

ON THE SHORE

by Jana Huck

Like the Tiling Fish blanket, On the Shore is a patchwork blanket inspired by M.C. Escher's famous tessellations. Tortoises, ducks and fish are arranged in perfect symmetry and form a stunning pattern. The highly detailed animals are knit one at a time and make for great carry-along projects. Knit them on the go and sew them together back at home!

Materials:

Yarn:

Till Kampes, 100% wool, 328 yds/300 m/100 g. Fingering weight.

Heavier yarns will work well for this blanket; see Gauge section below.

Tortoises: Shown in brown 229

5 skeins/1391 yds/1272 m* **

29.5 yds/27 m per tortoise

Ducks: Shown in yellow 367

4 skeins/1181 yds/1080 m

33 yds/30 m per duck

Fish: Shown in miscellaneous colours

4 skeins/1299 yds/1188 m*

36 yds/33 m per fish

* Yardage includes long tail ends that will be used for the seams.

** Yardage includes 1 skein for the edging.

Needles:

Tortoises, fish: - US#1.5/2.5 mm

- 2 straights/dpns or 1 circular needle

Ducks - US#1.5/2.5 mm 12"/30 cm or larger circular needle

Edging - 2 dpns US#6/4 mm

Notions:

For cutting:

- Tapestry needle
- Sewing machine
- Sewing thread matching colour of darkest yarn
- Contrasting waste yarn (e.g. red)
- Sharp pair of scissors

For sewing and blocking:

- Tapestry needle
- A lot of pins

For the edging:

- A crochet hook
- US #C2.5/3 mm



Gauge:

Stocking Stitch (knit on rs, purl on ws):

24 sts and 32 rows = 4 inches/10 cm

Garner Stitch (knit all rows):

24 sts and 24 ridges* = 4 inches/10 cm

* 1 ridge is made up of 2 rows

You can use a different gauge as long as you have the same stitch-row ratio.

Finished size:

65"/138 cm long and 47"/120 cm wide; each animal is approx. 9"/23 cm long.

The blanket contains 108 animals in total.

The blanket is made up of 4 rows and each row is made up of 3 hexagons.

Each hexagon is made up of 9 animals (3 tortoises, 3 fish and 3 ducks).

(See schemes on p. 16)

Many thanks for excellent test knitting and careful proof-reading to:

Kicki, Jen, Peg, Natalie, Mary Jo, Ingrid, Stephanie, Kathie, Elaine, Jennifer, Susan, Dana, Irina, Holly, Christa, Christina and Debra.

Chart Tips

- Start at the tail (row 0 for fish and duck, row 1 for tortoise) and work up to the head.
- Odd numbered rows are **rs**-rows and are read from *right to left*.
- Even numbered rows are **ws**-rows and are read from *left to right*.
- What you see is what you knit. Do *not* "knit on rs, purl on ws".
- **Colours** and bold lines are visual aids for clarity only (except for dark grey - no stitch).
- After working **short rows using the "wrap and turn" method** (charted as "+"), *pick up wraps if charted* (as "dots" or "squares") but do not pick them up if a decrease is worked in the following row or the pattern is garter st (in the arms and legs of the tortoise).
- The **short rows of the wings of the duck** are sometimes worked without a "wrap and turn" (rows 41, 43, 47, 49, 51 and rows 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 66). Instead, there is a purl st or a "p2 tog"-manoeuvre before the work is turned.
- The chart D3a for the duck breaks along the red line and is continued in chart D3b. The darker stitches of chart D3a **overlap** with chart D3b and are worked once only. The red line shows where the rows are connected.
- Several **textures** are used to shape the animals:

1. Fish:

- Flukes: Irregular rib pattern. (Purl rib stitches - seen from rs - are highlighted pale blue.)
- Body: Seed stitch (white).
- Fins: Garter stitch (yellow).

2. Tortoises:

- Body, tail, head: Twice turned ribbing (pale blue/white).
- Arms and legs: Garter stitch (yellow).

3. Ducks:

- Tail: Irregular rib pattern as above.
- Body: Stocking stitch (white).
- Wings: Irregular rib pattern as above. (Also includes a garter ridge, also highlighted pale blue.)
- Beak: Garter stitch (yellow).

The eyes of all animals are formed by bobbles.

Abbreviations:

bo = bind off	rep = repeat	st = stitch
cc = contrasting colour	rs(s) = right side(s)	ws = wrong side
dpn(s) = double pointed needle		

PATTERN:

The tortoises, ducks and fish are worked separately and sewn together later. They are shaped using different increases and decreases as well as short rows and several knitting patterns (garter stitch, seed stitch, rib pattern). Once all of them are sewn together into one flat blanket, the sides of the blanket are then joined to form a tube and cut length-wise. This is repeated for the top and bottom. The extra step of forming a tube means that the straight edges can be cut without wasting any animals. To help hold together the cut edge, reinforcing stitches are sewn before cutting. Finally, the seams will be covered by an i-cord edging.

This pattern gives yardage and instructions for knitting a blanket with 108 animals, i.e. 36 of each type. The blanket can easily be made smaller or larger – the Sewing section contains directions on how to do this.

Illustrated directions are provided in the Appendix for all techniques including tutorials on sewing together the animals and on cutting a straight line for the blanket.





Now start knitting!

Fish

Use charts F1-F3 on pages 4-6.

Row 0: Using your needles of choice make a slip knot leaving a 27.5"/70 cm long tail.

Row 1: Knit into front and back of slip knot. 2 sts on needles.

Continue to work the fish according to charts F1-F3.

Cut yarn leaving a 27.5"/70 cm long tail and draw thread through last stitch.

The long tails will be used for sewing.

One fish is done!



Tortoise

Use charts T1-T3 on pages 7-9.

Row 1: Using your needles of choice make a slip knot leaving a 27.5"/70 cm long tail.

Row 2: (K1, yo, k1) into slip knot. 3 sts on needles.

Continue to work the tortoise according to charts T1-T3, repeating rows 49-52 of chart T2 four times.

Cut yarn leaving a 27.5"/70 cm long tail and draw thread through last stitch.

The long tails will be used for sewing.

You made a tortoise!



Duck

Use charts D1-D4 (including charts D3a and D3b) on pages 10-14.

Row 0: Using your needles of choice make a slip knot.

Row 1: (P1, yo, p1) into slip knot. 3 sts on needles.

Continue to work the duck according to charts D1-4.

Row 53 of chart D3a is continued in chart D3b on page 11. Rows 54-67 are worked from chart D3b only. All following rows of chart D3b are worked across two charts, i.e. charts D3a and D3b.

Cut yarn leaving only a short tail and draw thread through last stitch.

A duck is created!

Chart F2:

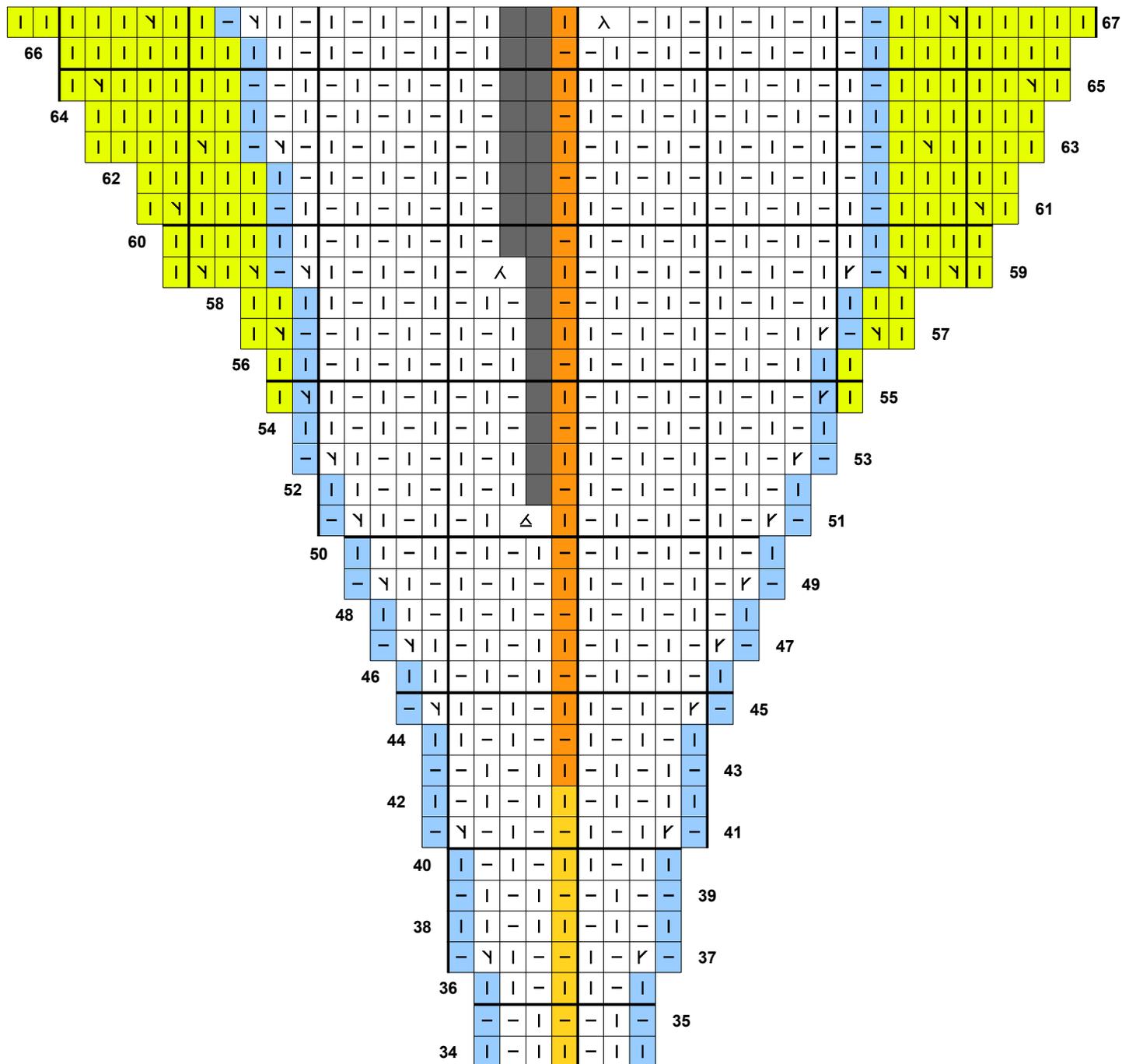


Chart T3:

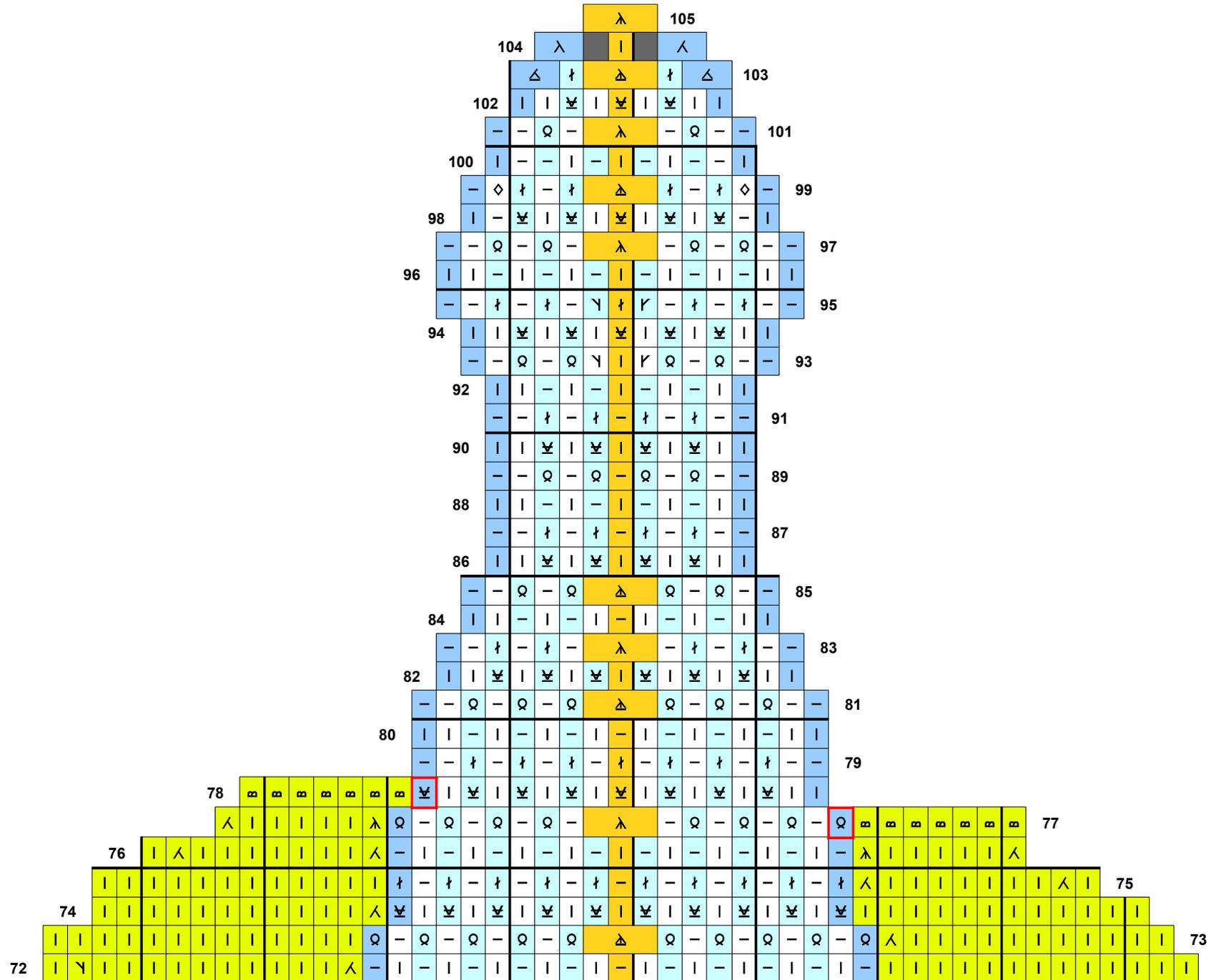


Chart T2:

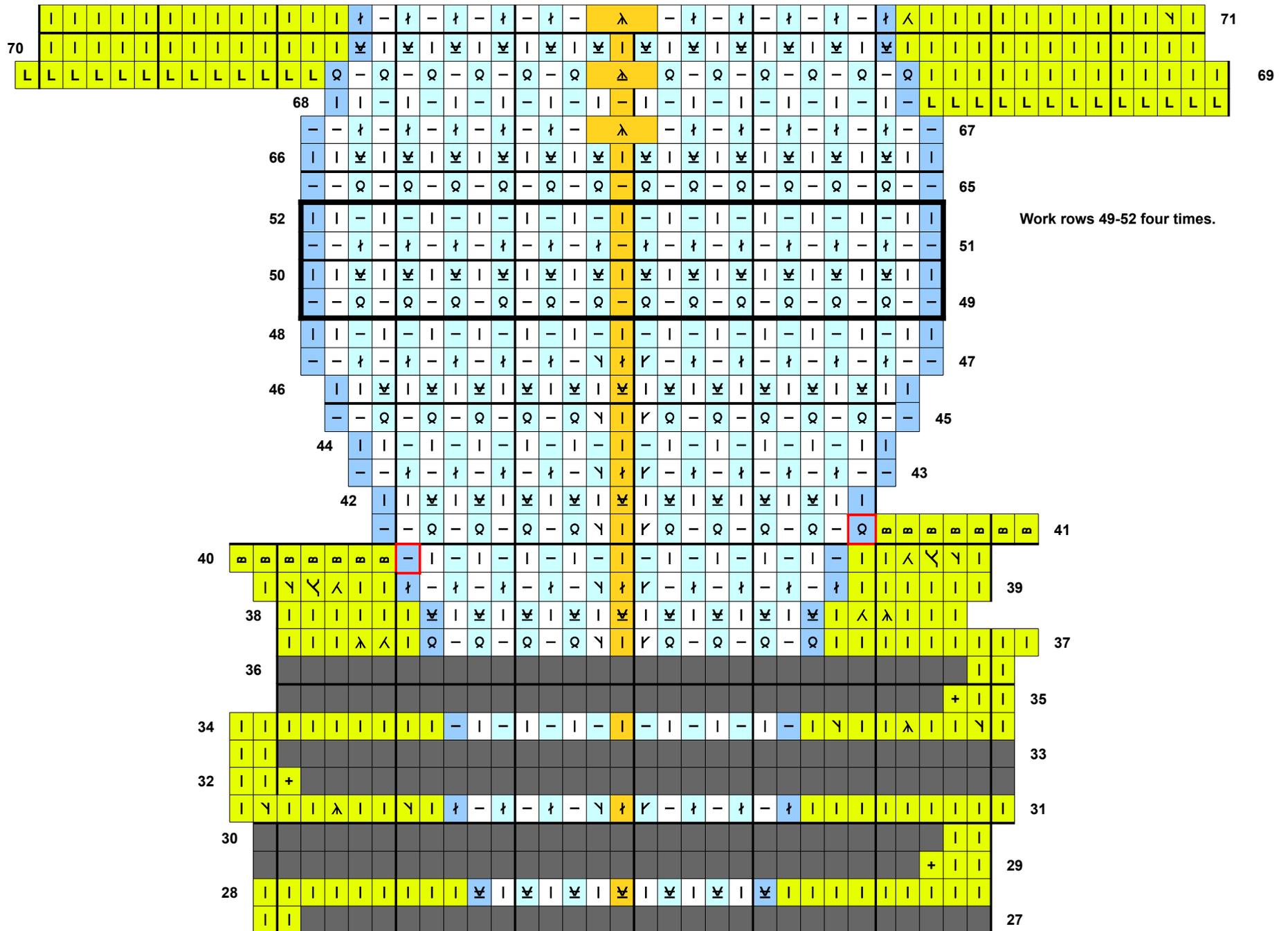


Chart D4:

			λ			119
118						
						117
116						
						115
114						
						113
112						
		Λ				111
110						
						109
108						
		λ	Λ	λ		107
106	⌘	-	-	-	-	
		◇			◇	
104	⌘	-	-	-	-	
		∨				∨
102	⌘	-	-	-	-	
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100	⌘	-	-	-	-	
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98	⌘	-	-	-	-	
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96	⌘	-	-	-	-	
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94	⌘	-	-	-	-	
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92	⌘	-	-	-	-	
		λ			λ	⌘
90	⌘	-	-	-	-	
						⌘
88	⌘	-	-	-	-	
		λ				λ
86	⌘	-	-	-	-	

Chart D3a:

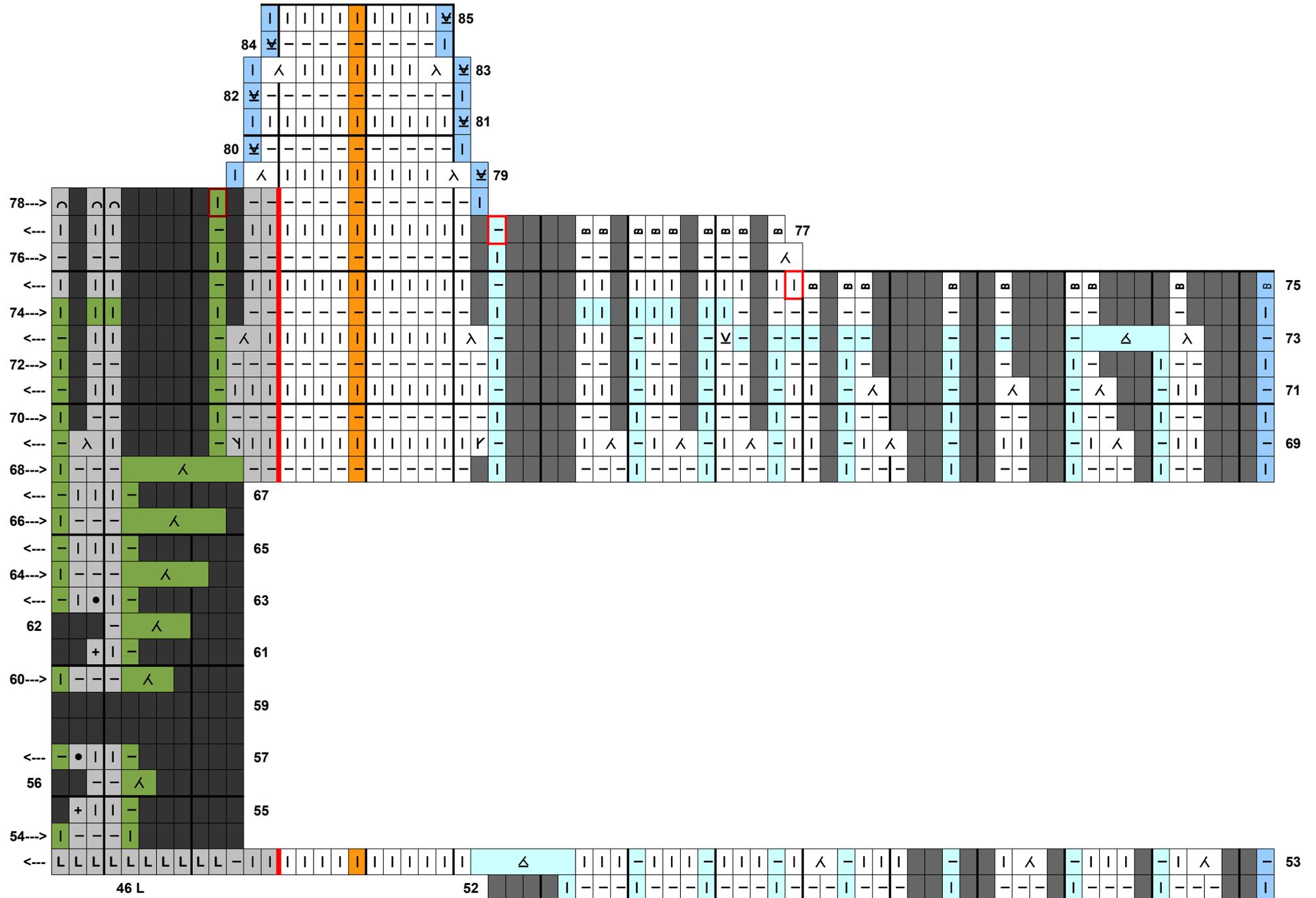
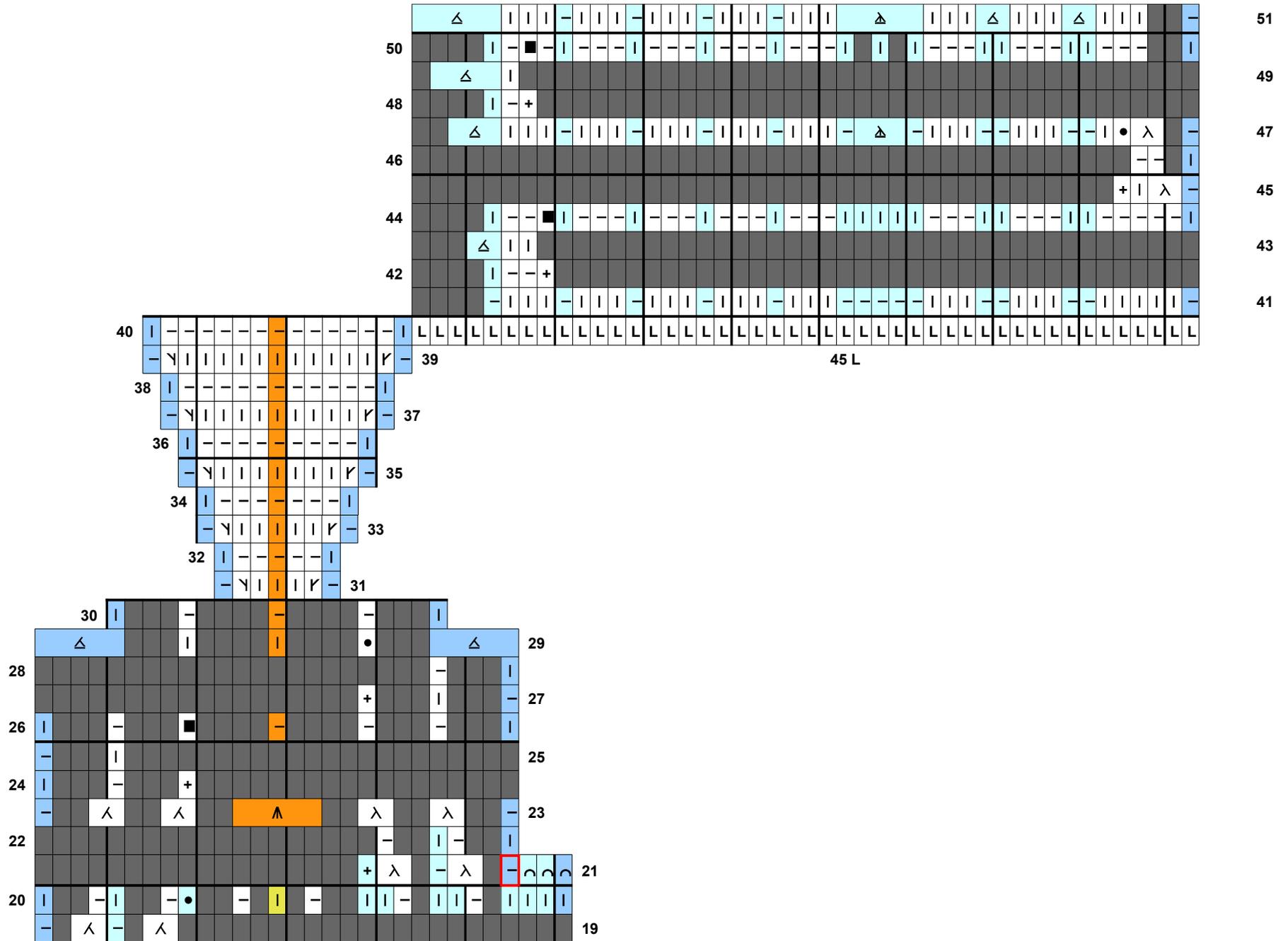


Chart D2:



Key (see *Appendix* for detailed directions):

X	slip knot
L	cast on one stitch, using the backwards loop cast on method
O	yarn over
I	k1 = knit stitch
-	p1 = purl stitch
	no stitch
∨	sl1 – <i>nyib</i> = slip one purlwise – <i>with yarn in back of work</i>
∕	sl1 – <i>nyif</i> = slip one purlwise – <i>with yarn in front of work</i>
Q	sl1-tbl = keeping <i>yarn in back</i> , insert needle from the left into <i>back loop</i> of next stitch, as if to purl one through the back loop, and slip the stitch from this position
†	k1-tbl = knit one through the back loop
∟	m1l = make one left
∟	m1r = make one right
∩	kfb = knit into front and back of stitch
^	k2 tog = knit two together
λ	ssk = slip, slip, knit
△	p2 tog = purl two together
λ	sl1-k2 tog- <i>psso</i> = slip one stitch knitwise, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over
^	k3 tog = knit three together
^	sl2-k1-p2 <i>ssso</i> = centred double decrease: Slip two stitches as if to knit two together at once, knit one, pass two slipped stitches over
△	sl1 <i>nyif</i> -p2 tog- <i>psso</i> = slip one stitch purlwise <i>with yarn in front</i> , purl two together, pass slipped stitch over
+	w+t = wrap and turn
●	k2 tog = knit wrap and wrapped stitch together
■	p2 tog = purl wrap and wrapped stitch together
⊞	bo-k = bind off knitwise
∩	bo-p = bind off purlwise
⊞	large bobble: (K1, yo, k1, yo, k1) into one stitch, turn, (p5, turn, k5, turn) twice, p2 tog, p1, p2 tog, turn, sl1-k2 tog- <i>psso</i>
◇	small bobble: (K1, yo, k1) into one stitch, turn, p3, turn, sl1-k2 tog- <i>psso</i>

Note: The stitch following any bound off stitches is included in the process of binding off and thus marked with a red box. For example, to bind off three knit stitches knit two, pass one stitch over, knit third stitch, pass second stitch over. Then work the following stitch marked with a red box as charted and pass third stitch over: --- You will get the smoothest bind off edges when slipping the first stitch of rows 83-86 in chart F3 as well as rows 77 and 78 in charts D3a and D3b and passing it over the next stitch.

Ready, start, sew!

The basic symmetry of this hexagonal pattern lies within its equilateral triangles. All animals can be mirrored along a line from their head to their tail. These long axes form the sides of the triangles (scheme 1). And so a hexagon consists of six identical equilateral triangles (scheme 2).

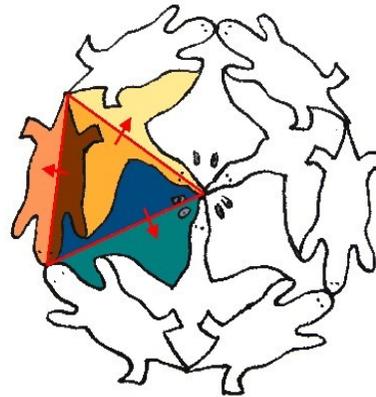
Refer to Scheme 2 when sewing together rows of hexagons. Each hexagon is formed by three ducks, three fish and three tortoises. The hexagons look like almost-circles.

Note: The tortoises are shared between adjacent hexagons and so you will be assembling *partial* hexagons. To keep things simple, we'll continue to call these hexagons.

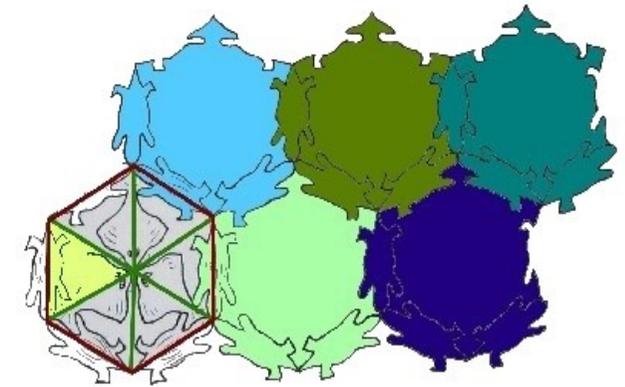
The hexagons are next assembled into rows, where all rows contain the *same number of hexagons*. Then, the rows are sewn together (scheme 3). At this point, the blanket will be a large flat piece with jagged edges – don't worry! After the blocking and cutting steps, your blanket will have perfectly straight edges.

For this pattern, four rows with three figures each are worked.

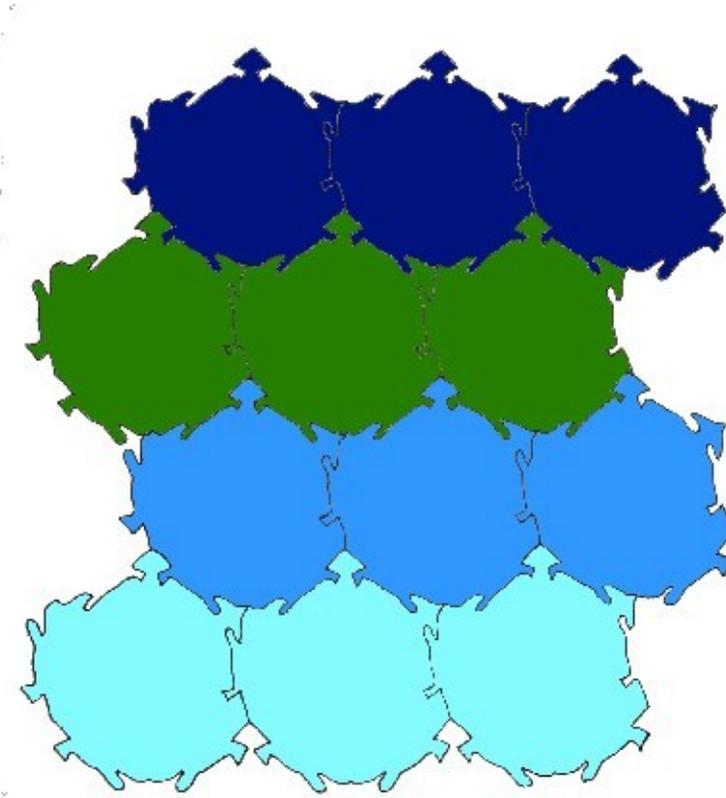
Use long tails of the tortoises and fish for sewing. Join edges stitch by stitch as illustrated in the Appendix. Weave in ends as you go with a tapestry needle.



scheme 1



scheme 2



scheme 3



Blocking – Part I

When all animals have been sewn together, wet blanket with cold water and roll between towels to squeeze out as much excess water as possible. Pin to desired dimensions. Let dry.

Cutting

Almost there. Mark *cutting line 1* (see picture on the right) with a contrasting coloured waste yarn as explained in the Appendix and sew along both sides of the line with your sewing machine. Join the sides of the blanket to form a tube by hand sewing together the animals on the edges (see scheme on the right). Cut the tube by cutting in between the sewn lines after removing the waste yarn.

Repeat for *second cutting line* (see picture on the right) by sewing together the animals on the top and bottom edge.

The blanket is now perfectly rectangular.

Edging

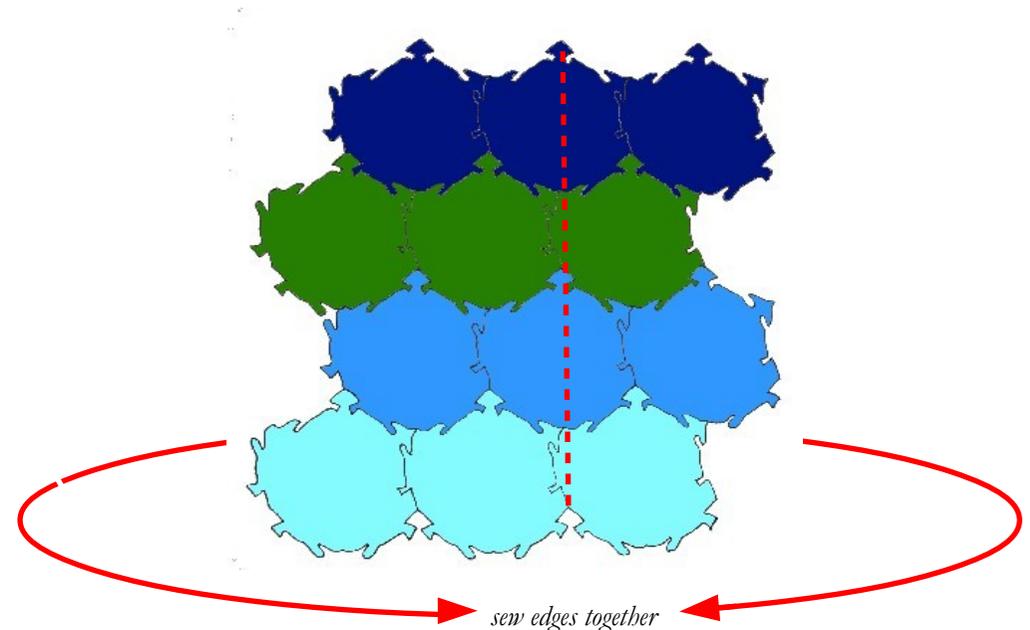
Using the crochet hook and the same colour yarn that you used for the tortoises, work a chain of crocheted slipped stitches all around the blanket, on the inner side of the seams, exactly 22 stitches across 4 inches/10 cm (see Appendix). This crochet chain will secure the stitches of the cut edges and also provide a baseline for the attached i-cord edging.

Now knit an attached i-cord along this chain of slipped stitches (see Appendix). You will use the two dpns US#6/4 mm and work one row of the attached i-cord for every slipped stitch.

Blocking – Part II

Block blanket a second time.

Your blanket is finished!



BONUS PATTERN: Three Coastal Cushions

Materials:

Yarn: Yarn for 20 animals per cushion, i.e.
Variant 1: 6 fish (197 yds/180 m), 6 ducks (216.5 yds/198 m) and 8 tortoises (236 yds/216 m)
Variant 2: 6 fish (197 yds/180 m), 6 tortoises (177 yds/162 m) and 8 ducks (389 yds/264 m)
Variant 3: 6 ducks (216.5 yds/198 m), 6 tortoises (177 yds/162 m) and 8 fish (262.5 yds/240 m)

Needles: US#1.5/2.5 mm

Notions: Tapestry needle for sewing in threads sewing thread
20"/50 cm x 40"/100 cm fabric for the filling zip fastener, 18"/46 cm
600 g fiberfill fabric marker
sewing machine

The animals can be nicely sewn together to form a cushion. Each cushion is made out of two hexagons.

There are three different ways to make up a hexagon:

Variant 1: The fish and ducks form the core and the tortoises fold at the edges.

Variant 2: The fish and tortoises form the core and the ducks fold at the edges.

Variant 3: The ducks and tortoises form the core and the fish fold at the edges.

For each cushion you will knit 20 animals and sew them together according to one of the schemes to the right. You will sew the scheme you choose twice, once for the front and once for the back of the cushion.

The dotted red lines mark the eventual placement of the zip fastener. The two animals in each hexagon that form the slit for the zip fastener are worked a little differently from the other animals: The middle stitch is slipped purlwise with yarn *in front of work* in the ws-rows. This way the animals fold easily along their long axes. After the hexagons have been sewn together, those four animals are folded inside and sewn to the hexagons from ws.

Finally place both hexagons one above the other with the rss facing each other and the four animals for the opening laying on top of each other. Sew the hexagons together, but do not sew the folded animals.

Sew in the zip fastener using matching sewing thread.

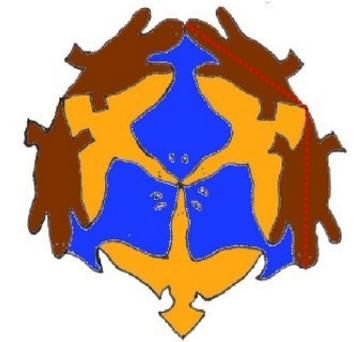
Wet cushion and spread out flat. Wait for it to dry completely.

If you like, felt cushion in the washing mashine at 86 degrees Fahrenheit/30 degrees Celsius. Let dry.

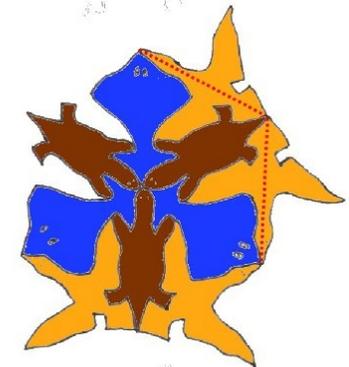
With sewing machine, sew the filling: Draw two hexagons onto the fabric which are one inch/2.5 cm larger than the cushion. For animals that are 9"/23 cm long the edges of the sewn hexagons should be 10.5"/26.5 cm long. Cut hexagons leaving half an inch or 1.5 cm of seam allowance. Next place hexagons on top of each other with right sides touching and sew along the edges in lockstitch. Leave a small opening for the fiberfill. Apply zigzag stitching to the raw edge of the seam allowance.

Turn hexagons inside out and fill with fiberfill. Close opening by hand-sewing its edges together.

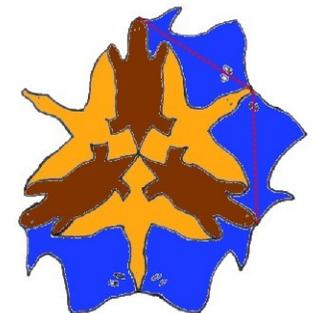
Put the filling into the knitted cushion. *Your cushion is done!*



variant 1



variant 2



variant 3

Appendix

Techniques

Cast On

Backwards Loop Cast On (or Single Cast On, Simple Cast On = L):



Hold the working thread with your left thumb so that the yarn is wound counter-clockwise around the thumb and the needle with the right hand.

Bring needle in front and under the yarn on the thumb forming a backward loop.

Pull tight.

Cable Cast On:



Make a slip knot.

Insert needle into the knot and draw loop through. Pass loop onto the left needle.

2 sts on the needle.

*Insert needle between both sts...

...draw loop through...

...and pass loop onto left needle.
Rep from *.

Some sts are cast on.

Working the Back Loop

Slip One Stitch Through the Back Loop (sl1-tbl = Q):



Keeping *yarn in back*, insert needle from the left into *back loop* of next st, as if to purl one through the back loop...
...and slip the st from this position.

Knit One Through the Back Loop (k1-tbl = †):



Knit one through the back loop. The st is twisted *to the left*.

Increases

Make One Left (m1l = Y):



* horizontal thread

With left needle pick up horizontal thread from the *front*...

...and knit through the back loop.

The m1l increase is slanting *to the left*.

Make One Right (m1r = V):

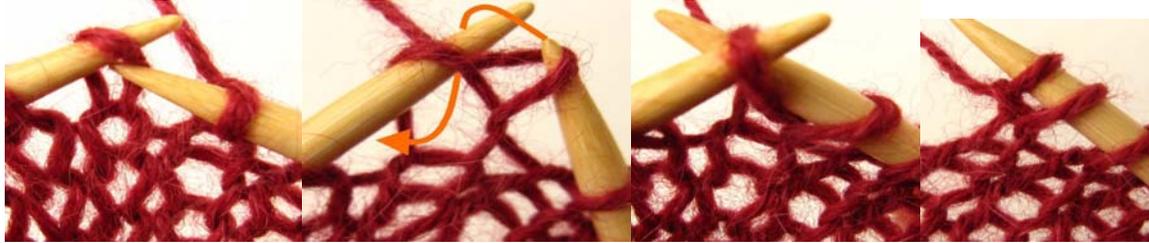


Pick up horizontal thread from the *back*...

...and knit one.

The m1r increase is slanting *to the right*.

Knit into Front and Back of Stitch (kfb = ∇):



Knit one st...

...leaving it on the left needle, then – as indicated by the arrow –...

...knit same st again through the *back* loop.

One st is increased.

Decreases

Knit Two Together (k2 tog = \wedge):



Insert right needle into second st on the left needle as if to knit...

...and knit together with first st. The decrease is slanting *to the right*.

Slip, Slip, Knit (ssk = λ):



Slip the first...

...and then the second st *knitwise*...

...then insert the tip of the left needle into the fronts of these two sts from the left, and knit them together from this position.

The decrease perfectly mirrors the *k2 tog* technique.

Purl Two Together (p2 tog = \triangleleft):



Insert right needle into the first two sts on the left needle as if to purl...

...and purl them together. The decrease is slanting *to the right* as seen from rs.

Double decrease: Slip One, Purl Two Together, Pass Slipped Stitch Over (sl1-p2 tog-pss0 = \triangle):



Slip one stitch purlwise *with yarn in front*...

...purl two together...

...pass slipped stitch over.

Seen from rs, the decrease is slanting *to the right*.

Double Decrease; Knit Three Together (k3 tog = Λ):



Insert right needle into 3rd st on the left needle as if to knit...

...and knit together with 1st and 2nd st. The decrease is slanting *to the right*.

Double Decrease; Central Stitch Prominent (sl2-k1-p2sso = Λ):



Insert the needle into the fronts of the second and first sts on the left needle, *as if to knit 2 together*; slip them both at once...

...knit the next st on left needle...

...then insert left needle point into both slipped sts at once and draw them together over the knit st...

...and off right needle. The central st is prominent.

Double Decrease; Slip One, Knit Two Together, Pass Slipped Stitch Over (sl1-k2 tog-pssso = Λ):



Slip one *as if to knit*...

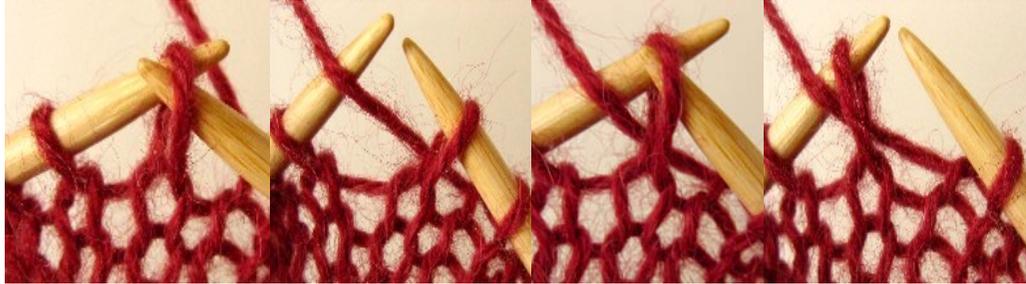
...knit two together...

...pass slipped st over.

The decrease is slanting *to the left*.

Short Rows, Wrap and Turn

1. Wrap a Knit Stitch ($w+t = +$)...



Slip the **knit** st charted as „+“ purlwise *with yarn in back* of work...
 ...bring yarn to front of work...
 ...and slip st back to left needle.
 The st is wrapped. (Turn work.)

...and Knit Wrap and Wrapped Stitch Together in the Next RS-Row (= ●):



In the following rs-row work according to chart until wrapped st which is charted as a ●.
 Pick up wrap with left needle...
 ...and knit together with wrapped st.
 The gap is closed.

2. Wrap a Purl Stitch ($w+t = +$)...



Slip the **purl** st charted as „+“ purlwise *with yarn in front* of work...
 ...bring yarn to back...
 ...and pass slipped stitch back to left needle. (Turn work.)

...and Purl Wrap and Wrapped Stitch Together in the Next WS-Row (= ■)



In the following rs-row work according to chart until wrapped st which is charted as a ■.
 Pick up wrap with left needle...
 ...and purl wrap and wrapped stitch together.
 The gap is closed.

Binding Off

Basic Knit Bind Off (bo-k = ∞):



To bind off a knit st, knit that st...

...then work the following st in pattern...

...and pass knit st over.

One st is bound off.

The basic knit bind off seen from rs.

Basic Purl Bind Off (bo-p = ∞):



To bind off a purl st, purl that st...

...then work the following st in pattern...

...and pass purled st over.

One st is bound off.

The basic purl bind off seen from purl side...

...and from knit side of work. The bind off looks like the basic knit bind off with the sts facing in the opposite direction.

Chain of Slipped Stitches

You will need a crochet hook US #C2.5/3 mm and some yarn in the colour you are using for the tortoisés.



Insert crochet hook into one edge of the blanket below the seam (not shown)...

...and draw loop through. *Insert crochet hook through the next stitch. Draw a second loop - as indicated by the arrow - first through the edging stitch, then through the loop already on the hook.

One slipped st is worked, which is easier to see if the hook is pulled to the side (*see insert*).

Repeat from * for the required number of stitches. A chain of slipped sts is worked.

Attached I-cord Edging, a Variant

You will need two dpns US#6/4 mm.



After working the chain of slipped sts along the edges of the blanket, there will be one live loop remaining on your crochet hook. Transfer this loop onto one of the dpns...

...and cable cast on four sts (*see above*). Five sts on the left needle.

*Knit three sts...

...slip one st as if to knit...

...knit one...

...and pass slipped st over.



Insert needle into the edge of the blanket – right below a slipped st...

...and pull loop through. Five sts on the needle.

Slide sts to other end of the needle, making your right needle the new left needle.

Repeat from * until all slipped sts have been worked. Work three i-cord rows into each of the slipped sts in the four corners of the blanket. The picture shows the attached i-cord from rs...

...and from ws.

Tip:

If some threads of the cut edge still poke out, gently thread them into the i-cord edging with a crochet hook.

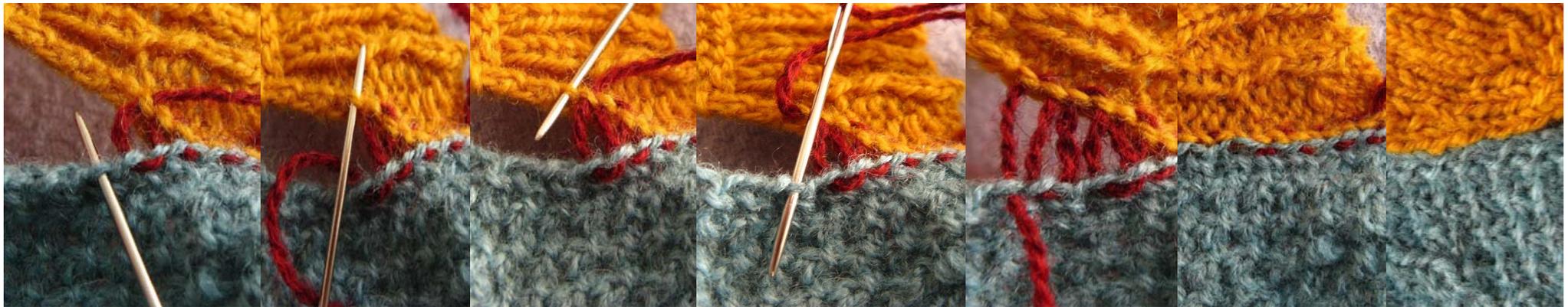
Sewing

For sewing, arrange the animals as illustrated by the schemes on page 16. *The wrong sides are facing up.*

I. Selvedges (Highlighted Light Blue in the Chart)

The selvedge edges of all the animals were knit on the right side and purled on the wrong side, thus forming a tight chain of stitches. The exception is the duck, whose neck selvedges were alternately knit and slipped to form a looser chain of stitches.

When sewing the animals together, you will always work the *upper side* of both sides of the V-shaped selvedge stitches. The long tails left from working the fish and tortoises will be used to attach the animals – red yarn is used on the pictures for better contrast. Using your tapestry needle, work cast on edges as follows:



1. Insert needle, from below, into the upper side of a selvedge stitch from the lower knitted piece. Draw thread through and pull tight.

2. Insert needle, from below, into the upper side of a selvedge stitch from the *upper* knitted piece. Draw thread through and pull tight.

3. Insert needle, *from above*, into the upper side of the next selvedge stitch from the upper knitted piece. Draw thread through and pull tight.

4. Insert needle, from above, into the upper side of the matching selvedge stitch from the *lower* knitted piece. Draw thread through and pull tight.

Repeat 1.-4. until all selvedge stitches are worked. You will find that there are different numbers of selvedge stitches on each side of the seam. Work a stitch twice on the side with fewer selvedge stitches whenever necessary.

This picture shows the placement of the stitches. The stitches are loose to make them easier to see. In practice, you should be pulling tight after each step.

The seam on ws...

...and on rs.

II. Fin/Arms and Legs/Beak (Garter Stitch) and Selvedge

This next section illustrates how to sew the edge of a fin to the wing selvedge of an adjacent duck. You will again need a tapestry needle. In the photos below, the fin is blue and the wing is yellow.



1. Insert needle, from below, into the upper side of a selvedge stitch. Draw thread through and pull tight.

2. Insert needle, *from above*, into the upper side of the next selvedge stitch. Draw thread through and pull tight.

3. Insert needle from right to left (ie. in the direction you are sewing) through the purl loop that is closest to the edge of the lower knitted piece. Draw thread through and pull tight.

This picture shows the placement of the stitches. The stitches are loose to make them easier to see. In practice, you should be pulling tight after each step.

The tight seam on ws...

...and on rs.

Repeat 1.-3. until all selvedge stitches are worked. There are different numbers of selvedge stitches on each side of the seam. As before, work a stitch twice whenever necessary.

Cutting

When all animals are sewn together, the sides of the blanket will undulate along the edges. Cutting is required to produce nice straight edges; however, this can be done without wasting any parts of fish, tortoise or duck. The magic of a hexagonal pattern is that both sides can be joined to form a tube which can then be cut length-wise. To help hold together the cut edge, reinforcing stitches are sewn on the flat blanket before cutting. Repeat this for the top and bottom of the blanket and the result is a rectangular blanket.

Before you get started:

You might want to sacrifice one of your animals to practise steps 1 and 3 below. It is crucial that you get the tension of the sewing thread right so that the animal will not stretch or shrink.

Sewing and Cutting:



1. Reinforce stitches

This step will be worked on the **flat blanket**. To cut through the blanket you will first need to reinforce the stitches on both sides of your planned cutting line. Mark this line with some contrast coloured waste yarn (for example red) by sewing it onto the animal with a tapestry needle.



2. Form a tube

Join both sides of the blanket by hand-sewing them together (no picture).



3. Cut

Remove the waste yarn, *have a cup of tea – or something stronger if you feel the need*, and cut in between the zigzag lines.

Celebrate!

Finishing

Carefully steam block the waste stitches beside the seams to gently felt the wool. Hold steaming iron a few centimetres above the work, making sure not to touch the wool.