

Stitch Collab: Assigned Pooling + Slipped Stitch Colorwork

Dawn Barker

Are you ready to take your assigned pooling skills to the next level?

In this class we will learn the basics of combining AP with rhythmic slipped stitch colorwork knitting by previewing and practicing my *Nona's Waltz* pattern.

Choosing Colors: Contrast is Key

- Start by choosing any AP color that strikes your fancy.
- Next, choose a tonal companion that contrasts well with the background of the AP color.
- Now think about how that tonal companion gets along with the accent color in the AP colorway. The AP accent will blend in and disappear if it is too similar to the tonal companion, so be sure they don't look too much like each other.

When possible, cast on just after an accent color section. This will buy you some time to establish the background pattern before you need to make the first AP texture stitch.

Nona's Waltz

Dawn Barker for Barker Wool



Part of my Stitch Collab series, *Nona's Waltz* is a bias triangle shawl with a stitch pattern that mimics the look of embroidered flowers on a field of contrasting blocks by combining the innovative technique of Assigned Pooling with slipped stitch colorwork. Assigned Pooling occurs when a change in texture is isolated within a change in color within a skein of variegated yarn. Simple slips and knits are assigned to the contrasting tonal and background colors to create a checkered backdrop for the Aster Stitch assigned to the accent color.

Yarn 1 skein of *Koi* AND 1 skein of *Boro* on Barker Wool BFL Fingering.

Finished Measurements Approximately 22" deep at center point x 62" wide after blocking

Needles US size 7 (4.5 mm) **Gauge** 30 STS x 32 rows = 4" x 4" in pattern

Additional Equipment A scale that weighs in grams

Shaping

Follow these instructions to create the shape of the shawl.

You will apply the Aster Stitch to the basic shape **while** the colors shift in your AP yarn.

The instructions for the Aster Stitch follow the shaping instructions below.

Please read the entire pattern before you begin.

Contrasting Tonal (CT) - *Boro*

Assigned Pooling (AP) - *Koi*

Setup

With CT: cast on 5 STS.

(RS) [Kf/b] x 4, K1 (9 STS)

(WS) P to end.

(RS) K2, PM, Kf/b, K4, PM, SL2. (10 STS)

(WS) P2, SM, P to last marker, SM, SL2.

Repeat the last two rows once more. (11 STS)

Slipped Stitch Pattern

With AP:

(RS) Rows 1, 3, & 5: K2, SM, Kf/b, [SL3, K3] to last marker***, SM, SL2.

(WS) Rows 2 & 4: P2, SM, purl the purls and slip the slips to last marker***, SM, SL2.

Row 6: P2, SM, P2tog, purl the purls and slip the slips to last marker, SM, SL2

With CT:

(RS) Rows 7, 9, & 11: K2, SM, Kf/b, [SL3, K3] to last marker***, SM, SL2.

(WS) Rows 8 & 10: P2, SM, purl the purls and slip the slips to last marker***, SM, SL2.

Row 12: P2, SM, P2tog, purl the purls and slip the slips to last marker, SM, SL2.

-The first two STS before the first marker and the last 2 STS after the last marker create an I-cord border and are not considered part of the slipped stitch pattern. Carry the unused colors up the edge as you work.

***You will have partial pattern repeats. Work as many [SL3, K3]'s as possible up to the second marker on right-side rows even if you cannot complete a whole sequence.

***On WS rows, purl the first two stitches to create the i-cord border, SM, and then work the stitches as they appear. (Purl stitches that were knit on the RS and slip stitches that were slipped on the RS.) The only exception to this rule is when the top of an Aster Stitch from the previous row is encountered. In this case, maintain the [P3, SL3] rhythm across them even though they were knit on the RS.

□North Star

The slipped stitch pattern is easy to follow, but it is also easy to get off track. Finding a “north star” helps keep things in line as the pattern is worked. In this case, each time a K3 sequence is started, the first stitch of the K3 will fall on top of the last stitch of the Slip 3 sequence from the row below.

-Continue working Rows 1-12 until 10g of AP remain. Break AP.

-The body of the shawl is complete after the last set of CT Rows 8-12 is complete.

Border

Discontinue I-cord edges, increases, and decreases, and work 2 more rows in stockinette.

Work the following accordion rib pattern until 2-3g of yarn remain:

(The accordion rib must be made on a stitch count divisible by 4 + 1 additional stitch.

Adjust stitch count if necessary.)

Accordion Rib Row 1 (RS): [K3, P1] to last ST, K1.

Accordion Rib Row 2 (WS): [K3, P1] to last ST, K1.

Bind Off

(RS) *[K2tog TBL, slip that stitch back onto the LHN]* and repeat from * to * to end.

Break yarn and pull the tail through the last stitch to fasten off.

Finishing Weave in ends and wet block aggressively to open up the stitch pattern.

Assigned Pooling: Aster Stitch

First, look at your variegated yarn and decide which color is the background color and which is the accent color. Suspend the slipped stitch pattern and apply the Aster Stitch to the basic shaping instructions each time the accent color is encountered in the working yarn. Resume the established slipped stitch pattern when using the background color. The goal is to completely use up the accent color in the working yarn by making an Aster Stitch. If an accent section begins close to the end of a row and not enough stitches remain to make a full Aster Stitch, finish the row and begin the Aster Stitch on the next row.

The Aster Stitch is a variant of Stockinette Stitch, meaning that the right side of the work is knit and the wrong side is purled. Since color changes in your variegated yarn will happen on both sides of the work, we need to have a way to perform the pattern knitwise and purlwise.

(RS) Aster Stitch

K5, wrapping each stitch twice.

SL the 5 double-wrapped STS back onto the LHN, releasing the extra wraps as you slip.

Insert the RHN into all 5 STS knitwise and (K, P, K, P, K) into all 5 STS together.

Your accent color should be used entirely. (0 STS increased)

(WS) Aster Stitch

P5, wrapping each stitch twice.

SL the 5 double-wrapped STS back onto the HN, releasing the extra wraps as you slip.

Insert the RHN into all 5 STS purlwise. (P, K, P, K, P) into all 5 STS together.

Your accent color should be used entirely. (0 STS increased)

Increase Aster Stitch

If your accent color starts at the beginning of a RS row, work in the same manner as a RS Aster Stitch, but work **6** stitches into **5** elongated stitches. Alternatively, you may also work the Aster Stitch as usual and then M1 in the next stitch.

Abbreviations

K - Knit **P** - Purl

Kf/b - K into the front and then into the back of a stitch. (+1 ST)

K2tog TBL - K2 sts together through the back loop.

M1 - Make one. (+1ST)

P2tog - P2 sts together.

PM - place marker **SM** - slip marker

ST, STS - Stitch, Stitches

SL - Slip a stitch purlwise without working it from one needle to the other.

RS - Right Side, **WS** - Wrong Side

RHN - Right-Hand Needle, **LHN** - Left-Hand Needle

I created Assigned Pooling to provide a new way to embrace color pooling by letting the color changes have control of the texture pattern. I hope you enjoy exploring this concept as you create your own unique works of wearable art. Please tag your photos on Instagram with [#AssignedPooling](#), [#NonasWaltzShawl](#), and [#BarkerWool](#)

