

Introduction to Planned Pooling with Crochet Rev

By Nancy Bouhajja

- **The first class is only an introduction to planned pooling.**
 - The goal is to learn how **some** variegated yarns repeat and can be manipulated to form a specific pattern.
 - We will only be focusing on the argyle pattern which I have several samples of.
 - We will make a chain that is only used as a reference for color sequence.
 - We will break the rules and stitch around our chain rather than into our chain.
 - We will make a swatch which is only done to perfect our stitches and determine the number of stitches that we can obtain from each color. Two people working with the same yarn may achieve different stitch counts due to hook size and tension.
 - After determining our stitch count, we will rip out the swatch and start a scarf.
 - **We will most likely not be able to achieve all of this in a two hour window.**
 - **We will take a 15 minute break at 11:55, and if you choose to, we will be continuing the class at 12:10. I am available to stay and teach until the shop closes at 2:00 p.m.**

- **My favorite yarns to start with:**
 - Red Heart Super Saver
 - Bright Mix, Day Glow, Fall, Ocean, Pink Camo, Earth and Sky, Icelandic, Wildflower
 - Caron Jumbo
 - Every color way I have tried pools easily

- **Tips, Tricks, and overview**
 - Planned pooling is most often done with the moss/linen stitch (single crochet, chain one).
 - Single crochet also works, but provides a different look.
 - With longer color ways half double and double crochet work, as well as granny stitch and shell stitch.

- o Start out with the size of hook suggested on the yarn label, but have one size larger and one size smaller, handy just in case.
- o Start by making a long chain (between 120 and 150 chains) to be able to easily view your color sequence.
- o Always do a swatch, to see the number of stitches that you **consistently** get with each color.
- o When doing your swatch, if you are getting stitches that are half one color, and half another color, try changing hook sizes until you can easily get whole stitches in each color. Both "legs" of your stitch, and the top of the stitch *should* be the same color.
- o You may need to change your tension to get the correct number of whole stitches in a color due to minor inconsistencies in the yarn.
- o Sometimes a skein of yarn is just inconsistent, and won't work, even if you purchase the same dye lots.

- o Start with a small project.
 - One skein can usually make a nice scarf or cowl.
 - Sometimes you may need to add a border, or additional length with a coordinating solid color.
 - You may choose to use two 5 oz. skeins or one 10 oz. skein to make a longer scarf.
- o Due to the length of the color sequence, you may not be able to make the project the exact width you were planning on.
 - You have to work with the pooling length.
 - Pooling can be done in half sequence, full sequence, or multiple sequences.
- o If a yarn has dye lots, and you are doing a large project, make sure you purchase enough of the same dye lot, but be aware that even within dye lots there can be variations on the color lengths.

- **Resources**

- o Facebook **group**: Planned Pooling with Crochet
 - This group has some rules that you must abide by, read the pinned post first.
 - This is where people post their achievements and challenges.

- To find out if a particular yarn will work, simply search the yarn's name in this group.
- Check out the Files section for lots of good information, such as “Yarn Brands – Colors That Work.pdf”, and “Written Pooling Instructions”.
- o Facebook **page**: Planned Pooling with Crochet
 - This page is run by the same admins, but it is mostly for them to post tips and tricks. This is where you can easily find the best instructions for planned pooling. There are links to websites and videos.
- o YouTube: search Planned Pooling with Crochet
 - Marly Bird, Glamour4You, and Melodysmakings are some of my favorite channels.
- WWW.plannedpooling.com
 - This website has a pooling calculator that can be used for knitting or crochet.
 - After doing your swatch, input the colors you have, and the number of stitches that you get in each color.
 - If you are using the moss/linen stitch, the single crochet and chain count as one stitch.
 - This also works if you are using single crochet, double crochet, granny stitch, or shell stitch (a granny cluster, or shell stitch would be input as one stitch).

Practice makes perfect. Don't be afraid to rip it out and try again.