Spin Balls

by Abigail Gonzalez
Chanteuse Crochet

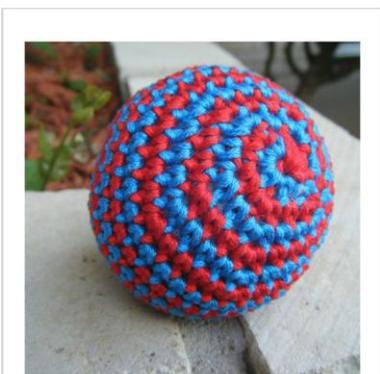chanteusecrochet@yahoo.com
www.chanteusecrochet.etsy.com
www.ravelry.com/stores/chanteuse-crochet

One of my favorite techniques to learn was how to crochet in a spiral...you end up with a project that is beautifully and *evenly* striped.

One of the biggest hiccups when you use two colors and crochet in the round is of course the 'stair steps' that happen when you don't join your rounds. It might look great from one side, but I personally don't like the way the other side ends up looking.

The trickiest parts about spiraling are keeping track of your rounds and making sure your different yarn colors don't tangle around each other. I'm rather good at keeping track of my rounds (unless distracted by the kiddos...), but honestly I'm usually too lazy to think of something to keep my yarn from twisting together.

Bi-Color Spin Ball

Bi-Color Spin Ball:

Notions

- Two colors of yarn, any weight (though both the same!). For your first few attempts you might want to make them drastically different colors so it will be obvious if you mess up. :-)

- Crochet hook in an appropriate size for the yarn you have chosen. Exact gauge doesn't matter for this project, but your tension should be tight enough that when the spin balls are stuffed firmly the stuffing doesn't show through the stitches. The larger your hook and the heavier your yarn the larger your spin ball will be.
- Stuffing
- Two stitch markers.
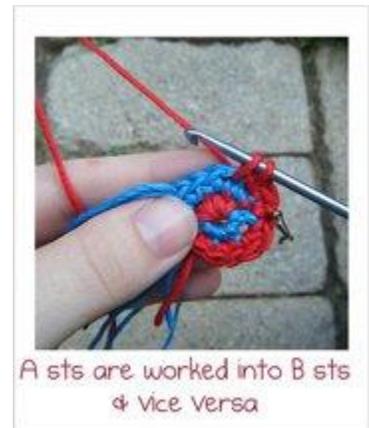- Yarn needle to weave in ends

Notes

The Spin balls are, of course, worked in continuous rounds. Don't join or turn at the end of the round.

After the initial round, all stitches using color A will be worked into B, and all B stitches will be worked into A.

My usual start for crocheting in the round is to Ch 2 and work into the 2nd chain. If you prefer to use the Magic Ring, by all means do so, I just learned a different way. ♥

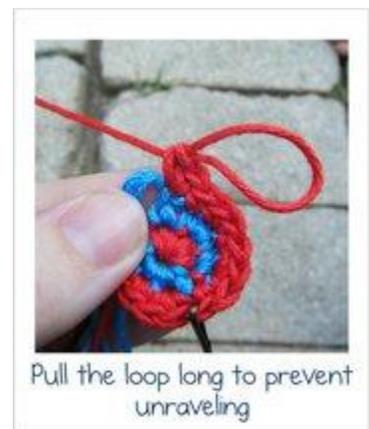A sts are worked into B sts & vice versa

With **A**: Ch 2.

Rnd 1: Work 3 sc in 2nd ch from hook. Place stitch marker in the first sc of **A**, move up on each round. Remove hook from loop (pull the loop long so it doesn't unravel) Join **B** and work 3 sc in same ch. Place stitch marker in first sc of **B**, move up on each round. *6 sts total* (3 of **A** and 3 of **B**).

Rnd 2: Continue with **B**: Work 2sc in each of the next 3 sts (remember, these stitches will be **A** colored), remove hook from loop (pulling the loop long) and insert it into the **A** loop. With **A** work 2 sc in each of the next 3 sts (**B** colored). *12 sts total*

Rnd 3: Continue with **A**: (2 sc in next sc, sc in next sc) 3 times. Remove hook and change to **B**. (2 sc in next sc, sc

Pull the loop long to prevent unraveling

in next sc) 3 times. *18 sts total.*

Rnd 4: Continue with **B**: (2 sc in next sc, sc in next 2 sc) 3 times. Change to **A**. (2 sc in next sc, sc in next 2 sc) 3 times. *24 sts total.*

Rnd 5: Continue with **A**: (2 sc in next sc, sc in next 3 sc) 3 times. Change to **B**. (2 sc in next sc, sc in next 3 sc) 3 times. *30 sts total.*

Rnd 6: Continue with **B**:(2 sc in next sc, sc in next 4 sc) 3 times. Change to **A**. (2 sc in next sc, sc in next 4 sc) 3 times. *36 sts total.*

7-12: Sc around, changing colors as established (At the end of each round the last stitch worked of each color will be at the two stitch markers on opposite sides).

Rnd13: Continue with **A**: (Sc2tog, sc in each of next 4 sc) 3 times. Change to **B**. (Sc2tog, sc in each of next 4 sc) 3 times. *30 sts total.*

Rnd 14: Continue with **B**: (Sc2tog, sc in each of next 3 sts) 3 times. Change to **A**. (Sc2tog, sc in each of next 3 sts) 3 times. *24 sts total.*

Rnd 15: Continue with **A**:(Sc2tog, sc in each of next 2 sts) 3 times. Change to **B**. (Sc2tog, sc in each of next 2 sts) 3 times. *18 sts total.*

Rnd 16: Continue with **B**: (Sc2tog, sc in next st) 3 times. Change to **A**. (Sc2tog, sc in nest st) 3 times. *12 sts total.*

Stuff firmly.
Rnd 17: Continue with **A**: (Sc2tog) 3 times. Change to **B**. (sc2tog) 3 times. *6 sts total.*

Finishing: Continue with **B**: Sl st the next 3 sts together. **Fasten off B.** Change to **A**. Sl st the next 3 sts together. **Fasten off A.** Weave in ends.

I usually tie the two yarn ends together before weaving them in; it gives a tighter closure to the final round.
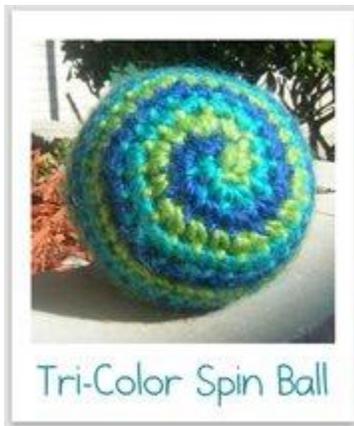
Once you learn the math to it, spiraling is *so* easy! For a simple ball pattern like the one here you can use two, three, or even six colors (I've actually yet to attempt six...). You can also give the appearance of one wider stripe and one smaller

stripe by working up a ball as if using three colors, but use two balls of the same color.

You'll notice that the spin ball is worked in increments of 6 sts (6, 12, 18, et cetera) and the trick is to work one half of the round with one color and the other half with a second color.

To make a ball with 3 colors, divide the rounds into thirds (instead of halves). The first round would be:

With A, Ch 2. Work 2 sc in 2nd ch. Join B, work 2 sc in same ch. Join C, work 2 sc in same ch. 6 sts total (2 each of A, B, & C). A sts are worked into B sts, B sts into C sts, and C sts into A sts.

Likewise, if you wanted to try 6 colors, you'd start out by working 1 sc in the 2nd ch of each color.

Happy crocheting!

Tri-Color Spin Ball

More patterns by Abigail Gonzalez, Chanteuse Crochet

The Agreeable Ant

The Carefree Caterpillar

Crochet Pattern!

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The Blissful Beetle

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