Planned Pooling for Crochet with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Planned Pooling
(upbeat music) - Hi, everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug, comin' at you live like we do every Tuesday and Thursday. And today, I have a special guest, an honorary Creativebug family member. - Marly Bird, hello everybody. - And you probably know Marly Bird if you've spent any time with us in Creativebug, but for the people who don't know your magnificence yet, tell them at home who you are. (Marly laughing) - Well, I am the national spokesperson for Red Heart yarns, on top of being a knitwear and crochet designer, mom, a wife, a teacher, an author, all the good things. - And a Creativebug instructor-- - A Creativebug instructor. - You have a couple classes on our site. - Yes. - The one that I think is still flabbergasting to me is the entrelac class. It's a three-part class in entrelac, I think, it so tricky. - I love it. But you are great at entrelac - I've been knitting for 20 years, now, and entrelac is still the one that makes me go (gasping). - All right, a true story when I was teaching that class, I needed help with a step-out, and she had just told me, "Oh, I'm just not that good at entrelac." I said, "Faith, I need some help." And so she went home and made the whole step-out with the entrelac on her like, first week here at Creativebug and it was, she did great. - Go on. (Marly laughing) I didn't cry the whole time. - No, you didn't; shut up. (laughter) - And Marly always brings us new and exciting things, techniques and products. And today you have this new yarn that has blown my mind, perhaps even more than entrelac. But I haven't tried it yet so I can't lend any expertise. - The cool thing is, so it's planned pooling with crochet is what we're gonna talk about. - What is planned pooling? - It's literally taking a variegated yarn and manipulating the stitches so that the colors land in the place you want them to land, okay, so it doesn't matter how long you've been crocheting, how perfect your attention is, anything like that, because you're dealing with not only the stitches you're using but the accuracy or consistency of the color in the yarn. And not all variegated yarns will work with this, it's specific on which ones will work. - Oh. - But what's great is, I learned this technique from Laura Bryant who taught it for knitting and crochet and I just played with it some more and online it got this really big following and there is even the planned pooling with crochet group on Facebook which is amazing, they are so good, and the problem is that people would complain about the inconsistency of the color lengths in the yarn, so because Red Heart Super Saver is one of the big yarns that everybody loves to color pool with, we at Red Heart decided that we were gonna make a pooling yarn and as best as possible, I can't think of the words, make sure that each length of color within a color sequence is the same, across the board, okay? - Okay. - So by doing that, that enables us to say hey, if you get X number of stitches per color, and you make sure that you're offsetting the color every other row, you will get this really great argyle look. Does that make sense? - I think so. - Okay. (laughs) So the thing is, the pooling yarn is great 'cause it's made it so the pooling should be easier. This can be done with other variegated yarns also. - [Faith] Is this the (mumbles) the first yarn that is intentionally for pooling? - For pooling, yes. - That's genius. - Yes, well, you know-- - That's brilliant. - Red Heart, we try and stay above the game, you know what I mean, stay right there and be like, all right so what's next, here we go, and it's been good. You get a lot of feedback from our customers and this was one of the things they were just begging for. - Planned pooling. - Here we are. Planned pooling. It's cool, right? - Just to reiterate, 'cause I think this looks so amazing. This isn't really color work-- - No. - This is just-- - This is just the yarn. - Is it single crochet? - And chain one, so it's called a moss stitch so it's

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single crochet chain one, single crochet, chain one. - [Faith] And it-- (laughs) - [Marly] So here's the cool thing. - [Faith] And you just have to trust it? - Well once you learn where the color has to go, it works. And it can be done with moss stitch, it can be done with straight single crochet or straight doubles, straight half doubles, granny stitch. I mean there's lots of variations but ultimately, if this were a paint by number and I told you I needed three whites right there, I needed three of this salmon color, I need three of this pink, three of this pink, and you had to change colors every time to make sure that color landed there-- - [Faith] I'd lose my mind. - [Marly] You could get this look, right? - [Faith] Yes. - So what we've done is, okay, we've dyed the yarn so that way you will get three whites right there, three salmon right there, three pink right there, if you get that and then you offset them every other row, so like for example right here. So it's white, white, white but then the next row would be that one, so the next row, so it's every other row. See how it's offset by one, so it's diagonal. And this one's offset by one, offset by one. See how that works? - Mhm. - So if you establish that sequence, by your third row, you'll know if this is working. - Okay. - Right. (chuckles) - So if you have consistent gauge, that's important. - No because if your yarn is inconsistent and you're getting consistent gauge, you could be off track. - Okay. - All right, so, if you're working along, I know, right? It's a little bit-- - Wild. - This is what's so crazy is that we'll have men and women who are like, I've been crocheting for 50 years and I can't get this, and it's because they're too good. It's because they're so consistent that it's not working for them, 'cause if I came to this part, like let's just say right here, let's stick with this one. If I came to this stitch and I knew that it needed to be white but I was still getting kind of this deep purple color, I would have to rip out at least two stitches to make sure I eat up all that purple over in these two stitches, so that that stitch is white. - Right. - So even though this is supposed to be single crochet, chain one, single crochet, I could make this a half double, a chain one half double, because I'm compensating my actual stitch and the gauge to get the correct color, because it goes back to the color like color by number. I need that color to be white, no matter what I have to do to get it white, I have to make that white. - Okay. - Make sense? - Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah. I've done socks before where I know I don't want it to do pooling and so, actually yeah, I've intentionally not pooled before but intentionally pooling seems like a different and exciting beast. - It's crazy right? And it's all because of the way the yarn is dyed. It's dyed in sections so like if you were to imagine, imagine a circle, okay, and imagine you have 12 inches here that's pink and 12 inches here that's purple and 12 inches here that's white and 12 inches here and 12 inches here and then you just consistently have those 12 inches. Because of that, that's what allows this. Make sense? - Yeah. - So what's cool is Red Heart has the super saver, it's the super saver we love, so it's washable, it's durable, it's fantastic. We have six fantastic colors, brand new to our line, and they will all planned pool using moss stitch for sure as long as you get three single crochets per color per sequence. - Cool. (Marly laughing) (indistinct speaking offscreen) Oh, the question is, what is the moss stitch? The moss stitch is-- - The moss stitch is just a combination of single crochet, chain one, single crochet, chain one. And you'll notice that every time I say as long as you get three single crochets it will work, that's because I don't care what color your chain one is. Sometimes your chain one might be the color that your last single crochet is, sometimes it'll be the next color. Because we are literally gonna crochet over that chain one, I don't care. The color that is showing up in your work is actually the post or the legs of your single crochet. That's why it's important that your single crochet is the color you want it to be. - Got it. - Does that make sense? - Yeah. - Yeah? (laughs) - I'm getting there. Are you gonna show us? - I can show you. So, I'm gonna move this a little bit. I'm gonna bring in one that I've already started, okay? So one thing that we've all learned, those of us who are pooling and stuff, we know that sometimes you need a variety of

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crochet hooks when you're doing planned pooling. - [Faith] Okay. - If you're using a yarn that is not specific for pooling or it's not consistent, but you can pool with it, remember when I was talking about you might have to do a half double or something? Sometimes people will actually change their actual hook size to get the correct colors, that's why I always say you need all hook sizes. 'Cause you don't know which one's gonna work, okay. - It's like it's surgery. - It's fun. (mumbles) Once you get this going, and it just all kinda falls into place, it's very relaxing, but until you get to that rhythm where it just kind of clicks like The Matrix-- (Faith chuckles) It can be very frustrating. - Okay. - [Marly] So what I've done here, the first thing you're gonna notice is I have crocheted over my foundation chain, I did work into it. The reason is, as we were working into these when we first started, and I say we, it's all the people in the group, so say I had all these in the stitches. My bottom row was all of a sudden too squished up and everything else was starting to come out. Whereas if I crochet around my foundation chain as I work along, I can make it to where it all evens up and then my first row is as wide and as consistent as the rest of my rows. Then when I go back around and do my edging, it hides this. So that's the first thing. So that's the first thing that's different. The other thing is, you'll notice that I said three single crochets, so as I started here, my first chains here that I skipped are white. That's important, 'cause those count as a stitch. And I have a yellow, a yellow, a yellow. So that's one, two, three. Red, red, red, one, two, three. Blue, blue, blue, black, black, black, white, white. Why don't I have a third white? - [Faith] 'Cause you have this first one over here-- - [Marly] 'Cause it's all the way over here! So that is my color sequence if I were doing one sequence, I have all of my colors used and I have three stitches of each color. If I wanted to do multiple sequences like this one right here, I would just keep going for as many multiples as I want, like this one I think is four multiples wide. You see how that works? - Yep. - [Marly] Okay. Now the other cool thing, so once I work back this row, I turn my work. My second row is identical to this row, so white, white. Three yellow, three yellow. Three red, three red. - Oh. - See three blue, three blue. - Holy smokes-- - You see that? - Creates the X-- - Yeah so that's the first. So if you establish it on this row and then you get the identical on this row, by the third row, we are going to know if this is working, okay, and here's why. We're going to look, this is my chain one space. We're working our single crochets into that chain one space. The color below our chain one space is the one that we are concerned about 'cause that's the one that's gonna shift. - Yes yes, okay. - [Marly] If this first stitch here, if it's white like I have it, then it's white on top of the yellow, great, 'cause then I can get yellow, yellow, yellow, as the others starting to shift. If this was yellow, let's say that for whatever reason, this one was yellow, this was yellow, this was yellow, and then this jumped to red, that'd be fine. It would just mean it was going this direction. It doesn't matter which direction as long as it starts to shift. Does that make sense? - [Faith] Yeah yeah yeah. - [Marly] So right here this is where I found out, okay I did white, great, we got yellow, yellow. This is my sequence, it's set up, I'm ready to go. So now as long as I keep the three stitches per color, every row and then shift, it works. So that whole row, everything shifted, everything's still in threes right? 'Cause I have my original chain two right here which counts as a stitch, there's white, white, three yellow, three red, three blue, three black, one white, right? 'Cause I have two there, one there. So then I shift, I rotate. This row's gonna be just like that one. Two white, three yellow, three red, three blue, three black, one white. See that? So now I'm back to, let's call this the right side, I'm back to the right side and everything has to shift again, so over here I'm gonna get three whites, so this initial chain two here counts as a white, white, white, so there's my three whites, three yellow, three red, three blue, three black. See that? - Yeah. - [Marly] So now when I do my chain two here... One, two, I'm getting white, that's a good sign. I need to make sure I get three whites, so I'm gonna work into this chain one space. So

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my chain two here, and this is flexible, this is an area where you can do a chain one, you can do a chain two, you can do anything, 'cause this is a place that you can eat up stitches or tighten stitches. But I'm gonna go ahead and do my single crochet right here. So that's one, chain one. Using a crochet here. Chain one and I'm right into my yellow. Is that what I want? - Yes. - Yes. See that, okay? - I know it now. - I know, right? And so the thing is, I think once you get the concept and you understand what you're trying to achieve, it's a lot easier. You just have to be willing to make adjustments when necessary. So I got my three yellow, see how they're shifting? And I'm not concerned with what my chain is, it doesn't matter, and why? Because I'm crocheting over it, literally, like look, I'm crocheting over that. - Who cares about that-- - Yeah, so red, red, and red-- - This looks so addictive. - [Marly] I'm telling you, it's cool 'cause you can't wait to see what the next one goes to. And then I just keep going on. Now if I changed my tension or maybe this color length doesn't end up being what I need it to be. Okay so let's for demonstration purposes, let's pretend this was accidentally too long, and I'm gonna pretend it's too long by making them tighter, okay, so we're just gonna simulate that it was too long. So if I was going along and I know I'm supposed to get three but let's say I get like a half of one. See how that's like a half and half? - Yeah yeah yeah. - I don't want that, 'cause now I have three and a half. I want a full blue, so I would take that out and rib it back and I'd be like all right, so I need to eat up some of that red right, 'cause I have too many, so this is where I would loosen it up just ever so slightly. This is where the extra hooks come in handy for people who have trouble. But this is what is supposed to be eliminated with this yarn is that we are getting this consistency, so now because our yarn is consistent, our gauge should be able to be consistent. The only area that you might have to tweak with it a little bit is at the end and the only reason is because the amount of yarn that we use on our chain twos doesn't eat up as much as when we do a single crochet. So sometimes you just have to eat up a little bit more, and that's it, I mean, this is as easy as it gets. And there we are. - [Faith] So you can keep stitching while I ask you moderately silly questions. - Okay. - Would you recommend doing a swatch before embarking upon a larger project? - Absolutely, yeah, I think you should absolutely do a swatch just to make sure that you know what your tension is, make sure you get your three single crochets and make sure you like the fabric you're getting, and just to kind of get the process down, you know what I mean? - It's a little bit of a brain teaser. - It is, but I mean just break it down as simple as possible. If I were doing a color by number, you would know what color's supposed to be next, even intuitively right here you're like oh, she just finished three yellows. Make sure she has to have three reds, right. Really simple. - [Faith] Can I play with one of these? - Oh yeah go ahead. (indistinct chatter) All right I think I know Tyson, so hi Tyson. - And don't forget we are live so feel free to write in questions, we got a question from Tyson. - Tyson's fantastic. - He says is it tricky to design for crochet? - Yeah, so I'm gonna mention it for planned pooling. So one of the things about designing with planned pooling is in order to maintain the sequence, it's hard to do any sort of shaping, right, because you have to keep that sequence in play so you'll see a lot of planned pooling when it comes to garments, it'll be coupled up with some solid so then all the shaping will be done in the solid section and then it'll have an edging of planned pooling. I did a poncho where I did the edging all around it with the planned pooling, it was beautiful. And the rest of it was like black. I kept the moss stitch, I just chose a black color and it was so pretty. The other thing is, as I make simple items like hats, this is just a hat made of one sequence wide made flat and just sewed the edges together at the top, added a brim at the bottom, right? Oh I'm not so good. - You're amazing. - But this is one of those things that it's not difficult right, so you'll play a lot with basic shapes but you can add whether it's one sequence wide or multiple sequences wide to get different looks. So like this one here, this is

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four sequences wide. This one over here, this is a blanket, this is five wide. And so you just get really cool looks and just play along with stuff. That's funny you're doing that. That's one way that people will do to see how many colors are there-- - It's helping me. It's helping my brain. - Yeah. - [Faith] So this we have the blue, orange, light orange, pink, blue, green, and then start back again. Blue, orange, yellow, pink. So the blue shows up more. Oh so that's how you get this cross? - [Marly] Yeah so that's this color right here. - [Faith] Okie dokie. - Isn't that gorgeous? - Mhm. (laughing) - [Marly] You wanna see it more, here. - [Faith] It's really, really cool. - [Marly] I love it, this is called papaya. Isn't it pretty? (indistinct talking) - We have another question, does this technique work only with this particular kind of yarn? - No so it works with variegated yarn but not all variegated yarns because if the color length is too long, it's not impossible, it's just that you would have a blanket that was like two king size blankets wide, right. That's where people will change up and that is the moss stitch but they'll use the granny stitch 'cause it eats up more yarn. So they'll do three double crochets in that chain one space versus a single, you know, so you just have to play around with stuff. What's awesome is I know that on RedHeart.com they have a full list of their yarns that work specifically with planned pooling, and then in that group I mentioned, the planned pooling with crochet group, they have an entire list of all the yarns that they know work for planned pooling and the ones that don't work, 'cause they're always playing with them, trying them out and I mean, there are some really super talented individuals in there. The moderator Brenda Lee is amazing. Rocky is, she's phenomenal, it's just like they take it to that next level 'cause they will purposely. Rocky has done a blanket where it was purposely like this and then she did what's called stacked pooling where instead of making the colors shift, they all stack and they come in aligned, or, 'cause you can shift the way things work. And you can play around with that, there's a website called plannedpooling.com and it's actually like a calculator. You can put in how many stitches you're getting per color and play around with your stitch multiples and it'll show the way the shift works with it. It's so amazing. So no it doesn't only work with this yarn but this yarn makes it easier because we've made the color lengths consistent, they're all 12 inches long. - And so you're guaranteed if you follow the directions to get planned pooling. - Right. - Have you ever had a yarn that you were really excited about to see how it pooled and it just did not? - I struggled with it, yeah, just a couple of them. - It refused-- - But for the most part, if a yarn can be pooled, if it's got something that's hand dyed that's really speckled all over, you can planned pool anything. I know that Brenda Lee for example, the one I had mentioned to you, she can literally pool anything, she has no problem. She actually made this piece. - Oh cool! - She lives in Canada, she's amazing. And so I sent her the yarn, I'm like, I need a wrap so she made this one and it's gorgeous. - Great job, Brenda. - Yes. (indistinct talking) - Very good question. - We have two new questions, one is how do you add new skins of yarn and does it only work with crochet? - All right so that's easy. So the first question is does it only work with crochet, no. You can do this with knitting also. As I mention, Laura Bryant is the one that taught me how to do planned pooling in general and it started off with knitting. It's the same idea, it's just shifting the colors of the hues over. As far as changing your color, I'm gonna ask you. If I was working along and let's say my yarn ended here, okay, and I needed to add a new color. What color does that stitch have to be? - [Faith] (chuckles) It has to be black because we have black underneath it, and it's going-- _ Right. So if I were to add a new skein of yarn there, what color do I wanna make sure is right there? - [Faith] Black. - [Marly] And that's as easy as it gets. - Oh my goodness. - So if I were to cut this, I could join a new ball, do my chain one, make sure that I'm getting in my sequence where I'm getting my black and then just continue on, making sure that my sequence is the same. - And you could probably even if you were unsure about

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it like if you were still having difficult reading your knitting or your crochet, 'cause I know that took me a little while to see what had gone before me. It's really the best way to do it. But when you're just fixated on a pattern, you can overlap the yarn a little bit. - Yeah, absolutely-- - And see what you have and make sure it matches up. - What's cool is, if you change the color right at a color change, you know what I mean, so when it goes from blue to black right here, if this were the tail of the yarn, I could pull the tail a little bit to get the color to be where I need it to be. Do you know what I'm saying? So it's that easy, you just add a new ball of yarn and make sure that the next color is the color it's supposed to be and carry on. - Brilliant. - And that's the way it works. It's that easy. It's so easy, and I know that I keep saying that. I know I keep saying that, I know that there are many of you out there who are great crocheters that are struggling with this. I feel you, man. I feel for you. But it's almost like you just kinda have to trust in the process, let go of any sort of type A personality you might have and just be willing to compensate the tension, compensate the actual stitch to get the color that you need that stitch to be, 'cause that is the most important thing. That's the way it is. - I love always injecting a bit of spirituality-- (laughing) Put the trust in the yarn. - I'm sure there's a lot of prayers and a lot of cursing and all sorts of stuff. - Acceptance. - Yeah. You can do it. I feel like if you understand how it's supposed to work, it's just a matter of fiddling with your stitches a little bit, but then once it clicks, man it clicks. Do you wanna play with it? - Yeah. - Yeah, go for it. - And then what about, the other question-- - The knitting? - Yeah. - Yeah so it can be done in knitting. I have not knit with this yarn in particular but I know it can be done. (indistinct talking) I am not a knitting machine person so I don't know. My guess would be yes, I mean, it's a mathematical thing, so my guess would be absolutely. - Do I go into this one? - Yeah, so you just go into that whole space. - Oh this space. - [Marly] Yeah that whole space right there. There you go. And so when we turn this one, even though you have three right here, because, you would do a chain two, yeah. So when we turn, this is where you have had to do-- - [Faith] Too tight didn't I? - [Marly] No you're gonna be okay, 'cause here's the deal. So we're gonna look at the row below. - [Faith] Right. - [Marly] So we have, see we have white, white, and this one's white. So we want a white one here so it's gonna go white, white, white, so this one needs to be black. - Okay. - It's not that you've done anything wrong but this is one of those areas where I said, it just needs to be black because of the way it works. So I would just chain one. Can you do a chain one? Are you gonna extend that up a little bit? Just single crochet in the next one to make it black. So this would be your compensation and be like, you know what, this is what it is. So now it is black which is what you want and then you chain white and you carry on. - [Faith] Oh my gosh. - [Marly] I mean that's it, right? You just have to be willing to make those little adjustments to make it work. - [Faith] It's so interesting. - [Marly] Just one more white, there you go. - [Faith] And now I'm on yellow. Now should this have been white? - [Marly] No it doesn't matter, your chains don't matter. - [Faith] Okay so knitting. Can you do it in knitting? - Yes. - [Faith] Did you answer it and I was so fixated on this? - I've answered like four times. Yes (laughs). - It takes you to a different planet. I'm so sorry. - Don't be sorry, no-- - I shouldn't work on this anymore-- - No you should, you should work on it. It's so fun, you're doing great. - Just left my body. - But no it's perfect 'cause you're a prime example, you're an excellent crocheter-- - Pretty good. - Just a little bit. And you just pick it up and as long as you're maintaining that sequence, it'll work out for you. - That's so cool. - Isn't that cool? Now I'm using that hook size but it could be maybe you're a looser or tighter crocheter so you could always change hook sizes. The key here is just to get the same multiple of stitches. - This is very rad. Oh and maybe the most important question, when is this yarn available? - Okay so-- - Forgot that part. - It is available right now, there are six colors available at RedHeart.com and it comes out this fall at

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Joann's. - What time in the fall? Like as soon as possible? - Sure (chuckles). - I'm so ready for it-- - I don't know. My guess would be early fall. That would be my guess but I don't have Joann's calendar, but I know it comes out-- - Early fall. - I'm very excited about it. And they picked up all colors so they'll all be available at Joann's. (indistinct talking) So, the question is, will there be more colors coming in the future? That all depends on all of you. So just like any business, let's think through this. We're gonna put out there something spectacular. If it takes on, you're gonna get more colors, right? So if you like this idea, you like this concept and you love this yarn, pick it up, buy some more. Let the company know that you want more colors. Let Joann's know you want more colors and I bet you'll get more colors. So it's supply and demand, people. So if you want more colors, just get the yarn and let's do this. - [Faith] I would say at the very least get one skein and play with it because my teeth are dry from smiling so much. (Marly laughing) I'm so intrigued and excited about it. - [Marly] It's neat right? So I love this, this one. - It's a brain teaser. - It's fun, right? - But then it looks cool. - It's cool, I love that there are colors that are really gender neutral. You know what I mean? I love the red, gray and black, I love the line in the party color, I love all the colors, I think they're beautiful. - This is called party? - That's called party. - [Faith] And when the yarn is available, how many patterns will be available to accompany it? - I have a scarf pattern, this blanket pattern, this wrap pattern, the hat and the cowl. Plus I have several patterns on MarlyBird.com. There's also a couple patterns that are already out there on RedHeart.com so there's lots of patterns available. All of these patterns should be available in the next week or two so they are getting, literally getting a sneak peek at patterns that are coming out and people are just, you're gonna love it. I love it, I love these pinks. It makes me think of a strawberry smoothie sort of something, right, it's so-- - Juicy! - I love it! Juicy, that's the perfect word. I don't know, they're just fun, right? (indistinct talking) So this crochet hook is a J. But you can use any crochet, remember when I said, you wanna make sure you have all your crochet hooks so that way you can use the hook size that gets you gauge. Remember gauge is not a standard, you guys. It is dependent on you the crocheter or the knitter, it's all a matter of how you knit or crochet. For this example it's crochet so you wanna make sure you have the crochet hooks that you need to get those three single crochets. Pretty easy. - We really appreciate all of your questions. Thank you so much for your interest. Let me reiterate again, this is the most fun (laughing) I've had with a new yarn in a minute. Definitely get your hands on some of this. It's perplexing, it's magical. - It's fun, right? - It's brilliant as Miss Marly herself. Thank you so much for joining us. - I love it, we gotta put on the hats. - Oh we have to put on the hats. - We gotta do it 'cause we have matchy matchy hats. All right-- - I'm ready. - 'Cause they're adorable. I mean come on! How cute! (laughing) We're so cute, I love it! - Marly won't be here and neither will these amazing hats. I love it. (laughing) - I know. - But we will see you all at home on Thursday. Thank you so much for joining us. - Bye guys. (upbeat music)

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