

---

## Crochet Colorblocked Sweater with Marly Bird

---

### Chapter 1 - Colorblocked Sweater

#### Overview

(funky instrumental music) - Hey, I'm Marly Bird, proud spokesperson for Red Heart yarn and I'm excited to show you how to make your first sweater. It might seem a little bit daunting when you pick up your hook and yarn for the first time to make a sweater, but I'm gonna take all of the guesswork out of it for you. We'll make this really great and simple four piece sweater using some simple stitches, a little color block and a little bit of oversize nature to make it much more fashionable and fun. In this class, you will learn how to do the really simple and great foundation double-crochet. Then we'll jump into the wonderful stitch pattern and I will show you how to do the color changing to create the blocks. You will make four pieces to this sweater: the front, the back, and the two sleeves. We'll seam it all up, finish it with a little bit of a neck edging, and voila! You will have a crocheted sweater that you can wear this weekend. (funky instrumental music)

#### Materials

- Let's take a look at the materials you need to make this sweater. You will need two contrasting colors of Red Heart Chic Sheep by Marly Bird yarn. This yarn is 100% Marino washable wool and it comes in 24 beautiful colors. For this example we're using velvet as color A and green tea for color B. You will also need a J or a six millimeter crochet hook, a tapestry needle, a couple of stitch markers, and a pair of scissors. The full list of materials and the pattern can be found in the downloadable PDF, so make sure you get that and then we will jump into making this wonderful sweater.

#### Foundation and stitch pattern

- For this sweater, we will start with the front using a foundation double crochet. For the foundation double crochet, you wanna make sure you grab your color A and we'll start with the slipknot. Place the tail of the yarn in your hand, take the working yarn, wrap it around your forefinger and middle finger. When you come back up, cross over. Rotate your hand, go underneath the front loop, grab the back loop and off. You now have a slipknot. Place that slipknot directly onto your hook. And this is a simple reminder, you never count that slipknot as a stitch. Now we will do a chain three. One, two, three. This chain three does count as a double crochet. We will go ahead and work a foundation double crochet into the third chain from our hook. So I yarned over my hook, go into the third chain from the hook, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, draw through one. That is the difference between a double crochet and a foundation double crochet, okay. So here's a little trick. Go ahead, grab a stitch marker and I want you to place that stitch marker into that chain you just made, okay. So it's when you went through the one loop, we're gonna place that there. Now, I have three loops on my hook so I will go ahead and complete my double crochet with those three loops on my hook. Whoops, as I'm talking it makes it difficult. All right, now I have to do another foundation double crochet, but where do I place it? I will place it right there in that marked chain. So I will yarn over my hook, go into that marked chain. I like to make sure I grab two of the loops. Can you see that? Okay, so it looks like, I'll take this out so you can see real quick. It looks like I have a V right there and then the leftover loop is back there. I will yarn over, pull up one loop through that, yarn over, draw through one. Once again, this will now be the next place that I will put the next

foundation double crochet. So I could use my marker and just mark it. Just to help me out as far as finding it. Yarn over, draw through two, yarn over, draw through two. Then we'll do that again. Come down here where our marked stitch is, go into the marked stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop. Yarn over, draw through one. I can move my marker up. Once again, it's just to help me out. So if you don't need that marker, don't worry about it. Yarn over, draw through two, yarn over, draw through two. I will continue doing the pattern, just like this, for the number of stitches as written in your pattern. When it's time to change to my next color, I will go ahead and do that. So let's get to that point now. I have one more foundation double crochet to do with my color A and then I have to switch to color B. So what I will do is switch to color B on my last pull through. So you can see I just finished the start of my foundation double crochet, but I'm not gonna do my final yarn over with color A. I will grab color B and do my final yarn over with my color B and pull through. Now color B is on my hook and I will continue on working the remainder of my foundation double crochet. Remember, you need to look at your pattern to check and see how many foundation double crochet you need to do with color B. I'm on my final foundation double crochet here with my color B and once I finish this, I can set this down and you will see that I have both sets of colors combined and they look rather seamless, and it's because of the join we used. And I also have both colors still attached, okay. Now you know how to do the foundation double crochet, let's move on to row two. Row two is the start of our stitch pattern and I'm gonna throw in a stitch that might be completely unfamiliar to you, but you're gonna love this little trick that I use to start off my row instead of doing a chain three for a double crochet. Let's jump in. So this is where I left off after row one and I do wanna point out that I'm making a small sample size. So this is not what you will follow. You wanna follow the instructions as written in your pattern. I will go ahead and turn my work and I'm going to start with the beginning double crochet. And this is the stitch that I feel like you might not be familiar with. Instead of doing a chain three like you normally would to start a double crochet at the start of the row, I am actually going to start with a single crochet. I will not do a chain one. I simply work a single crochet into this first stitch. Now that I've done that single crochet, I will chain one. This entire stitch right here counts as a double crochet. After I've done that, I will place a double crochet into that same stitch. Can you see that? See how nice and clean that makes that edge look? It just makes it look so much better on the sweater and I just love the way that looks. Now you follow along and we will go ahead and skip two double crochet and we will do three double crochet into the next stitch. One, two, three. This is our shell for the pattern, this is our shell. Now you will repeat from star until you get to where we make the color change again. Following a pattern, going back to star, we skip two double crochet and in the next one we will place three double crochet. Skip two, put three double crochet in the next. I'm to the point where I need to change colors again. So what I will do is place two double crochets with my color B right here and on the second one I will change to my color A and do one more double. So I will go ahead work two double crochets with my color B. Now remember whenever we change colors, I wanna make sure I change the color on the last pull through of the stitch before the color change. So I pull through and now I wanna do one more double crochet into that same space, but now it's with my new color. I will leave color B just hanging out there and I will continue on using the same stitch pattern, but now I'm doing it with my color A. So I've repeated my pattern all the way down to my turning chain. And in my turning chain, I will do two double crochets into that second chain of my turning chain. Right there. And as I set this down, you will see that the pattern looks very symmetrical, right? So I have my two double crochets here, two double crochets here, and then my stitch pattern running all the way across. And make sure that when you pull up your color change, we're gonna always pull it up on the same side.

Now let's move on to row three. Just in case you guys are wondering, we don't need this stitch marker anymore, so I'm gonna take it off and set it aside. So when I start row three, I can go ahead and turn my work. And I am still using the color that's on my hook. So I am still with my color A, which is called velvet. I go ahead and begin with the chain one. I will single crochet into this first stitch here, chain three, and this is my repeat. So it's chain three, skip two double crochet, and then do a front post single crochet in the next double crochet. So a front post single crochet. So I go around the post of that double crochet there. Yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, draw through two. Can you see that? Pretty simple. Chain three, skip two double crochet, and in the next one I will do a front post single crochet. You can see here that what that's doing is it's pulling the post of that double crochet forward a little bit and it's gonna give us some really great squishy texture on this entire stitch. I will repeat this part of the stitch pattern until I get to the color change. Skip two, front post single crochet. I'm to my color change. I've chained three and at this point on this last front post single crochet, I am going to work that in my color A, but remember, on my last pull over I wanna make sure I'm switching colors, 'cause it's time to change colors again. So I will drop my color A, pick up my color B from below. Make sure color A is out of the way, yarn over and pull through with my color B. Now I carry on with my color B, making sure I'm still following the stitch pattern sequence 'cause I'm going to do my front post single crochet again after I skip two doubles, and I just carry on to the very end where I will work a single crochet in the very last double crochet. At the end of my row as I set this down, you can see I really am getting some great texture here simply by doing that front post single crochet and I get a really great look. All right, let's move to row four. We just finished row three, so we will go ahead and pick up my work and turn. Go ahead and maneuver your yarn out of the way so that way you're only working with the color on your hook. And we will begin with a beginning double crochet. Remember, you will not do a chain one. We will start with a single crochet into that first stitch and then do a chain one. This represents a double crochet. Now we will put another double crochet into that same stitch. Follow along in the pattern and this is our repeat. We will skip this chain three space and we will put three double crochet into this single crochet right there. This was our front post single crochet. So we will do three double crochet into that single crochet. Now we're going to repeat this until we get down here to our color change. Skip this chain three, go to the next single crochet, and work three double crochet. When you get to the color change, you will go ahead and work two double crochet with your color B. Remember to change colors on the final pull through. So this one I will go ahead and drop my color B, pick up my color A, pull through and finish off. So I'll just leave color B hanging out there and I continue on in pattern by putting my last double crochet into that single. And that double crochet happens to be with my color A. Because I'm on the wrong side, when I float these colors up, they aren't going to show on the front side of my fabric. So when you change your colors, make sure you're always changing the colors on the back side. And now I just carry on working the same stitch pattern, placing those three double crochets into each one of those front post single crochets. When I get to the end of this color or the end of my row, I will place two double crochets in the final stitch. I'm to the end of my row, I go ahead and place two double crochets in my final stitch, which is a single crochet. And that completes my row four. And as I set this down, I want you to notice the wrong side of your work actually has this little ridge right here and that's because of those post stitches that you've created. You also will have all of your color changes with the pulled up loop on the wrong side. As I turn my work and we look at the right side, you can see the color changes look really great and seamless on either side and I don't have any ridge because in place of the ridge I have the nice, pulled up texture of those post stitches. And that's it for row four. Now,

here's the cool part. This entire stitch pattern is only row three and row four, so you will repeat those two rows until you get through row 38. And once you do that, we'll move this out of the way, and your work will look a little something just like this. This is the front of my work. Obviously, we have this nice color change. All of the texture of the stitches. And if I were to flip this over, I have those nice ridges and that's the backside of my work. Okay, now you're gonna work through row 38. No matter what size you're making, you wanna make sure you get through row 38, then we'll begin stitching for the shoulders.

### Shoulder and neck shaping

- So we've worked on the sweater up to the point where it's time to create our shoulders. One thing that's really great about this particular pattern is the shoulders are made using double crochet, which is fantastic because we know how to do that stitch. Now let's learn where we need to place those double crochets in order to create the shoulders of our sweater. This is what our finished product looks like so far, and we need to work row 39, which is just a row of double crochets going across, and we'll make sure we change colors at this point just like we've been doing all along. So we start off with the beginning double crochet. By this point you should know how this works, but we will place a single crochet in that first stitch, and do a chain one for our beginning double crochet. Now I will work into each stitch all the way across and place a double crochet. When I get to the point of my fabric where it's time to change colors, I will change colors in that double crochet point right there. In the pattern it will tell you exactly how many double crochets you need to work to that color change point. I'm ready to put my final double crochet at this point right here. And I will then change colors on my final draw through. I want to point out that you can cut your yarn at this point and you want to make sure you leave at least three to four inches, that way you can weave it in later. Grab your other color, pull through on the final draw through just like you've been doing all along, and then carry on working double crochets using color B now in all the stitches. Once you're at the end of this row you'll be ready to work the left shoulder. Now that I have finished this row of double crochets you can see that I have all of my nice double crochets worked up in my color A. I did my color change right here to color B, and I've worked across. What will happen now is we will work only with color B back and forth here to create our shoulder stitches. We will skip a series of stitches right here for our neck opening, and then we will work with color A over here for our shoulder stitches there. That's why I was able to cut my color A because I will rejoin at this point to create my shoulder stitches here. Now let's go ahead and work on our left shoulder. So for our left shoulder we go ahead and turn our work, so you're looking at the wrong side. You will then go ahead and double crochet across the number of double crochet stitches as written in your pattern, starting off with the beginning double crochet. Once you've worked across that row you will leave all of these stitches unworked because this is where the right shoulder will be worked with our color A. So you want to make sure we just leave those unworked. Go ahead and turn our work. And you carry on. Now that I've turned my work, I go ahead and I work three more rows just like this one, only using my color B. So I start off with my beginning double crochet, and then work my double crochets all the way across. Once I have all of these stitches complete I will then move to the right shoulder and begin working with my color A and work the exact same method, only this time on the right shoulder. For my little sample here I'm only working it for a couple rows, and now I'm ready to move over here and work this side. So this is my right shoulder. So what I would do here is with this one, I could go ahead, finish off my work. Again I'm only doing a couple rows 'cause that's the size of my sample but you will be working this for a total of three more rows. And then I work over here

and I'm gonna follow the instructions for my right shoulder. So my right shoulder instructions have me start on the wrong side. So I need to go ahead and flip my work, and then I will skip the number of double crochets written in your pattern right here, and that will be our neck opening. We will join color A at this point in my pattern. And we'll start with a slip knot on my hook. Now I'm going to do the start of the beginning double crochet by working a single crochet into this stitch. So I will work my single crochet and then chain one, so I have my beginning double crochet. I then will go ahead and double crochet to the end of my row. Once I have completed that I go ahead and turn my work. And now just like when we worked on this side, we will work double crochets back and forth right here for rows two, three, four, and five. Remember you want to start off with the beginning double crochet at the start of each one of those rows. And then jump in to your double crochets. So work rows two, three, and four. And when you finish off, your right shoulder will be complete. Here's what your finished piece will look like once you're done with your shoulders. Remember I only did two rows at my shoulders, but yours will have a total of four. What's really awesome about this pattern is that the front and back are identical with one exception. If we made the front starting with color A and then switching to color B, when we make the back we will actually begin with color B and switch to color A. That way when the two pieces meet up the colors match up at the correct shoulders. Pretty simple, right? So not only did you just learn how to start off this pattern, work the front, work the shoulders, you also just learned how to make the back. So go ahead, make the front of your sweater and the back of your sweater. Join me back here and we'll learn how to make the sleeves.

### Sleeves and seaming

- All right, we're gonna make some sleeves. These are easy peasy and so simple. They are probably the easiest sleeves you will ever make for a sweater. We are going to use the foundation double-crochet, some double-crochets and make a large rectangle. Let's go ahead and jump in. For the foundation double-crochet, just as a reminder, we wanna start off with our slip knot. So once we get that slip knot placed on our hook, we will begin with a chain three. One, two, three. This does count as one of the double-crochets. You then will do a double-crochet in the third chain from hook, but remember, you wanna yarn over and draw through one. That counts as the chain. Now we will finish our double-crochet. And I carry on. I go into that chain that I created to start the double-crochet, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, draw through one. And then I complete my double-crochet. You will do as many double-crochets for the foundation row as written in the pattern. Make sure you're following along with the size you are making. Also remember, I'm making a smaller sample size, so my sleeves are obviously going to be a little bit smaller than yours. When you make the sleeves, we will make two sleeves, and there will be one sleeve in each color. So for this example, I'm using color B for this sleeve. But on the next sleeve, I will use color A. I'm on my last foundation double-crochet. Once I complete this, I can go ahead turn my work, and I begin this next row with my beginning double-crochet. Remember, we do not chain. You will go into the stitch, work a single-crochet, and then chain one, and this will count as your double-crochet. Then, I just carry on working double-crochets all the way down my row, and I will do that for rows two through nine or until you have the sleeve that's the length you wish for it to be. There's no more shaping for the sleeve. You simply are working a large rectangle. Once you have finished the sleeves in each color and the front and back are complete, you're ready to start seaming. To seam your work, you will go ahead and place your front and back with the right sides together. So you wanna make sure you have your right sides together. We will start seaming up here at the shoulder point to begin.



Once we seam the shoulder, we'll bring in the sleeves and we will match up the sleeves to the points on the sweater where the colors match. We'll sew the sleeves into place and then we'll sew the side seam and underneath the sleeve. So let's begin up here. When we seam the shoulders, we wanna make sure we're using the same color yarn as the piece that we are sewing. So for this shoulder, I'll be sure to use the green tea colorway, and I wanna cut a length of yarn that is at least three times the length of what I'm sewing, just to make sure I have enough to go the full length. Once you have the three times, go ahead and cut that length and thread it onto a tapestry needle. So we'll thread it directly onto a tapestry needle. And we're just gonna use a whip stitch. So I like to start off at the side, and I begin with the figure eight. So I will start over here at this point, come through and up, leave myself enough length that I can weave that in later, come over here and up. And then, all I'm going to do is go in through both pieces of fabric, whip the two pieces together. As you're going along, make sure that your corners are still matched up, that you aren't accidentally sewing one a little bit shorter than the other. If your needle comes out, just rethread it and start again. Go all the way to the edge. The edge here, I go ahead and I try and finish it off. We're gonna go in a couple times and then I just like to make a little knot. You can go ahead and take the time right now to take your needle and weave in your end simply by coming along this nice little seam you've created. And then work your way back, just to make sure it doesn't come undone. At that point, you can give your yarn a nice snip, and one shoulder is complete. Now I will use my color A and I will seam this shoulder up in the same method. Once your shoulders are finished, go ahead and weave in all of your ends, and then we'll attach the sleeves. Your sweater looks a little bit like this right now, after you have it all seamed together. Go ahead and open it up with.