hook, form a magic circle.

Rnd 1: Ch 4 (counts as first dc, ch 1). Work *dc, ch 1* 11 times in the ring. Sl st to the third ch of beginning ch. Pull the tail to cinch the center closed. (12 dc-ch 1)

Rnd 2: Ch 3 (counts as first dc now and throughout), turn. Dc, ch 1 in first ch sp. *2 dc, ch 1* in each space around. Sl st to top of beginning ch 3.

Rnd 3: Bead Round-Ch 3, turn. Dc-bead, dc, ch 1 in next sp. *dc, dc-bead, dc, ch 1* in every sp around. Sl st to top of beginning ch 3.

Rnd 4: Ch 3, turn. Dc, ch 1, 2 dc in the next space. *2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc* in every sp around. Sl st to top of beginning ch 3.

Rnd 5: Repeat Rnd 2.

Rnd 6: Ch 3, turn. 2 dc, ch 1 in next sp. *3 dc, ch 1* in every sp around. Sl st to top of beginning ch 3.

Rnd 7: Repeat Rnd 4.

Rnd 8: Repeat Rnd 2.

Rnd 9: Bead Round-Repeat Rnd 3.

Rnd 10: Repeat Rnd 4. Fasten off and weave in the ends.

Make the Bag:
Step 1: Hold the two body circles with the wrong sides together. Match up the sts and sc in 128 dc, skipping ch spaces. Fasten off and weave in the ends.

Step 2: Lining-Lay the bag on a double layer of muslin. Fold down the section of the bag that was not stitched together. This is the bag opening. Using a pen, trace around the bag and along the folded edge. Pin and cut out. Sew the muslin shape using a 1/4" seam allowance. Do not sew along the opening.

Step 3: Do not turn the lining right side out. Fold the open edge 1/4" to the wrong side and press.
Step 4: Insert the lining into the crochet bag. Pin the top edge of the lining to the opening of the bag. Hand stitch the lining to the bag.

Fringe:
Step 1: Cut a 16" length from the strand combination.
Step 2: Find the center-bottom of the bag.
Step 3: Insert the crochet hook through the st from the back of the bag to the front. Fold the strand length in half. Grab the fold of the strand with the hook and pull through the st to form a loop. Do not pull all the way through. Bring the ends of the strand up and through the loop. Pull the ends to lock the fringe.
Step 4: Repeat for a total of 66 fringe evenly spaced along the bottom and sides of the bag.
Step 5: After folding, each fringe has two yarn strands and four crochet thread strands. Hold the strands of two fringe together for a total of 12 strands. Insert a D crochet hook through a pony bead. Grab the 12 strands and pull through the bead. Note: If it is too difficult to pull all of the strands through the bead at once, separate into smaller sections. Slide the bead up to the base of the fringe.
Step 6: Tie the 12 strands into an overhand knot just below the bead.
Step 7: Repeat with the remaining fringe for a total of 33.

Handle and Button Closure:
Step 1: Cut off the buckle end of an old leather belt. Drape the belt over your shoulder to determine the purse handle length needed. Keep in mind you will need approximately 3 inches more to allow for adding D-rings.
Step 2: Insert one end of the belt through a D-ring and fold over the end. Attach an eyelet set through both layers of the fold using the manufacturer's instructions on the eyelet package and the tools requested. Repeat on the other end of the belt to complete the handle.
Step 3: Place one D-ring over one side seam of the bag, just below the opening. Using the strand combination and a yarn needle, whip stitch around the ring to secure. Knot and weave in the ends. Repeat on the other side of the bag with the other end of the handle.
Step 4: Choose which side of the purse will be the front. Fold the open edges to the front to form flaps. Fold the back flap (the one on top) up and out of the way. Center a toggle button in the middle of the last row stitched. Hand stitch the button to the flap and into the purse. Fold the back flap over the front flap and insert the button through a stitch to close.