

Ripple Math 2

One of the most common questions, when it comes to the ripple, is:

“How many chains should I make to start a ripple?”

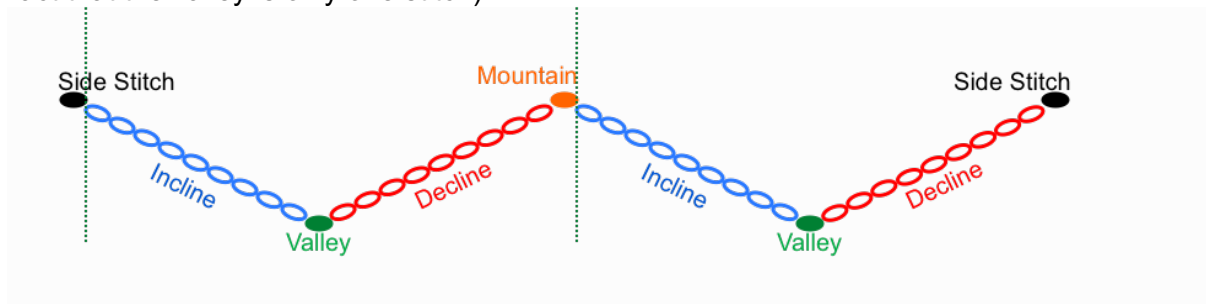
Well, the length of the foundation chain will depend on a number of things:

- the ripple pattern you choose;
- how deep you want to ripple to be;
- the yarn you choose;
- the size of the blanket you want to make.

The answer is not cut and dry. The answer will have to be calculated.

Step 1: choose a pattern

First of all you need to find a pattern you like. To keep this simple, I am going to use the same picture we used in the previous tutorial and pretend that this is our pattern (ignore the fact that the valley is only one stitch).



Step 2: calculate one pattern repeat

I added little dotted lines to our picture above. One pattern repeat runs from the side stitch on the right, to just before the mountain at the first dotted line – that is one pattern. The second pattern runs from the mountain in the middle to just before the side stitch on the left. The diagram above shows two pattern repeats in other words.

One pattern = side stitch or mountain + decline, + valley + incline

One pattern = 1 for the side stitch + 9 for the decline + 1 for the valley + 9 for the incline = 20

So for the pattern above, you are going to need multiples of 20+1. Where does the +1 come from? The last side stitch on the left hand side.



Step 3: crochet a test swatch

I know, I know, I hate a test swatch too. For some projects, it is a must. A ripple is one of those projects. You will not be able to do your calculations without a test swatch. And you have to use the actual yarn you are planning to use, otherwise it will all be in vain!

So....

If you were going to use the pattern above (which is not a real pattern as the valley is only one stitch), you would do a foundation chain of 41 stitches $((2 \times 20) + 1)$. You need at least two pattern repeats to really get the measurement of the ripple. And you need at least 5 rows too!

Step 4: measure the test swatch and calculate the ripple

Let's say the pattern worked out to 25cm over the two pattern repeats, after 5 rows.

Let's also assume you have a king size bed and you want the blanket to be about 2m wide.

Two pattern repeats = 25cm. So eight pattern repeats will equal 200cm or 2m. Your starting chain will then be $(8 \times 20) + 1$.

Overwhelmed? Go through it all again slowly. It's not that difficult, it is all logical.

In the next tutorial, we will calculate two different ripple patterns and I will teach you how to adjust them.

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