

# Introduction to Planned Pooling with Crochet Directions - Original

- Using the hook size recommended on your skein of yarn chain between 120 and 150 so that you can easily see the color sequence.
  - Holding onto the beginning of one color, loop your chain around to see if and where the color sequence repeats.
  - It is best to make enough chains so that you can see **at least** two complete color sequences.
  - Some yarns will have a much longer color sequence than others.
- Noting where the end of your color sequence is, unravel your chain until you have one complete color sequence, plus two additional chains at the end. Note, you may have a few additional chains at the beginning also.
  - This chain is going to be kept as a reference for color sequence, not stitch count.
- Make a swatch to determine how many stitches can consistently be made from each color in your sequence.
  - Cut off a 6" piece of yarn to be used as a stitch marker
  - Chain 32, attach stitch marker around chain just below your hook.
    - This stitch marker is used for two purposes, to show you where the final stitch of your next row will go, and to give you something to hold onto as you attempt to sc around your chain.
  - **Row 1** Single crochet (sc) **around** the chain (not **into** the chain), chain (ch) 1, repeat until you have 15 sc and 14ch. Ch 2, turn
    - We are crocheting around the chain rather than into it so that our stitches use up the same amount of yarn per stitch that they will in the next row where we crochet into the ch 1 sp.
  - **Row 2** Using your normal comfortable tension, Sc into the ch 1 sp after the 1<sup>st</sup> sc, ch 1, repeat to the end, always ending with a sc. Ch2, turn.
    - It is very important to go into the ch 1 space rather than in the stitch. This can sometimes be hard to see as the stitches may be squished together, or spread apart due to stitching around the chain. It will be easier to even out these stitches after a few rows are completed.
    - Make sure that both "legs" of the each stitch of the previous row are between the stitches of this row.
  - **Row 3** Repeat row 2
  - After row 3 put your hook down and look at your stitches to see if most of your stitches have both legs of one color. The goal is for all of the stitches to be that way.
    - If just a **few** stitches are half one color, and half another, try adjusting your tension to correct this.
    - If **many** of the stitches are half and half, try changing your hook size. If your stitches are fairly loose go down a hook size. If your stitches are fairly tight, go up a hook size.

- **Row 4-6** Repeat row 2, **being aware of keeping each of your stitches all one color.**
- After row 6 put your hook down.
- In the chart below, write down each of the colors in your color sequence in the order that you are crocheting them in. Refer to your reference chain.
- Looking at your swatch, go down several rows and find the beginning of your color sequence.
- Below the color name, write down the number of stitches that you got each time for the last 3 sequences.
- This chart will serve as an example

Color	White 1	Lt Blue1	Dk Blue	Lt Blue 2	White 2	Brown
Seq 1	3	2	3	4	3	3
Seq 2	2	3	3	3	2	2
Seq 3	3	3	4	3	3	3

- As you can see, not always did I get the same number of stitches each time I crocheted the sequence. You need to force them be the same for every sequence you crochet by adjusting your tension.
- Write down the number that occurs most often in each column (the mode).
- These would be my new numbers. This will be the formula that I will use for my project.

Color	White 1	Lt Blue1	Dk Blue	Lt Blue 2	White 2	Brown
mode	3	3	3	3	3	3

- **Rows 7 & 8** Repeat row two trying to achieve your new numbers while also keeping both legs of your stitches one color.
  - If this cannot be achieved, you will have to change your hook size and crochet a few more rows, and document your numbers again to determine a new formula.
- Once you achieve success let me check your work.
- Next you can rip it all out and reuse the yarn to start your project.

Color								
Seq 1								
Seq 2								
Seq 3								
Mode								


## Starting our project

- Chain until you get to the beginning of your color sequence, making sure that you have at least as many chains as twice the number of stitches in your sequence, plus two.
  - Any extra chains can be removed later.
  - **The chain on your hook should be the very first chain of your color sequence.**
  - Attach your stitch marker just below your hook
- **Row 1** Single crochet (sc) **around** the chain, chain (ch) 1, repeat until you have crocheted through one entire sequence.
  - **It is very important that your stitch count matches your formula.**
  - **It is very important that each of these stitches is one color, and not half and half.**
  - It is not important what color the ch 1 is, as long as you can get the sc all one color.
  - Tear out one sc (leaving the ch 1), ch 1, turn.
- **Row 2** Sc into the ch 1 sp after the 1<sup>st</sup> sc, ch 1, repeat to the end, always ending with a sc. Ch2, turn.
  - **It is very important that your stitch count matches your formula.**
  - **It is very important that each of these stitches is one color, and not half and half.**
  - It is not important what color the ch 1 is, as long as you can get the sc all one color.
  - It is very important to **go into the ch 1 space rather than in the stitch.** This can sometimes be hard to see as the stitches may be squished together, or spread apart due to stitching around the chain. It will be easier to even out these stitches after a few rows are completed.
  - **Make sure that both “legs” of the each stitch of the previous row are between the stitches of this row.**
- **Row 3 This is where it gets dicey.**
  - Sc into the 1<sup>st</sup> ch 1 space, ch 1. Repeat 2 more times and **STOP**.
    - Before going any further, we are going to check to see if our pattern is beginning to form.
    - Let's look at this chart to get an idea of what we will be looking for.

Br	W2	W2	W2	LB2	LB2	LB2	DkB	DkB	DkB	LB1	LB1	LB1	W1	W1	W1	Br
Br	W1	W1	W1	LB1	LB1	LB1	DkB	DkB	DkB	LB2	LB2	LB2	W2	W2	W2	Br
Br	Br	W2	W2	W2	LB2	LB2	LB2	DkB	DkB	DkB	LB1	LB1	LB1	W1	W1	W1

- **Do not** be too concerned about the color of the 1<sup>st</sup> st of your second row.
  - Mine could be either Br or Wh1, or even half and half, depending on my tension in that first row.
  - I know, stitches should be all one color, but let's let that slide this time.
- If the same color appears twice in your sequence, such as my light blue and white, it can be a little challenging to check to see if your stitches are moving.

- What we really need to focus on is where the stitches fall in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row.
    - They need to be offset by one from the first row.
    - We are always looking **2** rows below to check our pattern.
    - If by the 3<sup>rd</sup> st, your stitches are not offset by one, you need to rip out a few stitches and adjust your tension to force this to happen.
  - When you have achieved the offset, complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> row, always keeping that offset, and your stitch count per color in mind. Ch2, turn.
- **Row 4** Sc into the 1<sup>st</sup> ch 1 sp, ch 1, repeat to the end, always checking to see that your stitches are one complete color, and that your offset is correct. Ch2, turn.
- **Row 5 - ?** repeat row 4
- **Notes and FAQ**
  - Always keep your stitch count per color the same in the body of your work
  - Do not be concerned on the count at the ends of the row, due to the fact that the turning chain uses up some yarn, but not as much as a whole moss st (sc, ch1).
  - Always make sure that the first stitch in your row has an offset of one, or your whole row will be off, and even if you corrected it later in the row, your pattern will look off
  - With some yarns you may need to constantly adjust.
    - In the one I am using as my example, my brown almost always has to be crocheted a little tighter.
    - However it did not work for me to go down a hook size for the whole project.
    - As you can see, having one color crocheted tighter does not affect the overall look of my project.
  - If your ends look a little wonky, due to adjusting tension to make your stitches fall where they should, don't worry!
    - The edges of my Earth and Sky lap blanket were wonky and a simple moss/linen stitch border completely cleaned that up.
  - If you encounter a knot in your skein, or wish to add another skein, always match up the colors so that your pattern continues correctly. I just tie a weavers knot and weave in the ends later
  - Every skein of yarn can be a little different.
  - Not all variegated yarns will pool, they have to have consistent repeats.
  - If I need multiple skeins of yarn for a project
    - I very gently unwrap one complete sequence of the yarn from the outside of the skein, while still in the store, to verify that the color lengths are the same or very similar.
    - Usually, if they are all from the same lot#, they will be the same, but I have had it happen where they were very different.
    - Always carefully rewrap any skeins you do not purchase, and return them to the proper section on the shelf.
  - Now you can go wild and experiment with half a sequence, multiple sequences, different yarns, different stitches, and different patterns. The possibilities are endless!