NOMAD

Navajo-Inspired Poncho

by Norah Gaughan

NOMAD COMPONENTS

Materials
1420 (1520, 1620, 1745) yards of worsted weight wool yarn
11 (11, 12, 13) skeins of Brooklyn Tweed *Shelter* (100% American Targhee-Columbia wool; 140 yards/50g)

Photographed in color *Foothills*

Gauge
18 stitches & 28 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch or Chart B with Size A needle(s), after blocking
18 stitches & 32 rows = 4" in 2x2 Ribbing with Size B needle(s), after blocking

Needles
Size A (for Main Fabric)
Two 32" (or longer) circular needles and one spare needle (any style or length), in size needed to obtain gauge listed
Suggested Size: 4½ mm (US 7)

Size B (for Ribbing)
One each 16" and 32" circular needles, two sizes smaller than Size A
Suggested Size: 3¾ mm (US 5)

Finished Dimensions
36½ (38¼, 40, 41¾)" width (not including ribbing)

Intended to fit 30-34 (36-40, 42-46, 48-52)" bust circumference
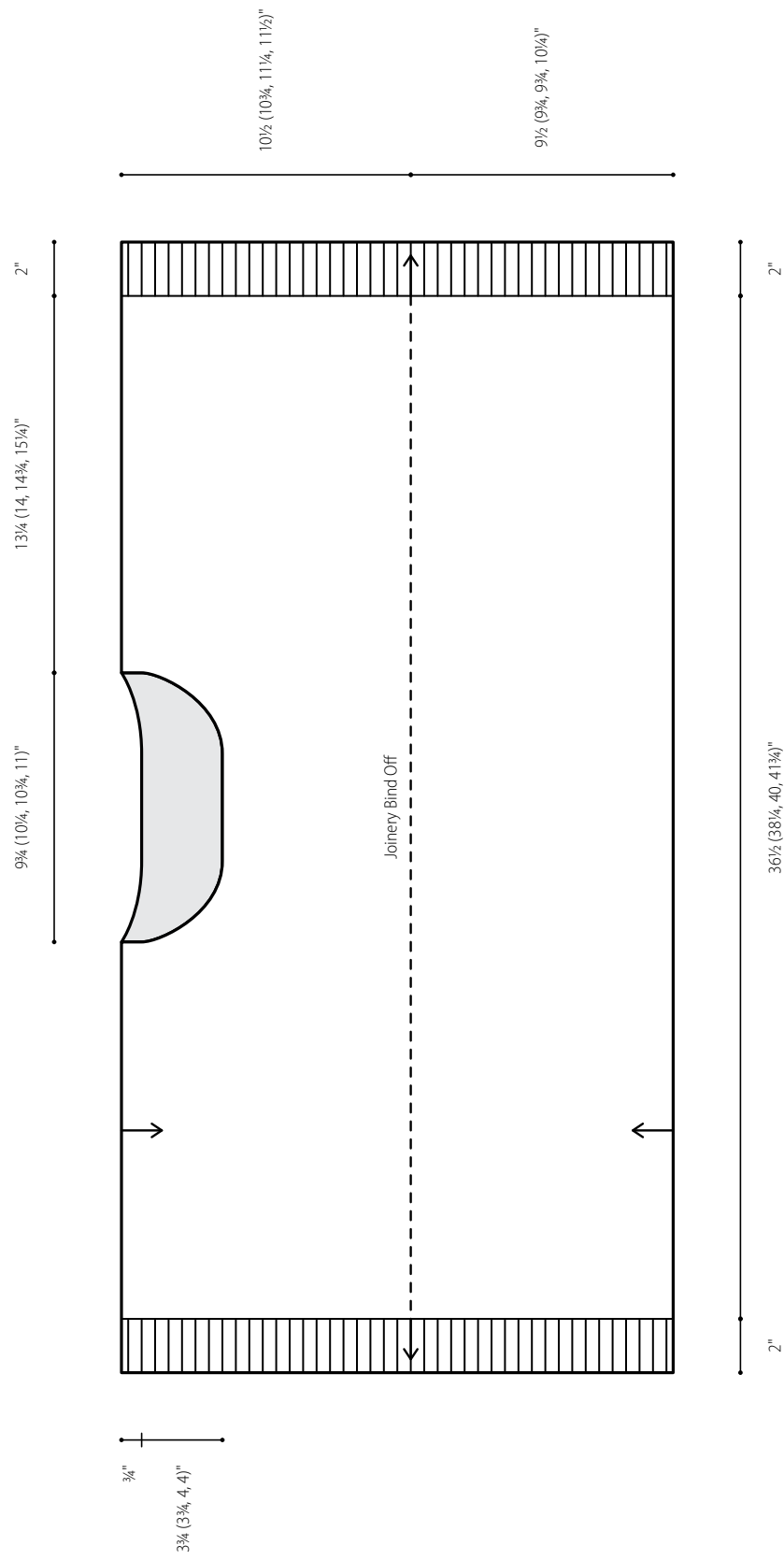Sample shown is 36½" wide on 33" bust model

Additional Tools
Stitch markers, two spare 32" (or longer) circular needles (same size as Size A or slightly smaller) or waste yarn, T-pins (optional), blunt tapestry needle

Skill Level
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10½ (10¾, 11¼, 11½)"

9½ (9¾, 9¾, 10¼)"

2"

13¾ (14, 14¾, 15¼)"

2"

9¾ (10¼, 10¾, 11)"

Joinery Bind Off

36½ (38¼, 40, 41¾)"

2"

¾"

3¾ (3¾, 4, 4)"

ABOUT THIS DESIGN

Bold geometric motifs reminiscent of Pendleton wool blankets give this Shelter poncho lasting appeal. Textured and slipped stitches and consecutive bands of twisted stitches that create a horizontal braid effect make Nomad an engaging knit as well as a stylish addition to your wardrobe. Pivot the poncho 90 degrees and wear it with the side ribbing as the front hem for an alternate look.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

- The garment is constructed in four pieces. The back shoulders are worked separately while the back neck is shaped, and then joined for the top back and worked down to the garment center. The front shoulders are picked up and knit from the back shoulders, worked separately while the neck is shaped, and then joined for the top front and worked down to the garment center. The lower front and back are worked from the bottom up. The lower front and back are then joined to the upper front and back at the center of the garment using Joinery Bind Off (see *Special Techniques*) from the RS, to create a decorative ridge. The side ribbing and neckband are picked up and worked after garment assembly.
- A circular needle is used to accommodate the large number of stitches.
- Read RS (odd-numbered) chart rows from right to left; read WS (even-numbered) chart rows from left to right.
- Slip markers as they are encountered.
- A Chain Selvedge {CS} (see *Special Techniques*) is worked at the side edges of the pieces to create a tidy edge for picking up the ribbing.
- The poncho is shown worn sideways on page 9. If you plan to wear it in this manner most of the time, you may wish to make two upper fronts instead of one upper front and one upper back, so that the neckline will be symmetrical. When working the neckband, pick up the same number of stitches along both necks, ending with a multiple of 4 stitches.

STITCH PATTERNS

Flat 2x2 Ribbing (multiple of 4 stitches + 2; 2-row repeat)
Row 1 (RS): Knit 2, *purl 2, knit 2; repeat from * to end.
Row 2 (WS): Purl 2, *knit 2, purl 2; repeat from * to end.

Repeat Rows 1 & 2 for pattern.

Circular 2x2 Ribbing (multiple of 4 stitches; 1-round repeat)
Round 1: *Knit 1, purl 2, knit 1; repeat from * to end.

Repeat Round 1 for pattern.

UPPER BACK

Right Shoulder

With Size A 32" circular needle (suggested size: 4½ mm/US 7), cast on 60 (63, 66, 69) stitches using the Long-Tail Cast On.

Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to end.
Next Row (RS): Cast on 6 (6, 7, 7) stitches using the Cabled Cast On (see *Special Techniques*), knit to last stitch, {CS}.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [72 (75, 80, 83) stitches now on needle]

Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to end.
Next Row (RS): Cast on 20 (22, 20, 22) stitches. Do not work this row. [92 (97, 100, 105) stitches now on needle]

Break yarn and leave stitches on needle.

Left Shoulder

With second Size A 32" circular needle, cast on 60 (63, 66, 69) stitches using the Long-Tail Cast On.

Next Row (WS): Purl to last stitch, {CS}.
Next Row (RS): {CS}, knit to last stitch.
Next Row (WS): Cast on 6 (6, 7, 7) stitches using the Purl Cabled Cast On (see *Special Techniques*), purl to last stitch, {CS}.

Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [72 (75, 80, 83) stitches now on needle]

Join Shoulders

Next Row (RS): {CS}, knit to end of left shoulder, knit across held right shoulder stitches (with knit side facing) working across 20 (22, 20, 22) newly cast on stitches first, knit to end, {CS}. [164 (172, 180, 188) stitches]
Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to last stitch, {CS}.

Work 0 (0, 2, 2) rows even.

Begin Chart A

Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Row 1 of Chart A to last stitch, beginning and ending where indicated for upper back for your size, {CS}.

Work even through chart Row 26.

Work 8 (10, 10, 12) rows even in stockinette stitch, keeping selvedge stitches in {CS} as established.

Decrease Row (RS): {CS}, knit 55 (59, 63, 67), k2tog, knit to last stitch, {CS}. [163 (171, 179, 187) stitches remain]
Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to last stitch, {CS}.

Begin Chart B

Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Row 1 of Chart B to last stitch, beginning and ending where indicated for your size, {CS}.

Work even through chart Row 28.

Work 2 rows even in stockinette stitch, keeping selvedge stitches in {CS} as established.

Transfer stitches to spare circular needle or waste yarn. Set piece aside.

UPPER FRONT

With Size A 32" circular needle, and WS of back facing, pick up and knit 60 (63, 66, 69) stitches along left shoulder; with a new ball of yarn, pick up and knit 60 (63, 66, 69) stitches along right shoulder.

Note: Stitches are picked up with WS facing in order to create a decorative ridge at the shoulders on the RS. Both sides will be worked at once from separate balls of yarn from this point forward. Make sure not to cross or twist yarns when switching to second side.

Next Row (RS): {CS}, knit to 1 stitch before neck edge, {CS}; on second side with other ball of yarn, {CS}, knit to last stitch, {CS}.
Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to 1 stitch before neck edge, {CS}; on second side with other ball of yarn, {CS}, purl to last stitch, {CS}.

Work 4 (4, 6, 6) rows even as established.

Begin Chart A and Shape Front Neck
Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Row 1 of Chart A to 1 stitch before neck edge, beginning and ending where indicated for right front shoulder for your size, {CS}; on second side with other ball of yarn, {CS}, work Row 1 of Chart A to last stitch, beginning and ending where indicated for left front shoulder for your size, {CS}.

Work 3 rows even as established.

Neck Increase Row (RS): {CS}, work Chart A to 1 stitch before neck edge, M1R, {CS}; on second side with other ball of yarn, {CS}, M1L, work Chart A to last stitch, {CS}. (2 stitches increased; 1 on each side of neck)

Repeat the Neck Increase Row every RS row 4 more times, working new stitches into pattern. [65 (68, 71, 74) stitches on each side]

Work 1 row even (WS).

Note: Discontinue {CS} at neck edge while stitches are being cast on; work edge stitches at neck according to chart instead.

Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Chart A to neck edge; on second side with other ball of yarn, cast on 2 stitches using the Cabled Cast On, work to last stitch (working new stitches into pattern), {CS}.
Next Row (WS): {CS}, work Chart A to neck edge; on second side with other ball of yarn, cast on 2 stitches using the Purl Cabled Cast On, work to last stitch (working new stitches into pattern), {CS}.

Working in the same manner, cast on 3 (3, 3, 4) stitches at each neck edge on the next 2 rows, then cast on 4 (5, 5, 5) stitches at each neck edge on the following 2 rows. [74 (78, 81, 85) stitches on each side]

Join Sides
Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Chart A to neck edge; on second side with other ball of yarn, cast on 16 (16, 18, 18) stitches using the Cabled Cast On, then with same ball of yarn used to work right front, work across new stitches (working new stitches into pattern), and then to last stitch, {CS}. [164 (172, 180, 188) stitches now on needle]

Break second ball of yarn.

Work even through chart Row 26.

Work 8 (10, 10, 12) rows even in stockinette stitch, keeping selvedge stitches in {CS} as established.

Decrease Row (RS): {CS}, knit 55 (59, 63, 67), k2tog, knit to last stitch, {CS}. [163 (171, 179, 187) stitches remain]
Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to last stitch, {CS}.

Begin Chart B
Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Row 1 of Chart B to last stitch, beginning and ending where indicated for your size, {CS}.

Work even through chart Row 28.

Work 2 rows even in stockinette stitch, keeping selvedge stitches in {CS} as established.

Transfer stitches to spare circular needle or waste yarn. Set piece aside.

LOWER BACK/FRONT (MAKE 2)

With Size A 32" circular needle, cast on 164 (172, 180, 188) stitches using the Long-Tail Cast On.

Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to last stitch, {CS}.

Begin Chart A

Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Row 1 of Chart A to last stitch, beginning and ending where indicated for lower back/front for your size, {CS}.

Work even through chart Row 26.

Work 8 (10, 10, 12) rows even in stockinette stitch, keeping selvedge stitches in {CS} as established.

Decrease Row (RS): {CS}, knit 55 (59, 63, 67), k2tog, knit to last stitch, {CS}. [163 (171, 179, 187) stitches remain]
Next Row (WS): {CS}, purl to last stitch, {CS}.

Begin Chart B

Next Row (RS): {CS}, work Row 1 of Chart B to last stitch, beginning and ending where indicated for your size, {CS}.

Work even through chart Row 28.

Work 2 rows even in stockinette stitch, keeping selvedge stitches in {CS} as established.

Join to Back/Front

Note: The join is worked with the RSs facing out so that a decorative ridge is formed on the RS of the garment.

Transfer upper back (or upper front) stitches to second size A 32" circular needle. With WSs together, join lower back (or front) to upper back (or front) using Joinery Bind Off (see *Special Techniques*).

FINISHING

Wet-block pieces to schematic measurements (see *Special Techniques*).

Neckband

With Size B (suggested size 3¾ mm/US 5) 16" circular needle, RS facing, and beginning at right shoulder, pick up and knit 44 (46, 48, 50) stitches evenly along back neck edge, 20 (21, 21, 22) stitches evenly along left side of front neck, 16 (16, 18, 18) stitches evenly along center of front neck, and 20 (21, 21, 22) stitches evenly along right side of front neck. Place marker for BOR and join for working in the round. [100 (104, 108, 112) stitches now on needle]

The ratio for picking up stitches is one stitch for each bound-off stitch along horizontal edges, and approximately 2 stitches for every 3 rows along vertical edges. You may vary the exact number of stitches picked up, but be sure to end with a multiple of 4 stitches.

Begin Circular 2x2 Ribbing (see *Stitch Patterns*); work even until neckband measures 1¼" from pick-up row. Bind off all stitches in rib.

Side Edgings

With Size B 32" circular needle, RS facing, and beginning at hem edge of one side edge of garment, pick up and knit 140 (143, 146, 152) stitches along side edge of garment, picking up approximately one stitch for each slipped selvedge stitch, and ending at other hem edge.

You may vary the exact number of stitches picked up, but be sure to end with a multiple of 3 stitches + 2.

Next Row (WS): Knit.
Increase Row (RS): Knit 2, *purl 1, YO, knit 2; repeat from * to end. [186 (190, 194, 202) stitches now on needle]
Next Row (WS): Purl 2, *knit YO from previous row through the back loop, knit 1, purl 2; repeat from * to end.

Begin Flat 2x2 Ribbing (see *Stitch Patterns*); work even until edging measures 2" from pick-up row, ending with a WS row.

Bind off all stitches in rib.
Repeat instructions for second side.

Steam neckband and edgings or wet-block entire garment again.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

{CS} Chain Selvedge
The Chain selvedge is worked on the first and last stitches of the row.

RS rows: Slip first stitch knitwise wyib, work in pattern to last stitch, knit last stitch.
WS rows: Slip first stitch purlwise wyif, work in pattern to last stitch, purl last stitch.

Cabled Cast On
Make a slip knot on L needle to begin, insert R needle into slip knot and knit a new stitch. Place new stitch on L needle. *Insert R needle between the first and second stitch on the L needle, wrap strand of yarn around R needle as you would for a knit stitch and pull through, place this new loop onto L needle; repeat from * until required number of stitches have been cast on. After last stitch has been cast on, slip last stitch purlwise to R needle, bring working yarn to front between needles, return last stitch to L needle and pull working yarn snugly. Repositioning the working yarn in this way creates a cleaner edge at the end of your cast-on row.

If using this method to cast on stitches to a piece in progress, omit the slipknot and begin at *.

Purl Cabled Cast On
Note: This is a variation of Cabled Cast On for use on the WS of the work.

Make a slip knot on L needle to begin, insert R needle into slip knot and purl a new stitch. Place new stitch on L needle. *Insert R needle from behind the L needle, between the first and second stitch on the L needle, wrap strand of yarn around R needle as you would for a purl stitch and pull through, place this new loop onto L needle; repeat from * until required number of stitches have been cast on. After last stitch has been cast on, slip last stitch purlwise to R needle, bring working yarn to back between needles, return last stitch to L needle and pull working yarn snugly. Repositioning the working yarn in this way creates a cleaner edge at the end of your cast-on row.

If using this method to cast on stitches to a piece in progress, omit the slipknot and begin at *.

Joinery Bind Off
This Bind Off is also commonly known as the "Three Needle Bind Off".

Place stitches to be joined on two needles, with points facing in the same direction, and with wrong sides together. With a third needle the same size, k2tog (1 stitch from each needle), *k2tog (1 stitch from each needle), pass second stitch on R needle over first stitch on R needle to bind off 1 stitch; repeat from * to end. Pull yarn through final stitch and fasten off.

Wet-Blocking
Fill a sink or basin with warm water and a small amount of delicate dish soap or rinseless wool wash. Submerge fabric in water, gently squeezing out any air bubbles so that the piece can remain under water without being held there. Soak work for 30 minutes, allowing fabric to become completely saturated.

Drain the sink and remove work. If you have used dish soap (rather than rinseless wool wash), fill the sink again once or twice to rinse the soap from your fabric. Never place knitting directly under running water.

Squeeze out excess water from your work, taking care not to twist or wring fabric. Roll your fabric between two clean bath towels "burrito" style and firmly press towel roll. This will aid in removing moisture from the knitted piece. Remove piece from towels – your fabric should now feel damp but not saturated.

Pin pieces in place on a blocking board or other appropriate surface, using instructed dimensions. Use as many T-pins as required to block piece into desired shape. Allow fabric to air dry completely before removing. Steam out any creases formed while piece was drying.

ABBREVIATIONS

See Chart Legend for Abbreviations not listed here.

M1L (Make 1 Left): With L needle tip, pick up the running thread between stitch just worked (below first stitch on R needle) and first stitch on L needle from front to back. Knit the running thread through the back loop. (1 stitch increased; leans left)

M1R (Make 1 Right): With L needle tip, pick up the running thread between stitch just worked (below first stitch on R needle) and first stitch on L needle from back to front. Knit the running thread through the front loop. (1 stitch increased; leans right)

YO (Yarn Over): With yarn in front, bring yarn over the top of R needle from front to back, creating one new stitch.

Wyib: With yarn in back

Wyif: With yarn in front

BOR: Beginning of round

RS (Right Side): This term refers to the public side of the knitted fabric, i.e. the fabric that will be visible when garment is worn. In projects with reversible fabrics, RS will be assigned specifically at the beginning of the pattern.

WS (Wrong Side): This term refers to the non-public side of the knitted fabric, i.e. the fabric that will not be visible when garment is worn. In projects with reversible fabrics, WS will be assigned specifically at the beginning of the pattern.
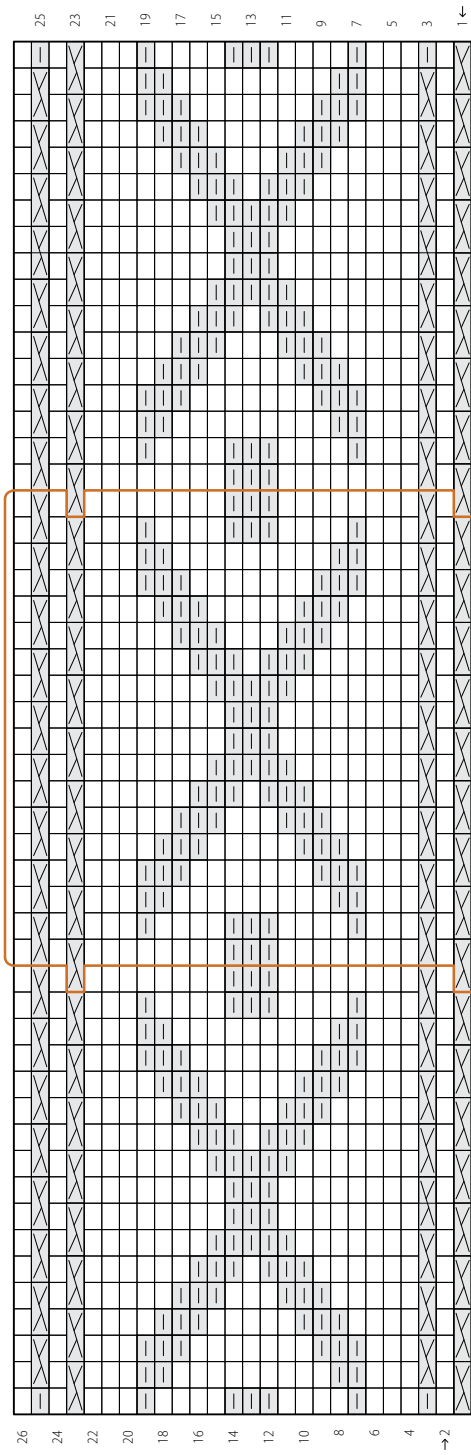
L: Left (Generally used in technique instructions to indicate which of your two working needles is being used).

R: Right (Generally used in technique instructions to indicate which of your two working needles is being used).

Poncho may also be worn sideways with an asymmetrical neck opening. See Construction Notes *if you plan to wear poncho like this most of the time.*

Size 40": Begin upper back; upper front right shoulder; and lower back/front

Size 36½": Begin upper front left shoulder
Size 38¼": Begin upper back; upper front right shoulder; and lower back/front

Size 38¼": Begin upper front left shoulder

Size 40": Begin upper front left shoulder

Size 41¾": Begin upper front left shoulder

Size 36½": Begin upper back; upper front right shoulder; and lower back/front

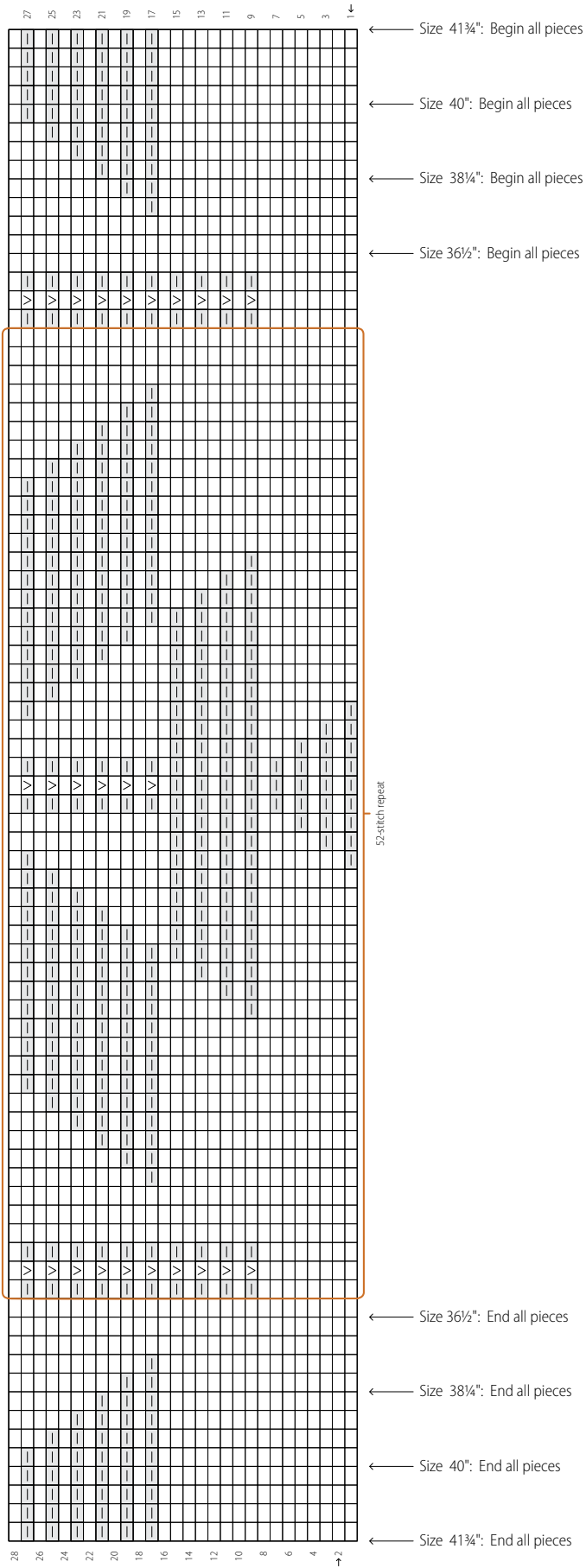Size 41¾": Begin upper back; upper front right shoulder; and lower back/front

18-stitch repeat

Size 41¾": End upper back; upper front left shoulder; and lower back/front

Size 36½": End upper back; upper front left shoulder; and lower back/front

Size 41¾": End upper front right shoulder

Size 40": End upper front right shoulder

Size 38¼": End upper front right shoulder

Size 36½": End upper front right shoulder
Size 38¼": End upper back; upper front left shoulder; and lower back/front

Size 40": End upper back; upper front left shoulder; and lower back/front

25 23 21 19 17 15 13 11 9 7 5 3 1

26 24 22 20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2

CHART B

Size 41¾": Begin all pieces

Size 40": Begin all pieces

Size 38¼": Begin all pieces

Size 36½": Begin all pieces

52-stitch repeat

Size 36½": End all pieces

Size 38¼": End all pieces

Size 40": End all pieces

Size 41¾": End all pieces

LEGEND

Knit: On RS, knit stitch; on WS, purl stitch

Purl: On RS, purl stitch; on WS, knit stitch

Slip (wyib): On RS, with yarn in back slip 1 stitch purlwise

Repeat: Bracketed motif is repeated more than once – see written instructions for number of instances

RTtog: P2tog but do not remove stitches from L needle, purl the first stitch again, now slide both stitches off L needle

Note: Do not work RTtog on the selvedge stitch; it must be at least one stitch from the edge. Work the extra stitch as a purl if there are not enough stitches to complete the symbol.