# Ripple Stitch Pattern Limitations

Different stitch patterns are being used. What is the trick behind this? Or differently worded – what are the limitations to this?

Two things limit the stitch patterns that can be used. The first is a concept I call 'Walking Stitches' and the second is the angle of the mountains and the valleys.

Walking Stitches

Let me explain this with the use of a diagram.
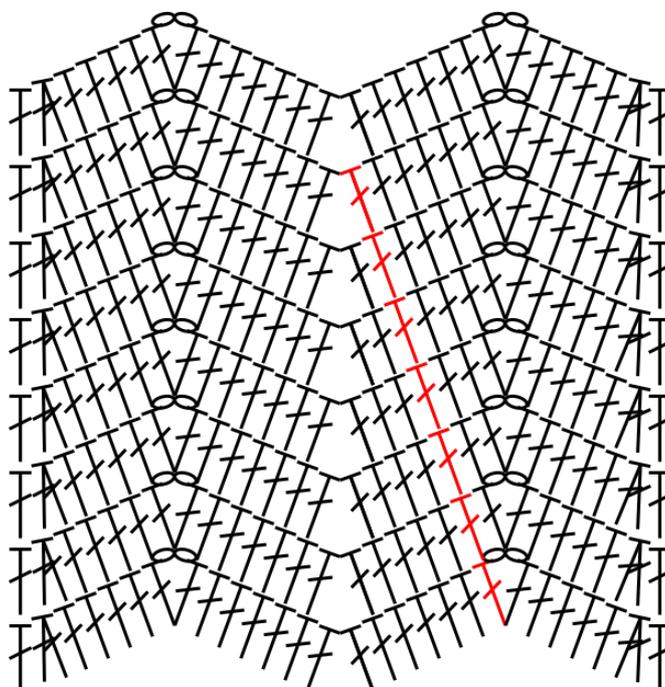
In the first row, a new stitch is created in the mountain – the red stitch. I coloured that stitch red in all the rows following. You will see that the new stitch 'walk away' from the mountain with each row, until it eventually disappears into the valley.

Why does this affect our stitch pattern choice? Any stitch pattern chosen, must consist of one row only. A stitch pattern that needs 2 rows, won't work as the stitches will no longer align. Think of the ever popular V-stitch or shell-stitch. The Vs are normally neatly stacked on top of each other – this cannot happen in a ripple as the Vs will be walking down the decline, from the mountain, towards the valley.

Angles
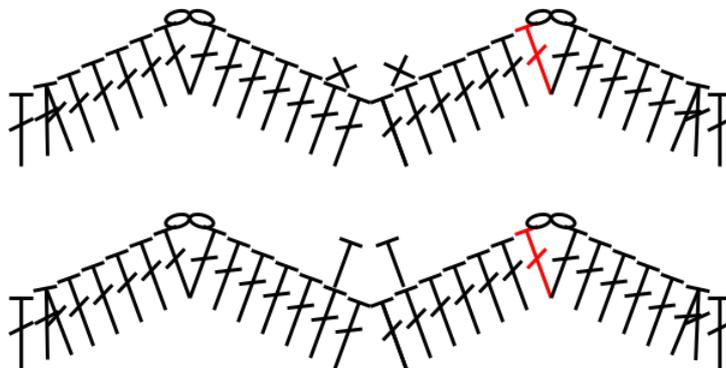
The second limitation is the angle of the mountains and the valleys. If the foundation of a ripple is double crochet, you have to be very careful if you want to incorporate single crochet or half-double crochet. Let's look at the valley – if the valley is (dc, sk2, dc), the angle created will not be the same as when you do (hdc, sk2, hdc) or (sc, sk2, sc). There is a measure of math involved here. Look at the diagram below. In the bottom rows, where the dc sts are used, the two sts of the valley touch each other. Where the hdc sts are used, there is a slight space between the two hdc sts. Look at the big space when sc sts are used. If you force it, and simply substitute the dc in (dc, sk2, dc) with another stitch, your ripple will lose shape as the angle will be smaller. This is due to the change in the stitch length. Nothing is impossible; this can be overcome by continually adjusting the valleys and mountains to accommodate the stitch used, for instance, a valley with sc will maybe be (sc, sk2, ch1, sc).