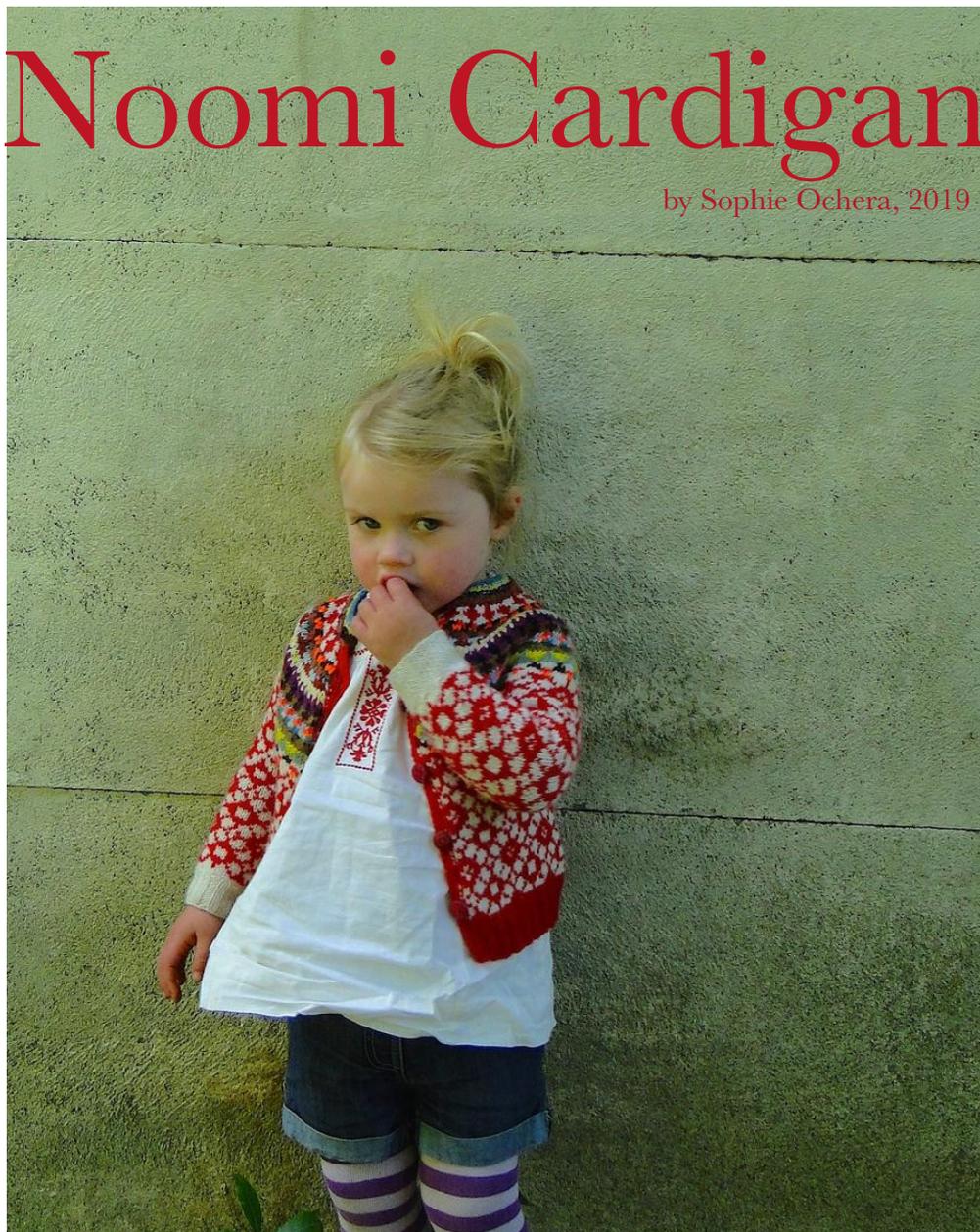


# Noomi Cardigan

by Sophie Ochera, 2019



A traditional red-and-white motif is given a modern boost of colour.

Inspired by a well-loved pair of mittens I bought in Sweden as a young knitwear student, this colourful cardigan has become one of my most popular made-to-order designs, and I have now adapted it for hand knitters, owing to high demand! The red-and-white body, worked in a traditional fair isle motif, is knitted in 3 pieces (body and 2 sleeves) from the bottom up. They are then joined together to work the colourful yoke in one piece, gradually decreasing to shape the shoulders. As only 2 colours are used per row, this fair isle project is less complicated than some. The cardigan is knitted flat throughout, so you need to be comfortable working in fair isle on the knit side *and* the purl side. However, it is possible to knit it in the round, using a steek. Sewing-up is minimal, with seams on the arms only, and then just a few stitches to be grafted under the arms. Short rows are used for shaping the back neck. I have used accents of bright yellow mimosa and neon orange to give this cardigan a truly modern look, but you can try out your own colour variations. This is a great design for using up your leftover colours from past projects.



### Level of difficulty and skills required

Intermediate. Pattern requires chart-reading skills and knowledge of how to do short rows. Pattern also assumes knowledge of the fair isle knitting technique (stranded colourwork), cable cast-on, ribbing and garter stitches, making buttonholes, and grafting.

I have designed this cardigan with 4 cm of positive ease to allow for garments to be worn underneath whilst retaining a fitted look. See schematics for actual sweater measurements.

*Sweater in sample is size 1 year (modelled by Eloise who just turned 2 when the photos were taken).*

### Sizes

aprox. age	finished chest measurement (worn closed)	to fit
1 year	53 cm (21 inches)	48 cm (19 inches)
2 years	58 cm (23 inches)	53 cm (21 inches)
4 years	63 cm (25 inches)	58.5 cm (23 inches)
6 years	67 cm (26.5 inches)	63.5 cm (25 inches)
8 years	72 cm (28.5 inches)	67 cm (26.5 inches)

### Materials

- 1 pair of size 2.25mm straight needles (US 1, UK 13)
- 1 pair of size 2.75mm straight needles (US 2, UK 12)
- 1 size 2.75mm circular needle (US 2, UK 12) (at least 80cm long, for ease of working yoke stitches)

*or needles to get gauge*

- 8 stitch holders or waste yarn
- 2 stitch markers
- 7-13 15mm buttons

## Yarn

For the main body, look for a super fine (1) or fingering-weight yarn that knits to 30 stitches in 10cm on 2.25-2.75mm (US 1-2, UK 13-12) needles. I prefer a non-superwash wool that will bloom and blend with the other yarns around it once washed, to get a vintage-feel fabric that is soft and textural. My sample uses 2 strands held together of Z. Hinchcliffe & Sons Lambswool Yarn, (2/17; 2-ply; 100% wool) in Ecrú (MC) and Tartan Scarlet (CC).

Available at Uppingham Yarns ([wools.co.uk](http://wools.co.uk))

## Note on yoke yarn

Use oddments of any similar-weight yarn: this includes sock, fingering and baby yarns in 15 colours (see yoke charts). My sample included “Mimosa”, “Salmon”, “Pumpkin”, “Laurel”, “Mermaid”, “Surf” and “Plum” from Jamieson’s of Shetland Spindrift (*not* held double). The neon orange colour is the only acrylic yarn and is slightly thicker than a fingering yarn, but the variation in yarn types and colours is what adds to the eclectic and “patchworky” feel of the cardigan. The remaining colours were left-overs from my yarn basket.

## Meterage needed

250 (300, 300, 325, 375) m / 275 (330, 330, 356, 410) yards of MC

250 (300, 300, 325, 375) m / 275 (330, 330, 356, 410) yards of CC

approximately 50 (60, 60, 80, 100) m / 55 (66, 66, 88, 110) yards total of 15 contrasting colours for the yoke.

## Note on gauge

On 2.75mm (US 2, UK 12) needles, in stocking stitch and *after* washing and blocking: 30 stitches and 30 rows to 10 x 10 cm (4” x 4”). Or use any needles to get gauge, then use two sizes down for the ribbing. I have quite loose tension, so you may well have to go up a size. I highly recommend swatching.



## Abbreviations

c/o = cast on

CC = contrast colour (red)

k = knit

k2tog = knit 2 stitches together

m1 = make 1 stitch (increase)

MC = main colour (ecru)

p = purl

p2tog = purl 2 stitches together

pm = place marker

RS = right side

st (s) = stitch(es)

st st = stocking stitch

WS = wrong side



## 1. Make body

(make 1 rectangular piece for front and back)

Using (smaller) 2.25mm needles,

c/o 134 (146, 162, 174, 186) sts in CC using the cable cast-on method for a nice even edge.

Row 1 (RS): k2, (p2, k2) to end.

Row 2 (WS): p2, (k2, p2) to end.

These two rows form the ribbing, continue as set for 4 cm / 1.5 inches, ending after a WS row.

Change to (larger) straight 2.75mm needles and knit 1 row, increasing as follows:

**size 1y:** k15, m1 (k4, m1) until last 15 sts, k15.

**size 2y:** k3, m1, (k5, m1) until last 3 sts, k3.

**sizes 4y, 6y & 8y:** k3, m1 (k6, m1) to last 3 sts, k3.

161 (175, 189, 203, 217) stitches.

Work main body in fair isle pattern in CC and MC.-see chart 1. Repeat the chart 11 (12, 13, 14, 15) times around the body, then work columns 1-7 once.

Continue straight in pattern until body measures 16 (20, 22, 24, 26) cm / 6.25 (7.75, 8.75, 9.5, 10.25) inches from cast-on edge, ending after a RS row.

On the last row, work chart as set and place markers as follows:

k40 (43, 47, 50, 54) for right front, pm, k81 (89, 95, 103, 109) for back, pm, k40 (43, 47, 50, 54) for left front.

These mark the side 'seams'. (This will help you to place the sleeves later on).

*Working in the round:*

*If you prefer to work this pattern in the round, cast on 5 extra stitches for your steek, then cast on the number for your size. Follow the pattern, remembering to work your steek stitches in your preferred steek pattern throughout. After finishing the yoke, secure your steek and cut down the centre. Fold back and fasten down the edges before picking up for the bands. You can work the sleeves in the round too: at the underarms, put only 5 sts either side on hold as none will be lost in the seam.*

## 2. Set aside stitches at underarms

Move all stitches onto a circular needle (this will give you more flexibility for knitting all pieces together for the circular yoke, as well as liberating your straight needles so you can make the sleeves. The circular needle acts as a stitch holder here but you will need to replace some stitches later, when adding the sleeves). Moving stitches along the needle, set aside 5 stitches either side of both underarms (remember to look at your side markers) onto stitch holders or waste yarn (these stitches will be grafted onto the sleeves later).

141 (155, 169, 183, 197) stitches.

## 3. Make Sleeves

(make 2 exactly the same)

Using (smaller) 2.25 needles,

c/o 38 (46, 46, 50, 54) sts in MC using the same cast-on method as for the body.

Row 1 (RS): k2, (p2, k2) to end.

Row 2 (WS): p2, (k2, p2) to end.

These two rows form the ribbing. Work as set for 4 cm / 1.5 inches, ending after a WS row.

Change to (larger) 2.75mm needles and knit one row, increasing as follows:

**size 1y:** k4, m1, (k3, m1) until last 4 sts, k4.

**sizes 2y and 4y:** k7, m1, (k2, m1) until last 7 sts, k7.

**size 6y:** k6, m1, (k2, m1) until last 6 sts, k6.

**size 8y:** k4, m1, (k3, m1) until last 5 sts, k5.

49 (63, 63, 70, 77) sts.

Work sleeve in fair isle pattern in CC and MM. See chart 1.

Repeat the chart 3.5 (4.5, 4.5, 4, 5.5) times across the sleeves.

Continue straight in pattern until row 10 of the chart is complete.

Shape arm:

On row 11 (a RS row), increase 1 st each side as follows (making sure to incorporate increased sts into pattern):

k1, m1, work in pattern to last st, m1, k1. 2 sts inc.

Knit 9 rows in pattern.

Work another increase row.

Increase as set (every 10th row) until sleeve measures 19 (21, 27, 30, 32) cm / 7.25 (8.25, 10.5, 11.75, 12.5) inches from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row.

You should have 57 (73, 75, 84, 93) sts.

## 4. Set aside stitches at underarms

Put 6 sts at either side of sleeves onto stitch holders.

These will be grafted onto the other held stitches later.

45 (61, 63, 72, 81) stitches.

## 5. Join body and sleeves

Add the sleeves to the circular needle (moving along and replacing the body sts as necessary) in the following order, ready to knit with RS facing (with right and left as worn): right front, slip marker, right sleeve, pm, back, slip marker, left sleeve, pm, left front.

231 (277, 295, 327, 359) stitches.

All 3 pieces are on one needle. The yoke will now be knitted flat in one piece. The first 4 or 5 rows will be very tight when you get to the sleeves, so make sure you are spacing your yarn well during the colourwork at this point. It will ease up around row 6.

## 6. Knit the fair isle yoke

You will be working chart 2, making sure to work the correct chart 2 for your size (each chart appears on its own page so you don't have to print out the ones you're not using):

Repeat yoke chart columns 1-12 19 (23, 25, 27, 29) times across the yoke.

Row 1 (RS): this is a set-up row to adjust the stitch counts. Make sure to work any increased/decreased sts in pattern.

**size 1y:** work in pattern for 56 sts, k2tog, work in pattern for 57 sts, k2tog, work in pattern for 56 sts, k2tog, work in pattern to end. 3 sts decreased.

**size 2y:** work in pattern for 137 sts, k2tog, work in pattern to end. 1 st decreased.

**size 4y:** (work in pattern for 49 sts, m1, work in pattern for 50, m1) twice, work in pattern for 49 sts, m1.

5 sts increased.

**size 6y:** work in pattern for 53 sts, k2tog, (work in pattern for 107 sts, k2tog) twice then knit 54 sts. 3 sts decreased.

**size 8y:** work in pattern for 18 sts, k2tog (work in pattern for 30 sts, k2tog) 10 times, work in pattern for 19 sts. 11 sts decreased.

228 (276, 300, 324, 348) stitches.

Rows 2-9: Work in pattern following chart.

## 7. Yoke decreases to shape the shoulders

There are 4 sets of decreases in this pattern, to shape the shoulders. Please refer to the correct chart 2 for your size or follow below. (Decrease rows are always knit using a single colour and if knitting in the round, p2tog will always be k2tog.)

**size 1 year** (chart 2a)

Row 10 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) to end. 57 sts dec; 171 sts.

Rows 11-19: work straight as set.

Row 20 (WS): (in single colour) (p1, p2tog) to end. 57 sts dec; 114 sts.

Rows 21-29: work straight as set.

Row 30 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog, p2tog) to end. 38 sts dec; 76 sts.

Row 31 (RS): (in single colour) (k2, k2tog) to end. 19 sts dec; 57 sts.

**size 2 years** (chart 2b)

Row 10 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) to end. 69 sts dec; 207 sts.

Rows 11-20: work straight as set.

Row 21 (RS): (in single colour) (k1, k2tog) to end. 69 sts dec; 138 sts.

Rows 22-32: work straight as set.

Row 33 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog, p2tog). 46 sts dec; 92 sts.

Row 34 (RS): (in single colour) (k2, k2tog,) to end. 25 sts dec; 69 sts.

**size 4 years** (chart 2c)

Row 10 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) to end. 75 sts dec; 225 sts.

Rows 11-25: work straight as set.

Row 26 (WS): (in single colour) (p1, p2tog) to end. 75 sts dec; 150 sts.

Row 27-37: work straight as set.

Row 38 (RS): (in single colour) (k2, k2tog, k2tog) to end. 50 sts dec; 100 sts.

Row 39 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) to end. 25 sts dec; 75 sts.

**size 6 years** (chart 2d)

Row 10 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) until last 4 sts, p2tog, p2tog. 66 sts dec; 246 sts.

Rows 11-25: work straight as set.

Row 26 (WS): (in single colour) p3 (p1, p2tog) until last 3sts, p3. 80 sts dec; 166 sts.

Rows 27-40: work straight as set.

Row 41 (RS): (in single colour) (k2, k2tog, k2tog) until last 4 sts, k2tog, k2tog. 34 sts dec; 132 sts.

Row 42 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) until last 2 sts, k2tog. 40 sts dec; 92 sts.

**size 8 years** (chart 2e)

Row 10 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) until last 4 sts, k4. 86 sts dec; 262 sts.

Rows 11-29: work straight as set.

Row 30 (WS): (in single colour) p2tog (p1, p2tog) to end.

88 sts dec; 174 sts.

Rows 31-46: work straight as set.

Row 47 (RS): (in single colour) (k2, k2tog, k2tog) until last 3 sts, k3. 58 sts dec; 116 sts.

Row 48 (WS): (in single colour) (p2, p2tog) to end. 29 sts dec; 87 sts.

### 8. Short rows to shape neckline

After last decrease has been knitted, place markers after 14, (17, 19, 23, 23) sts and again after another 29 (35, 37, 46, 41) sts, to mark off approximately half of the neck sts. Please refer to chart 3 and work 6 short rows between the markers at the back of neck or follow below.

All sizes:

Short row 1 (RS): knit in pattern, wrap and turn

Short row 2 (WS): purl in pattern, wrap and turn

Repeat last 2 rows twice more for a total of 6 short rows.



*The above yoke (size 2y) replaces neon orange for hot pink*

### 9. Buttonbands

Leaving the cardigan on its needle (or waste yarn, as you prefer), with RS facing and using the smaller needles, pick up the stitches on the side where you want the buttons to go. Pick up 3 stitches per 4 rows (if you pick up a stitch every row your button band may bend, but this depends on your tension. If you have a very tight tension, you may be able to pick up 1 stitch per row), and then work in garter stitch tightly for 4 (4, 4, 6, 6) rows.

Bind off on a WS row. Using stitch markers, mark the position for your buttons (I used 7 buttons on the size ly sample), spacing them evenly and note the number of stitches between marked positions (one button will be added to the neck ribbing, and a loop attached after finishing).

Now work the other side, making sure to pick the same amount of stitches as you have on the button side. Work 2 (2, 3, 4, 4) rows in garter stitch then work a buttonhole row by knitting to 2 sts before each marked position and then working a (yo, k2tog or yo k3tog depending on the size of your buttons) buttonhole. Work 1 more row, then bind off on next WS row.

## 10. Neck ribbing

Transfer all neckline stitches onto the smaller needle, making sure to pick up the 2 sets of 3 (3, 3, 4, 4) extra stitches made by the buttonhole edgings. before you start the ribbing, you will work a set-up row to adjust the stitch counts.

Join CC ready to work a WS row. 63 (75, 81, 100, 95) stitches.

**Size 1y:** p15, m1, p16, m1, p15, m1, purl to end.

**Size 2y:** p18, m1, p19, m1, p18, m1, purl to end.

**Size 4y:** p40, m1, purl to end.

**Size 6y:** p6, p2tog, (p10, p2tog) until last 8 sts, k8.

**Size 8y:** p15, k2tog, (k29, k2tog) until last 16 sts, k16.

66 (78, 82, 92, 92) stitches.

Row 1 (RS): k2 (p2, k2) to end.

Row 2 (WS): p2 (k2, p2) to end.

These two rows form the ribbing. Work as set for 2 ( 2, 2.5, 3, 3) cm / 0.75 ( 0.75, 1, 1.25, 1.25) inches changing colour every row, ending after a RS row.

Bind off in st st on WS and in the same colour as the last row.

My sample uses these colours for the neckband, in the following order:

Row 1: Dark brown

Row 2: Light brown

Row 3: Grape

Row 4: Mimosa yellow

Row 5: Surf (light blue)

Row 6: Laurel (green blue)

Row 7: Mermaid (bright blue)

Bind off in Mermaid (bright blue).



Et voila!

## 11. Finishing

Graft stitches at armholes (5 stitches either side of each sleeve, leaving the final stitch either side for seaming) with the 10 stitches at the underarms.

Weave in loose ends.

Wash entire cardigan in hot water, scrubbing lightly with soap to unite all the fibres. Squeeze dry by rolling between a towel.

Place flat and re-shape on blocking board or dry towel, paying particular attention to shoulders and neck (shoulders should slope nicely and symmetrically, neck should be higher at the back and scoop down a bit at the front).

Press lightly with a dry cloth between sweater and iron. Allow to dry naturally.

Once dry, sew up the sleeves and sew on the buttons so they are at the right place for the buttonholes.

Add one button on the neck ribbing and add a loop buttonhole on the opposite side made up of 3 ends of plaited (braided) yarn.

## 12. The charts

Chart 1:  
the body

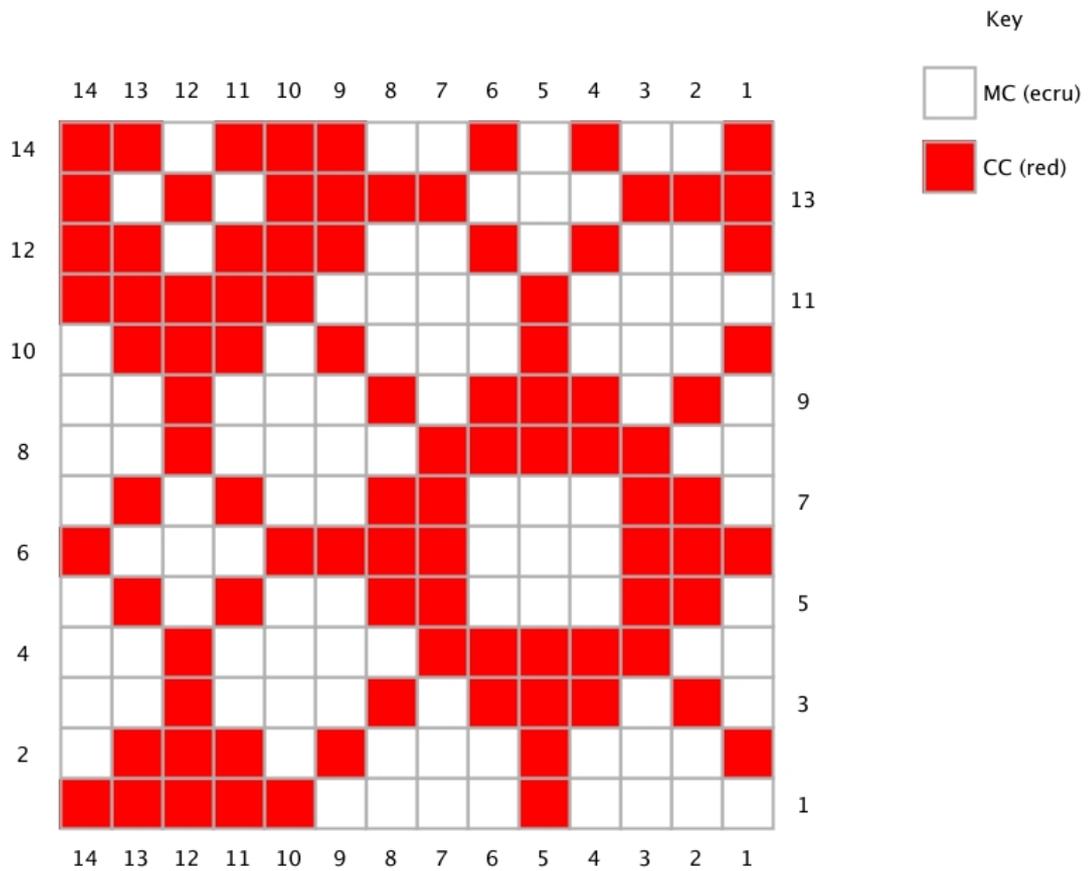


Chart 3:  
the short  
rows

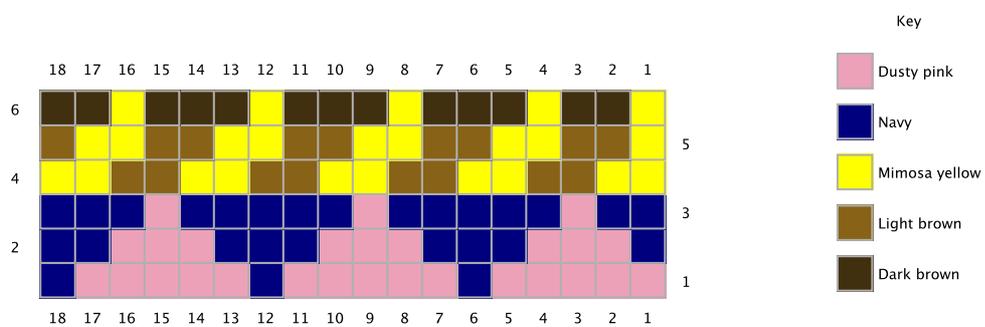


Chart 2a: the yoke (size 1 year)

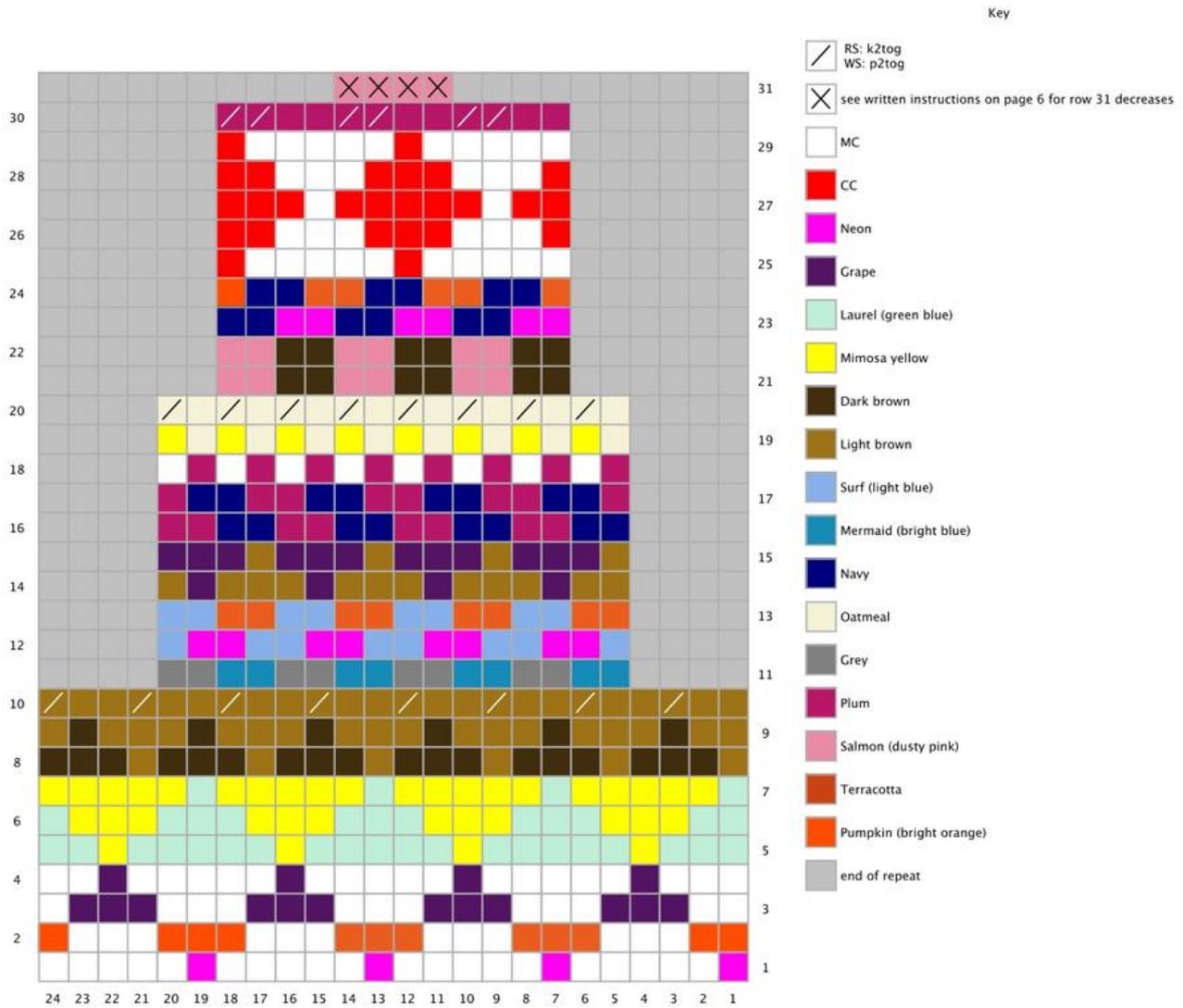


Chart 2b: the yoke (size 2 years)

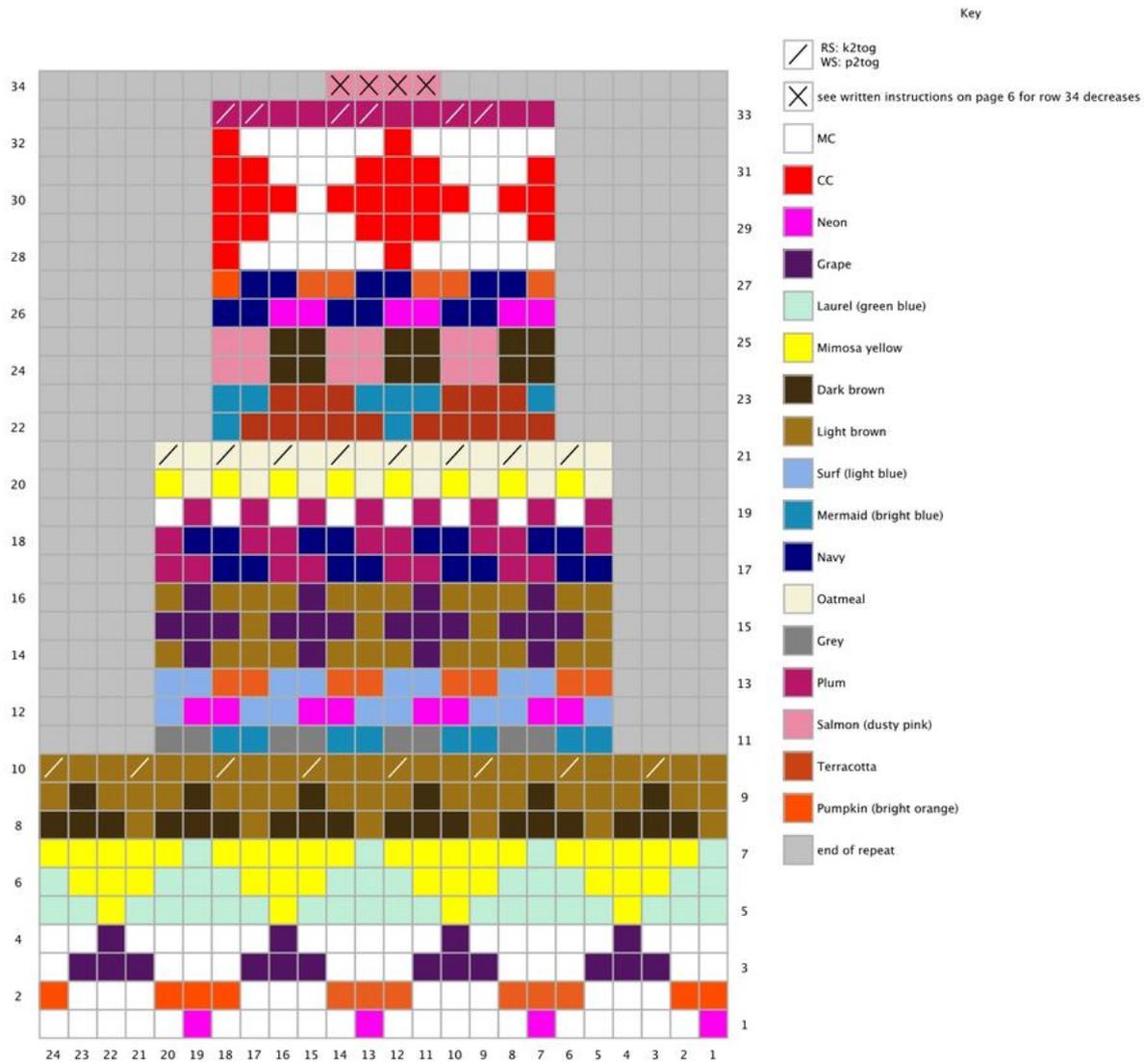


Chart 2c: the yoke (size 4 years)

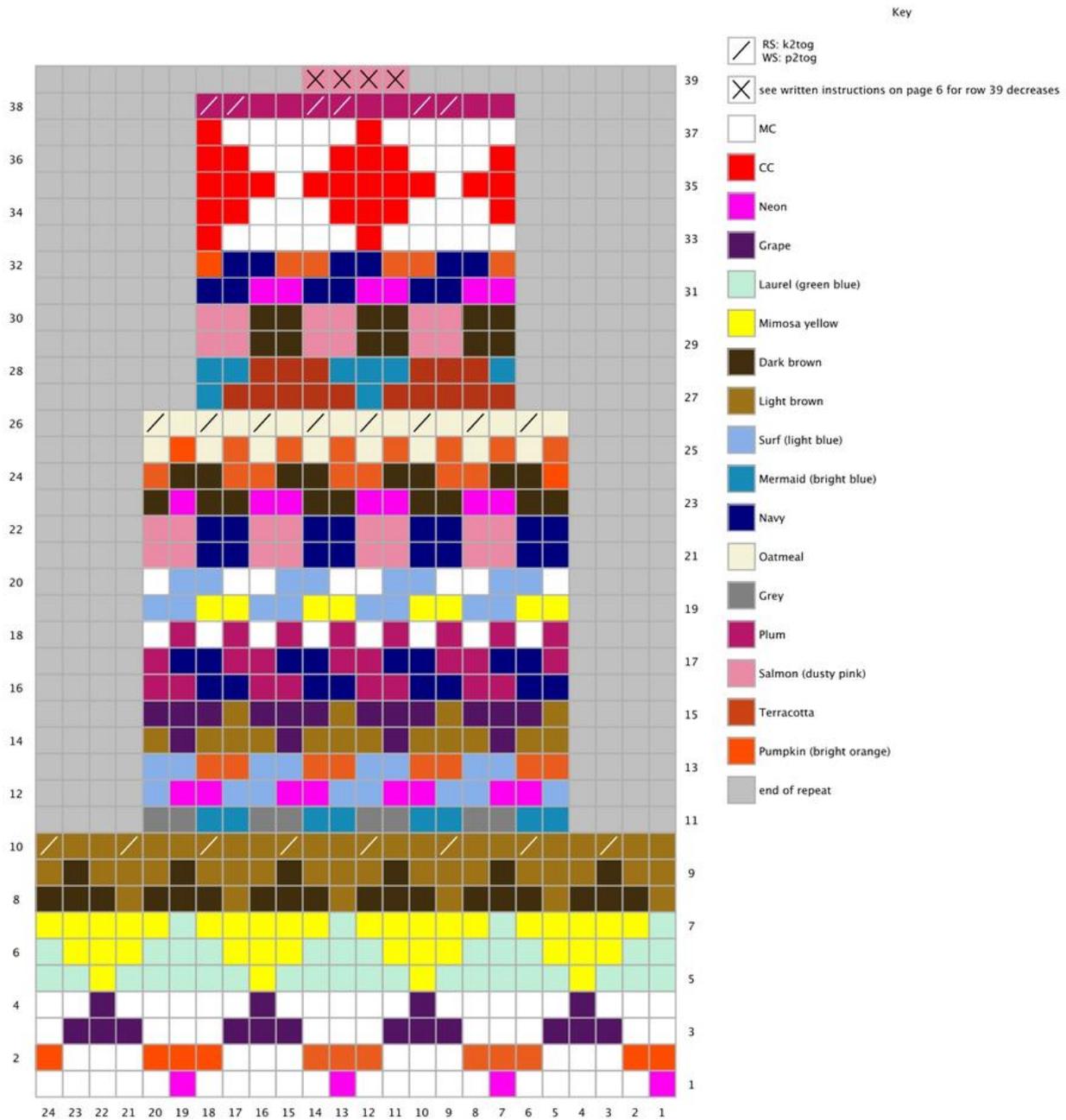


Chart 2d : the yoke (size 6 years)

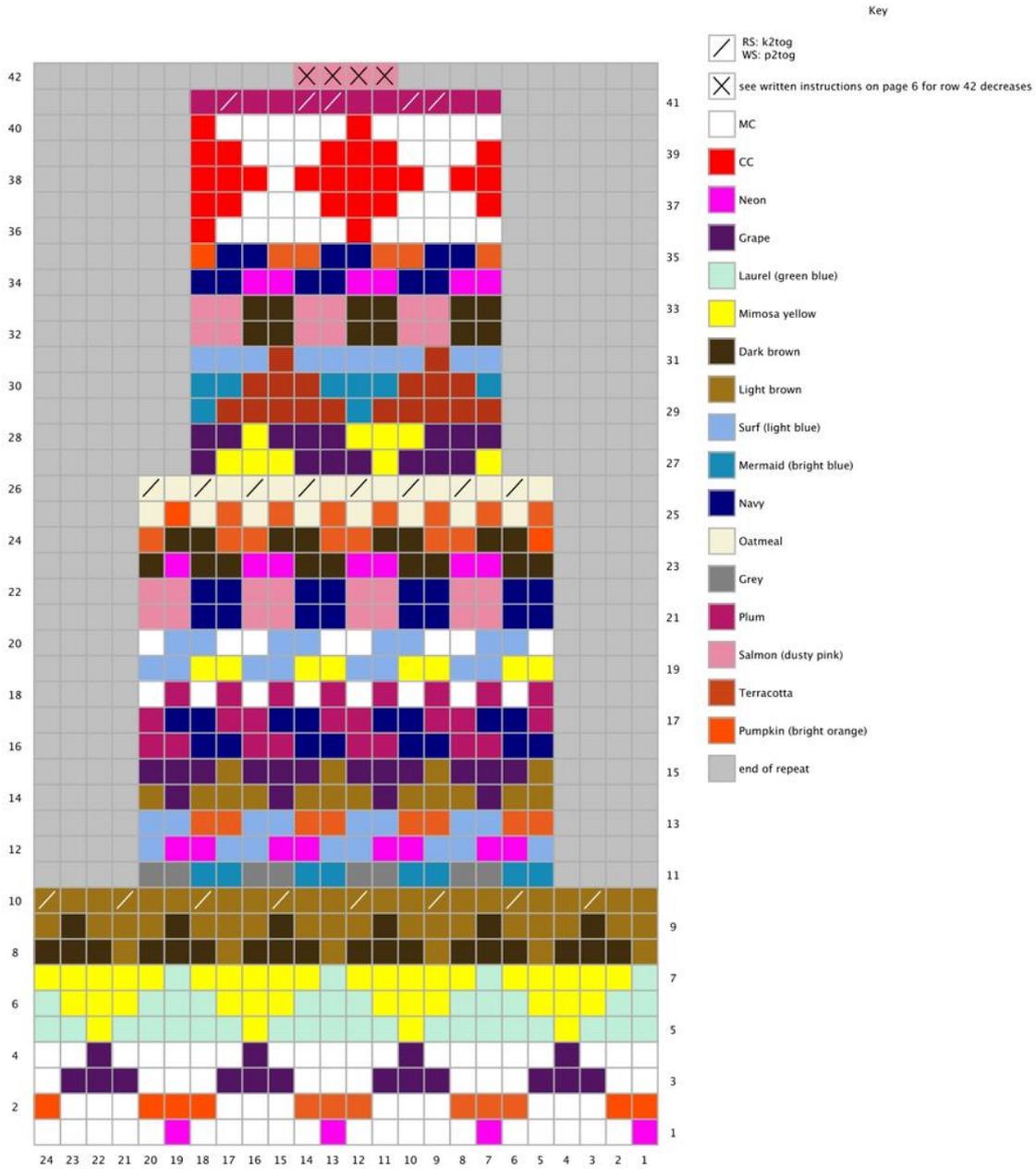


Chart 2e: the yoke (size 8 years)

