

Stitch Collab: Assigned Pooling + Slipped Stitch Colorwork

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

Choosing Colors: Contrast is Key: Color, Value, Scale



- Start by choosing any AP color you like.
- 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.

Pattern particularities

- Shape first, then texture Stitch
- Yarn weights rather than yardage

- In some slipped stitch colorwork + AP patterns, the slipping pattern takes precedence over the AP texture stitch as seen in my Tribute and Breezeway patterns. This often occurs when the pattern is using a 1 for 1 stitch like tiny bobbles, nupps, or full-sized bobbles.

- However, it is more common to see the AP texture stitch taking precedence over the slipped stitch pattern like in my Flourish, Wallflower, Makepeace, and Nona's Waltz patterns. This means that when the accent color comes along in the AP working yarn, we will stop and make the AP texture stitch regardless of where we are in the slipped stitch pattern. Once the AP texture stitch is complete, we will need to find our place again in the slipping pattern and continue. I often include a "North Star" in the pattern instructions to help you find your place again. This instruction is meant to help you read your stitches and stay on track in the pattern.

Flourish

Dawn Barker for Barker Wool



Flourish, with its slender bias triangle shape, showcases a highly textured combination of slipped stitch colorwork and intricate aster stitches achieved through assigned pooling. Assigned pooling occurs when a change in texture is isolated within a change in color in a skein of specially designed variegated yarn. An assigned pooling colorway paired with a contrasting companion color are used to create a structured grid over which the random aster stitches float.

Yarn 1 skein of *Prairie Smoke* plus 1 skein of *Octobers*

on Barker Wool Silky Solo, (75% SW Merino /25% Silk fingering weight, single ply 100g/437 yards per skein) or your choice of assigned pooling colors paired with a contrasting tonal companion.

Finished Measurements Approx. 17" deep x 64" long after blocking

Needles US size 4 (3.5 mm) **Gauge** 28 STS x 48 rows = 4" x 4" in pattern

Additional Equipment A scale that weighs in grams, a progress keeper or removable stitch marker.

Color 1: Contrasting tonal companion: Octobers

Color 2: Assigned pooling color: Prairie Smoke

Follow these instructions to create the shape of the scarf. You will apply aster stitches to the basic shape **while** the colors shift in your skein of AP yarn. The instructions for the aster stitches follow the shaping instructions below. *Please read the entire pattern before you begin.*

Pro Tip: Start your cast on just after the first accent color ends in your working yarn to buy as much time as possible before the first aster stitch comes along.

Setup Rows

-Using Color 2, cast on 5 STS.

-K two rows.

(RS): Color 2 (AP), KYOK, K to end.

(WS): Color 2, SL1, K to end.

Begin Slipped Garter Pattern

Row 1 (RS): Color 1, K1, [SL1, K1] to end. (Carry YIB on slipped stitches.)

Row 2 (WS): Color 1, SL1, [YIF, SL1, YIB, K1] to end.

Row 3 (RS): Color 2 (AP), KYOK, K to end.

Row 4 (WS): Color 2, SL1, K to end.

Row 5 (RS): Color 1, K1, [SL1, K1] to end. (Carry YIB on slipped stitches.)

Row 6 (WS): Color 1, SL1, [YIF, SL1, YIB, K1] to end.

Row 7 (RS): Color 2 (AP), KYOK, K to end.

Row 8 (WS): Color 2, SL1, K to end.

Row 9 (RS): Color 1, K1, [SL1, K1] to end. (Carry YIB on slipped stitches.)

Row 10 (WS): Color 1, SL1, [YIF, SL1, YIB, K1] to end.

Row 11 (RS): Color 2 (AP), KYOK, K to end.

Row 12 (WS): Color 2, **P3TOG**, K to end.



Notice that all row sets are knit in the same manner until Row 12 where there is a decrease added to provide bias shaping. It may look like a 12 row repeat, but it is really made up of three sets of the same rows until row 12, so it's easier to memorize than it may look. Using a progress keeper or removable stitch marker to mark the decrease row as you work makes it easier to keep count of the rows.

-Continue working rows 1-12 until approx. 3g of Color 2 remain after any set of color 2 rows are completed. Break Color 2 and knit five more rows in Color 1.

Border

Work in 2x2 ribbing on a stitch count divisible by 4 + 2 STS.

(166 STS used in original; *This number may vary depending on the size of your aster stitches and your personal gauge.*) Adjust stitch count as necessary to achieve count divisible by 4 + 2.)

(WS) [P2, K2], to last 2 STS, P2.

(RS) [K2, P2], to last 2 STS, K2.

Work border rows for 2.5".

-Bind off loosely in pattern, weave in ends, and wet block 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. Apply the aster stitch to the basic shaping instructions each time the accent color is encountered in the working yarn. Knit in slipped garter stitch when using the background color and the tonal color. The goal is to completely use up the accent color in the working yarn by making an aster stitch before switching back to slipped garter stitch with the background color.

The instructions below are given for a 6-stitch aster, but you may need to work a different number to use up your accent color. You may only need to make a 5 ST cluster, (work 5 cluster STS into 5 elongated STS), or extend it up to an 8 ST cluster, (work 8 STS into 8 elongated STS), to use up the accent color in your particular skein. Find the stitch count that works best for your yarn and your personal gauge.

(RS) Aster Stitch

K6, wrapping each stitch twice.

SL the 6 double-wrapped STS back onto the LHN, releasing the extra wraps as you slip.

Insert the RHN into all 6 STS knitwise.

(K, P, K, P, K, P) into all 6 STS together.

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

(WS) Aster Stitch

P6, wrapping each stitch twice.

SL the 6 double-wrapped STS back onto the LHN, releasing the extra wraps as you slip.

Insert the RHN into all 6 STS purlwise.

(P, K, P, K, P, K) into all 6 STS together. (0 STS increased)

Your accent color should be used entirely.

-If it's time to make an aster at the beginning of an increase row, work your double-wrapped stitches into the front leg and then into back leg of the first stitch, 1 ST increased, and then do the same again in the next stitch. This will essentially give you two double-wrapped Kfb increases. (2 STS increased in total.)

-The body of this scarf is made in slipped garter stitch, but the aster stitches are made in stockinette fashion, meaning that they are made knitwise on the right side and purlwise on the wrong side.

Important: On Color 2 (AP) WS rows 4, 8, & 12, when an aster stitch from the last row is encountered and you are knitting in the background color, stop and **purl** across the aster stitch to keep its top in stockinette fashion. Then resume knitting.

-On Color 1 (tonal) rows, maintain the established slipping pattern across the top of aster stitches from the row below.

□North Star: The slipped garter pattern makes a grid of boxes filled in by the color 1 tonal. The boxes should always line up in columns, never staggered.

Abbreviations

K - Knit P - Purl

KYOK - (K, YO, K) into *ONE* ST (2 STS increased)

P3TOG - purl 3 stitches together. (2 STS decreased)

ST, STS - Stitch, Stitches

SL - Slip a stitch purlwise from one needle to the other.

RS - Right Side, WS - Wrong Side

YIF - Yarn In Front YIB - Yarn In Back



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](#), [#FlourishScarf](#), and [#BarkerWool](#)