How to Change Colors in Amigurumi

Amigurumi tutorial + striped ball · mardingezituru.com

Changing colors in amigurumi is easy once you know one rule: the new color comes in on the last yarn over of the stitch before it. The hard part is the jog, the little step where a stripe does not meet itself because rounds in amigurumi are a spiral, not stacked rings.

This guide covers the clean color change, three ways to hide the jog, what to do with the tails, and a small striped practice ball at the end to try them on.



The practice ball: even stripes with no visible step.

The clean color change

1. Work the last stitch of the round in the old color until there are two loops on the hook.
2. Drop the old color to the back (the inside of the toy), yarn over with the new color and pull it through both loops.
3. The loop on the hook is now the new color. Work the first stitch of the next round in the new color as normal.

If you change colors at the start of the stitch instead, the first stitch of the new round has a little "tooth" of the old color on top.



The new color comes in on the last yarn over.

How to hide the jog

Because the rounds spiral, the last stitch of a round sits half a row higher than the first. A stripe of a new color starts higher than where the old one ended, and you see a step. Three fixes, from easiest to neatest:

1. Slip stitch the first stitch

Work the first stitch of the new color as a slip stitch instead of a single crochet. It is shorter, so it fills the step. Count it as a stitch and work into it normally on the next round.

2. Pull up the tail

After the first round of the new color, work the first stitch of the next round, then use the old color tail on the inside to pull the first new stitch down a little and tie it to the new tail. This one is good for single-round stripes.

3. Move the start

For stripes on a toy that is seen from the front, start the color changes at the back. The step is still there, but nobody sees it. Many patterns, including ours, put the round start at the back of the head for this reason.

The tails

- **Carry it:** for stripes up to 3 rounds high, do not cut the color you are not using. Let it run up the inside and catch it under the working yarn every few stitches.
- **Tie on the inside:** for longer gaps, cut, leave 4 in / 10 cm tails and tie the old and new tails together loosely on the inside. Do not pull tight, or the stitches pucker.
- **No knots on the outside,** ever: they show through on light colors.

Color changes in a pattern

Patterns usually say "R8 (color B)" or "change to B". That means round 8 is all color B, so the change happens in the last yarn over of round 7. Our guide to reading crochet patterns explains the rest of the shorthand.

Practice pattern: striped ball

DK cotton in cream (A) and coral (B), a 2.5 mm (US B/1–C/2) hook and a little fiberfill. It is about 2 in / 5 cm wide and takes about an hour.

Abbreviations (US terms)

- **MR** magic ring · **sc** single crochet · **inc** 2 sc in one stitch · **dec** invisible decrease · **FO** fasten off
- **blo / flo** back loop only / front loop only · **ch** chain · **sl st** slip stitch · **hdc / dc** half double / double crochet

Ball

Color: start with A (cream).

Three coral stripes: try a different jog fix on each one and see which you like.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** 6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** Inc ×6. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 3:** (sc, inc) ×6. (18)
- [ ] **Rnd 4:** Sc, inc, (2 sc, inc) ×5, sc. (24)
- [ ] **Rnd 5:** (3 sc, inc) ×6. (30)
- [ ] **Rnd 6:** 2 sc, inc, (4 sc, inc) ×5, 2 sc. (36)
- [ ] **Rnds 7–8:** Switch to B (coral). Sc around. (36)
- [ ] **Rnds 9–10:** Switch to A (cream). Sc around. (36)
- [ ] **Rnds 11–12:** Switch to B (coral). Sc around. (36)
- [ ] **Rnds 13–14:** Switch to A (cream). Sc around. (36)
- [ ] **Rnd 15:** Switch to B (coral). Sc around. (36)
- [ ] **Rnd 16:** Switch to A (cream). (4 sc, dec) ×6. (30)
- [ ] **Rnd 17:** 2 sc, dec, (3 sc, dec) ×5, sc. (24)
- [ ] **Rnd 18:** (2 sc, dec) ×6. (18)
- [ ] **Rnd 19:** Sc, dec, (sc, dec) ×5. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 20:** Dec ×6. (6)

Finish: Stuff firmly, FO and close.

FAQ

Why does my new color look lumpy on the first stitch?

The change came in too late. Pull the new color through on the last yarn over of the stitch before, not the first one of the new round.

Try stripes on a real toy: the bumble bee, the striped snake and the crochet ball.