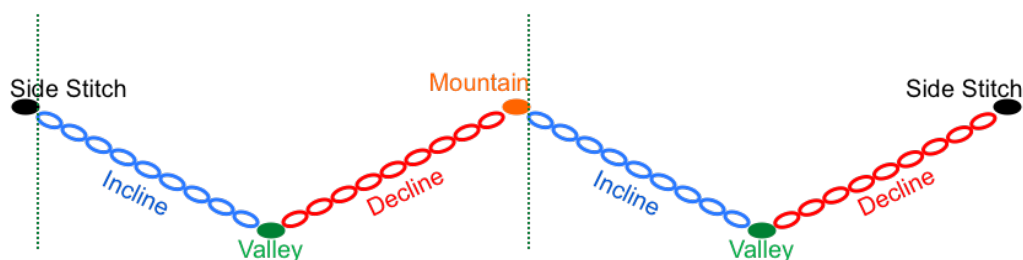


Ripple Math 1

The ripple will go down in history together with the pineapple pattern, as one of the most tried patterns in the world of crochet. And both of these leave behind a trail of frustrated crocheters who just cannot get it right. Some crocheters surrendered and now view the ripple as an advanced technique and it really isn't.

With a few little tutorials, I aim to demystify the ripple. It really isn't difficult; you just have to understand the mathematics behind it in order to make it work!

This little diagram and the definitions that follow it, will make it easier for you to understand what you are dealing with when you attempt the ripple.



The **MOUNTAIN** is the part of the ripple where there is an increase in stitches thus causing a fan effect. The mountain area shown in orange in the diagram above, could have one or more stitches involved, it depends on the ripple you are working on.

The **VALLEY** is the part of the ripple where there is a decrease in stitches thus causing a V effect. This involves more than one stitch, but the exact number will depend on the relevant ripple pattern.

RULE

The mountain is always the reverse of the valley.

If there is a decrease of two in the valley, there will be an increase of two in the mountain.

This is extremely important – if the mountain and valley are not a direct reverse of each other, your ripple will lose shape.

The **SIDE STITCHES**, shown in black above, require special attention to ensure straight edges. It is the stitch right on the edge, both sides.

RULE

The side stitch is normally 1/2 or 2/3 of the mountain.

The ideal is exactly half, but in some patterns 2/3 works.

The **DECLINE** is a fixed number of stitches between the side stitch or mountain, and the valley. When you are crocheting the decline, you are thus working your way downwards from the side stitch or mountain, to the valley.

The **INCLINE** is a fixed number of stitches between the valley and the mountain or side stitch. When you are crocheting the incline, you are thus working your way upwards from the valley to the side stitch or mountain.

RULE

Incline = Decline

The number of stitches in the incline must be exactly equal to the number of stitches in the decline, otherwise your ripple will lose shape. The more stitches in the decline and incline, the bigger the ripple effect.

Make sure you understand these three simple rules. In the next tutorial, I will give you some patterns of different ripples, each time showing you the different parts of the ripple.