

Elven Hooded Scarf

by Amy Jansen



This is a sweet and cozy hooded scarf that keeps you ears and neck as well as your head warm. It has trailing vines with flowers and leaves framing your face, a lacy, leafy edging around the neck, plenty of cables, and lovely leafy ends which can be made short and fastened with your favourite shawl pin or brooch, or long and wrapped around your neck again.

Materials

- 4.5mm (US size 7) knitting needles – I used two circulars but you could manage with one, or a pair of straights and a set of dpns.
- 150g of dk or worsted weight yarn. You will need more yarn if you decide to make the ends longer. The yarn wants to be next-to-skin soft, and with at least some drape.
- One or two stitch holders.
- One stitchmarker.
- Cable needle.
- Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

Tension (Gauge)

20 sts to 10cm (4 inches) over stocking stitch, unblocked

Overview

The work starts with a provisional cast-on at the centre of the front band and proceeds in both directions down to where the front and neck bands meet. Then a second provisional cast-on starts the neck band, with work proceeding in both directions. Then the two bands are joined and worked together to each end. Finally stitches are picked up around the insides of the bands and worked into a central point.

Skills required: lace (easy), bobbles, cables, provisional cast on, chart reading, NO sewing!

Size

Seems to fit most heads! A few measurements:

Length of front band from cast-on to join with neck band (Chart 1): 10" (25cm)

Total length of front band from cast-on to tip of bottom leaf (without any extra leaves added): 23 1/2" (60cm)

Width from front of front band to point of centre section: 10 1/2" (27cm)

Note that these are blocked measurements, so if yours are slightly smaller before blocking, that can be easily fixed with blocking.

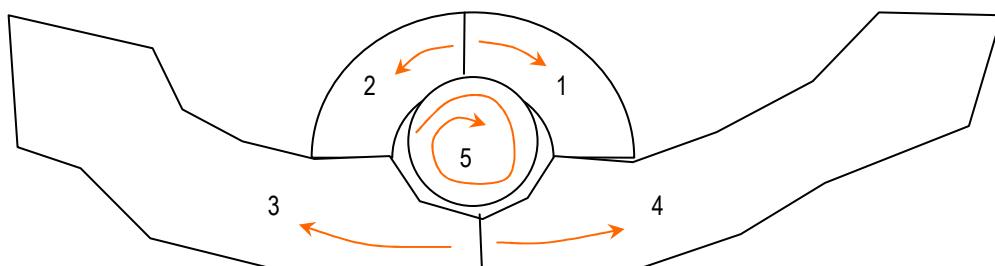


Figure 1. This drawing (somewhat inelegant, I admit!) shows the different sections with the order and direction of knitting.

Key to charts

A couple of notes on the charts:

- read the charts from right to left on rightside (odd-numbered) rows and from left to right on wrongside (even-numbered) rows.
- where possible, I have lined up stitches in columns as they appear in your knitting. Occasionally, however, blank spaces have been introduced to facilitate the chart drawing – so ignore any blank squares – they do not represent stitches.

		knit on right side, purl on wrong side
		purl on right side, knit on wrong side
		yarnover (yo)
		knit 2 together (k2tog) on right side, purl 2 together (p2tog) on wrong side
		Right side: slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 purlwise, slip both back to the left needle and knit together through the back loops (ssk) Wrong side: slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, slip both back to the left needle and purl together through the back loops (ssptbl)
		slip one knitwise, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over last stitch
		knit into front and back of stitch (increase stitch)
		purl into front and back of stitch (increase stitch)
		purl 3 together
		cast off (bind off): knitwise and purlwise respectively
		hold 2 sts in front on cable needle, k2tog, k2 from cable needle
		hold 1 st in front on cable needle, k2tog, k1 from cable needle
		hold 1 st in back on cable needle, k2tog, k1 from cable needle
		hold 1 st on cable needle in back, k1, p1 from cable needle
		hold 1 st on cable needle in back, k1, k1 from cable needle
		hold 1 st on cable needle in front, p1, k1 from cable needle
		hold 1 st on cable needle in front, k1, k1 from cable needle
		hold 2 sts on cable needle in front, k2, k2 from cable needle
		hold 4 sts on cable needle in front, k4, k4 from cable needle
		make bobble: k1,p1,k1,p1,k1 into stitch
		make bobble: k1,p1,k1,p1,k1 into back of stitch
		complete bobble: purl 5 together
		2 stitches into 3: K2tog without dropping stitches from left needle, yo, k2tog again
		edge stitch at beginning of row:slip stitch purlwise with yarn in front (sl1pwisewyif)
		edge stitch at end of row: K1

Front band

Using [Judy's Magic cast-on for toe-up socks](#) and your circular needle, cast on 28 stitches onto your bottom needle and 29 stitches onto your top needle, with a couple of modifications: (1) Instead of starting with a slip-knot, fold the yarn in half so there is about a 1 metre (1 yard) tail and just twist the loop around a couple of times before placing it on your top needle; (2) wrap your yarn around the top needle in the opposite direction to that specified in the instructions (i.e. bring the yarn tail between the two needles then over the front to the back of the top needle - now you won't have to knit into the back of these stitches when you come to them). Now turn your needles around so that the tips point to the right (and the bottom needle is now on top) and pull the (new) bottom needle through the 29 stitches so that they slide back onto the cable (they can just stay there, out of the way, until you come back to complete the other side of the front band, or if you prefer, you can place them on a stitch holder).

Right side: Now work rows 1-76 of Chart 1 on the 28 stitches on your top needle. Break yarn and slide these stitches onto the cable (or onto a stitch holder) and go back to your provisional cast-on.

Left side: With the wrong side facing you, and using the yarn tail, work a setup row as follows:

Setup row: sl1pwiseyif, p4, k8, p1, p2tog, k8, p4, k1

Note that the p2tog in the middle of the row will bring the stems into alignment on each half.

Join in a new yarn end (I just let them hang and wove them in later) and starting with the right side facing, work rows 1-76 from Chart 2. Leave the yarn attached and set the front band aside for later.

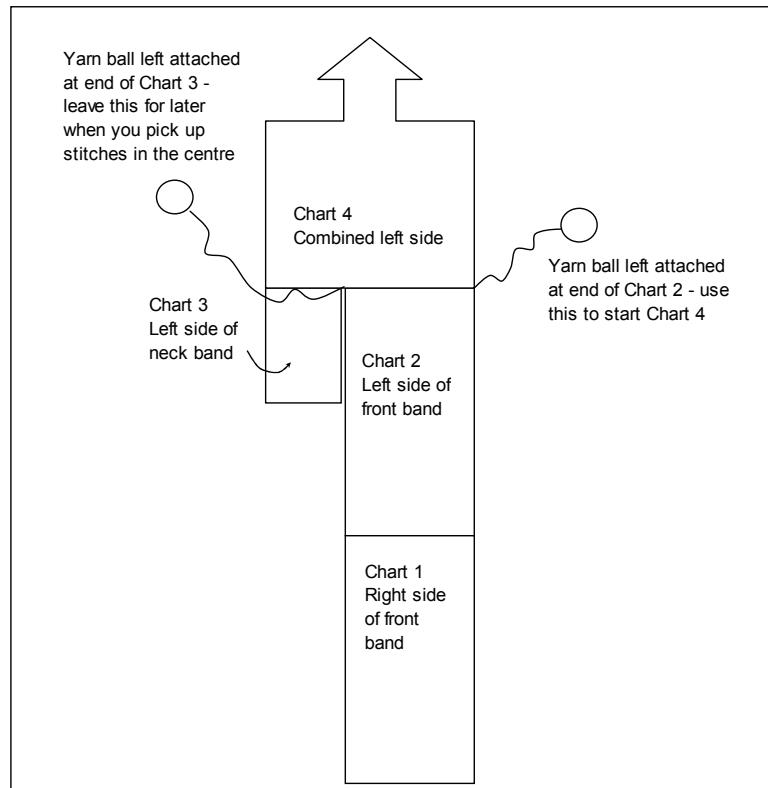
Note that the pattern on the front band is asymmetrical on the two sides – the right side has six branches with bobbles and one-and-a-half leaves at this point, while the left side has five branches with bobbles and two-and-a-half leaves.

First half of neck band and left side

Starting in the same way as for the front band, cast on 14 stitches onto your bottom needle and 15 stitches onto your top needle.

Setting up as for the front band, work rows 1-28 of Chart 3. Leave your yarn attached here, since you will use it later for picking up stitches in the centre.

Go back to the left side of your front band, and working from Chart 4, work across the stitches of the front band and those from the neck band just completed as shown in the diagram opposite (Note that you will knit together the last stitch from the front band and the first stitch from the neck band in working the first row of this chart). Complete the 46 rows of Chart 4. At this point you can either make the scarf longer by repeating the 16 rows of Chart 5 as many times as you wish (each repeat will add approximately 6.5cm (2 ½") to the length of the scarf), or move directly onto Chart 6. Complete the 36 rows of Chart 6, break yarn and draw through the last stitch.



Second half of neck band and right side

Now go back to the provisional cast-on for the neck band and, as before, use the yarn tail to work a setup row as follows:

Setup row: sl1pwisewyif, p3, p2tog, p8, k1

Note that the p2tog in the middle of the row will bring the cables into alignment on each half.

Join in a new yarn end (I just let them hang and wove them in later) and starting with the right side facing, work rows 1-28 from Chart 7.

Now work from Chart 8 to join the right side bands together – work across the stitches of the neck band and those from the right side of the front band set aside earlier (Note that you will ssk together the last stitch from the neck band and the first stitch from the front band in working the first row of this chart). Complete the 46 rows of Chart 8. Now work from Charts 5 and/or 6 to match the other side.

Centre

Using a short circular needle (or dpns if you prefer), and starting where your yarn is still attached at the end of Chart 3, pick up and knit 41 stitches along the inside of each half of the front band (k1, p1 into two stitches evenly spread along each half), then 30 stitches along the inside of the neck band. You should pick up both loops of every slipped stitch along the inside edges and finish with 112 sts including the four increases described above. Place a marker two stitches back from the end of your pick up row – this will be the beginning of your row after working the first setup row.

First setup row (starting two stitches after your marker): k2, p10, (k4, p10) x 7.

Second setup row: (k4, p10) x 8

Now work rows 1-41 of Chart 9, repeating the charted section eight times around the circle. At some point in the decreases you will have to switch to dpns, magic loop, or add in a second circular needle.

To finish, break yarn and pull through the remaining eight stitches. Tie off and weave in end on inside of cap.

Finishing

Weave in remaining ends. To block, cover small sections at a time with a piece of scrap cotton cloth, spray with water using a spray bottle, and gently iron each section. Alternatively, you can wet block, using a bowl for the centre section.



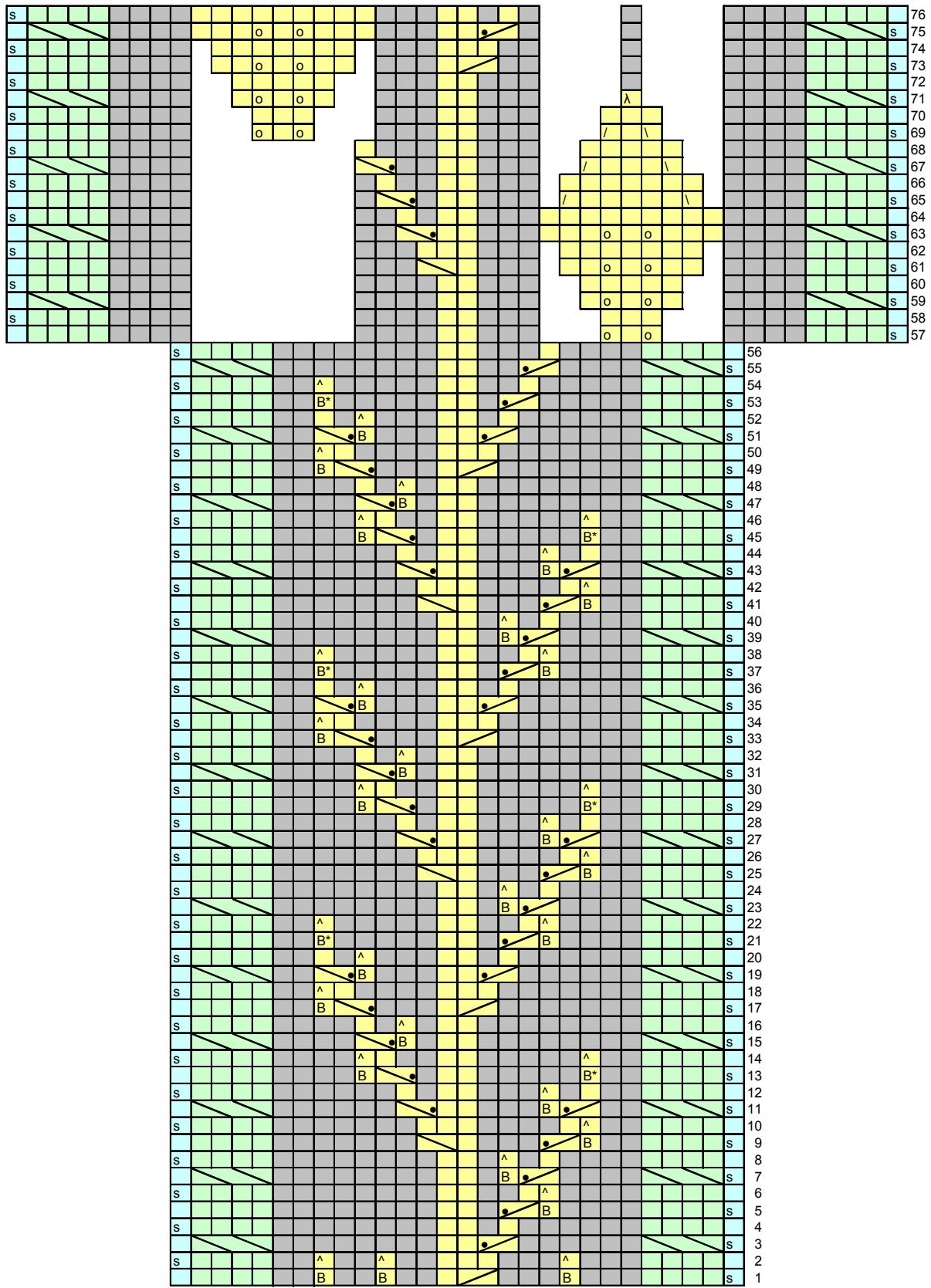


Chart 1 - right side of front band.

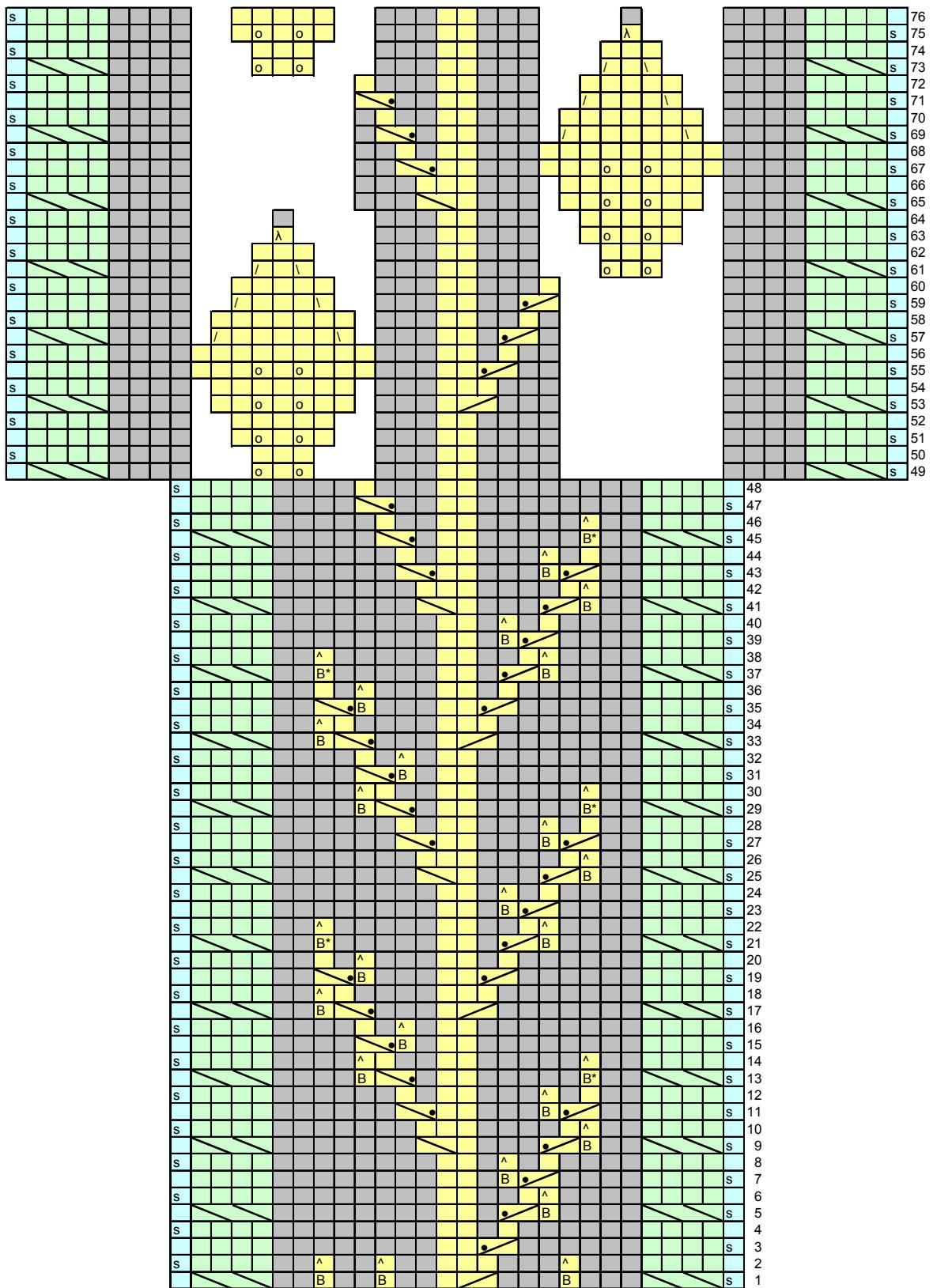


Chart 2 - left side of front band.

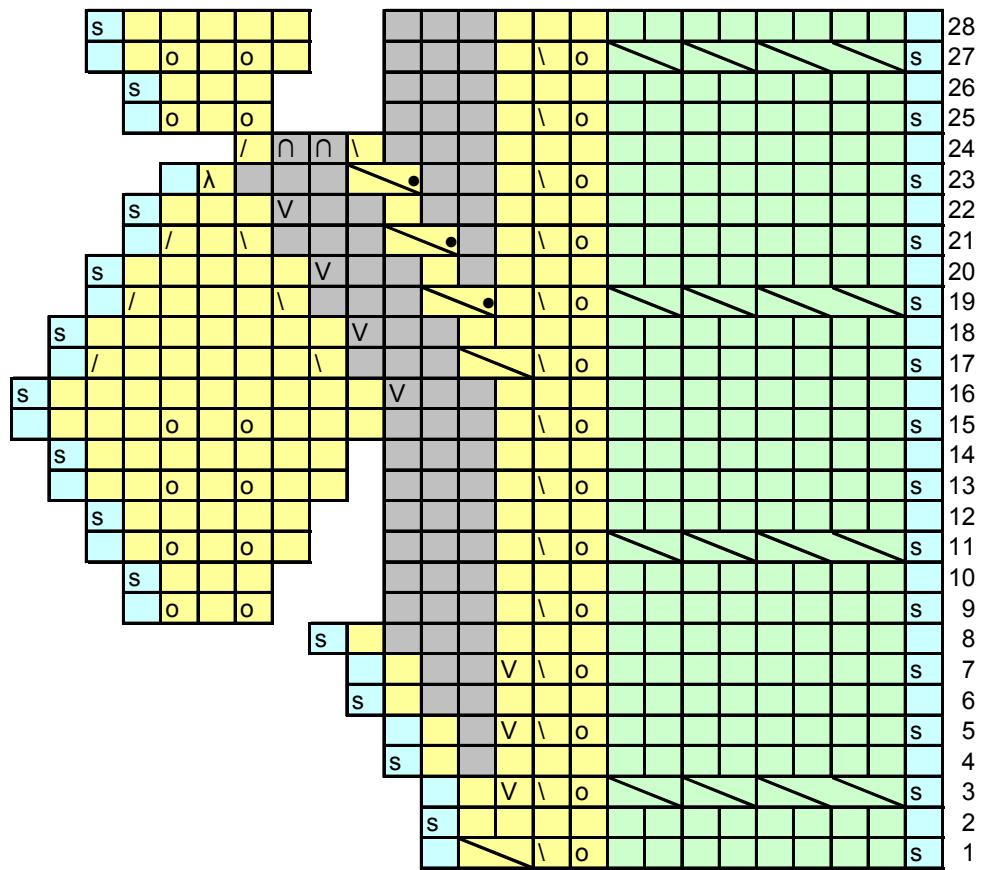


Chart 3 - Left side of neck band.



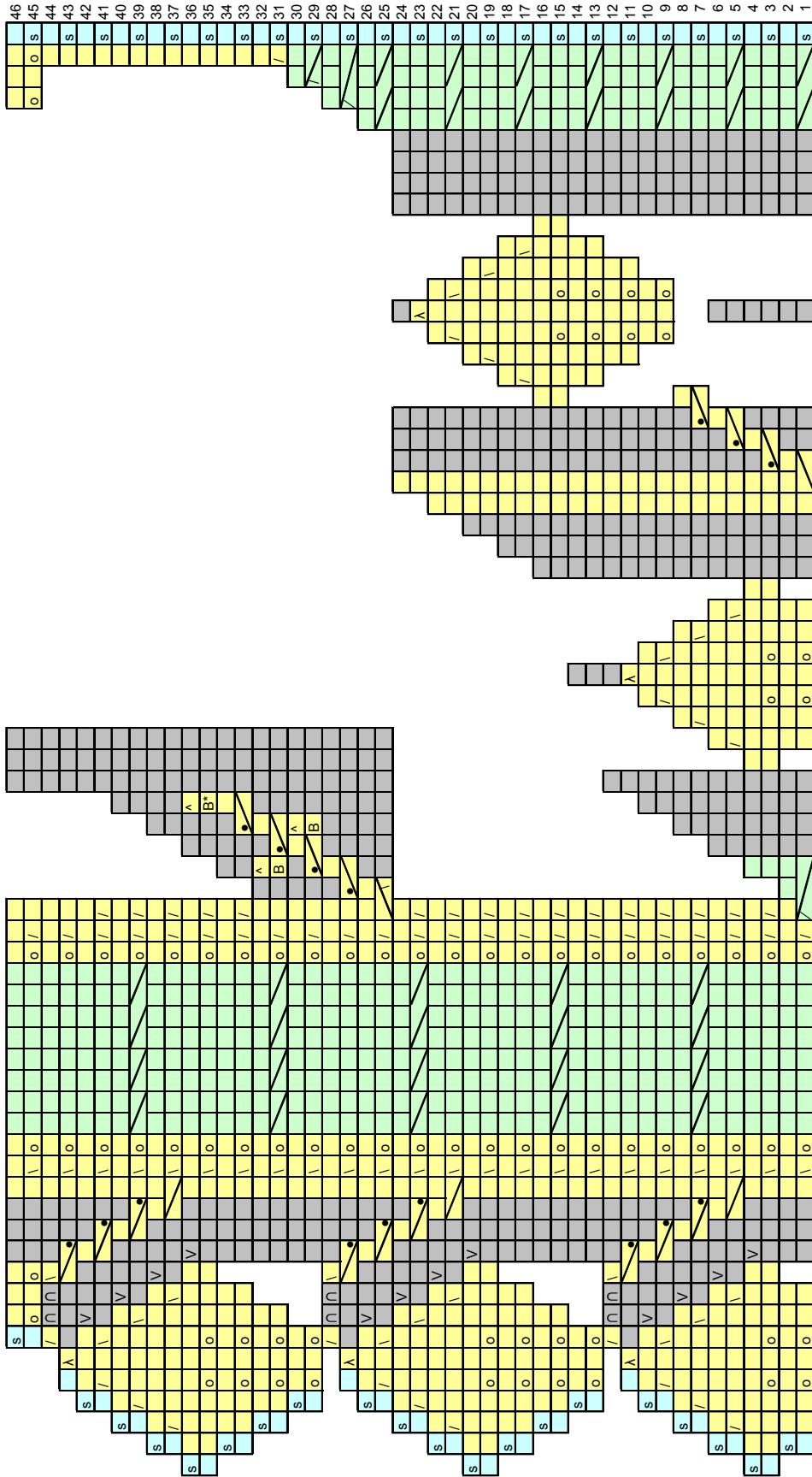


Chart 4 - Combined left side.

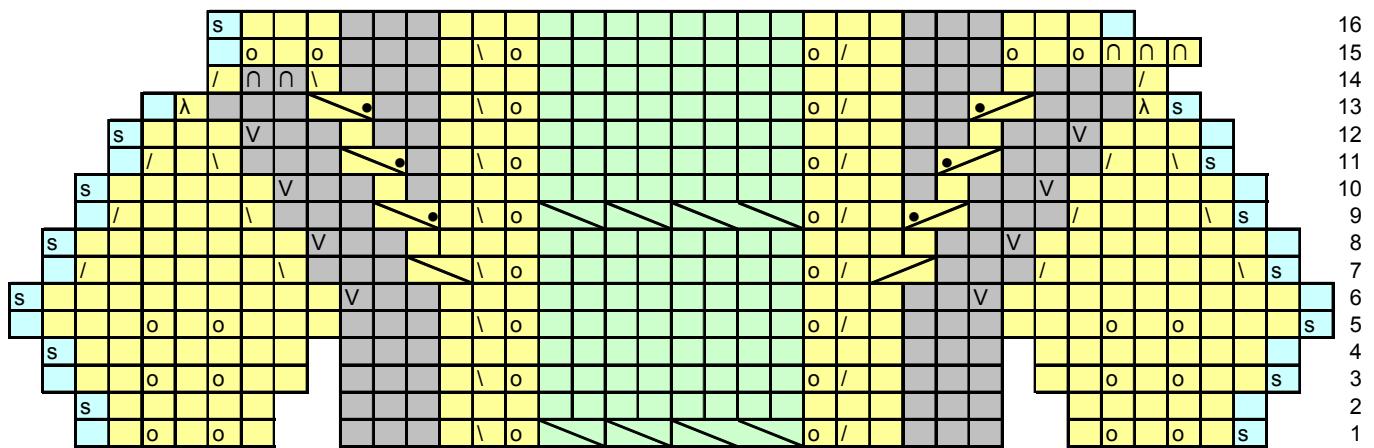


Chart 5 - Extra leaves for lengthening the scarf ends.

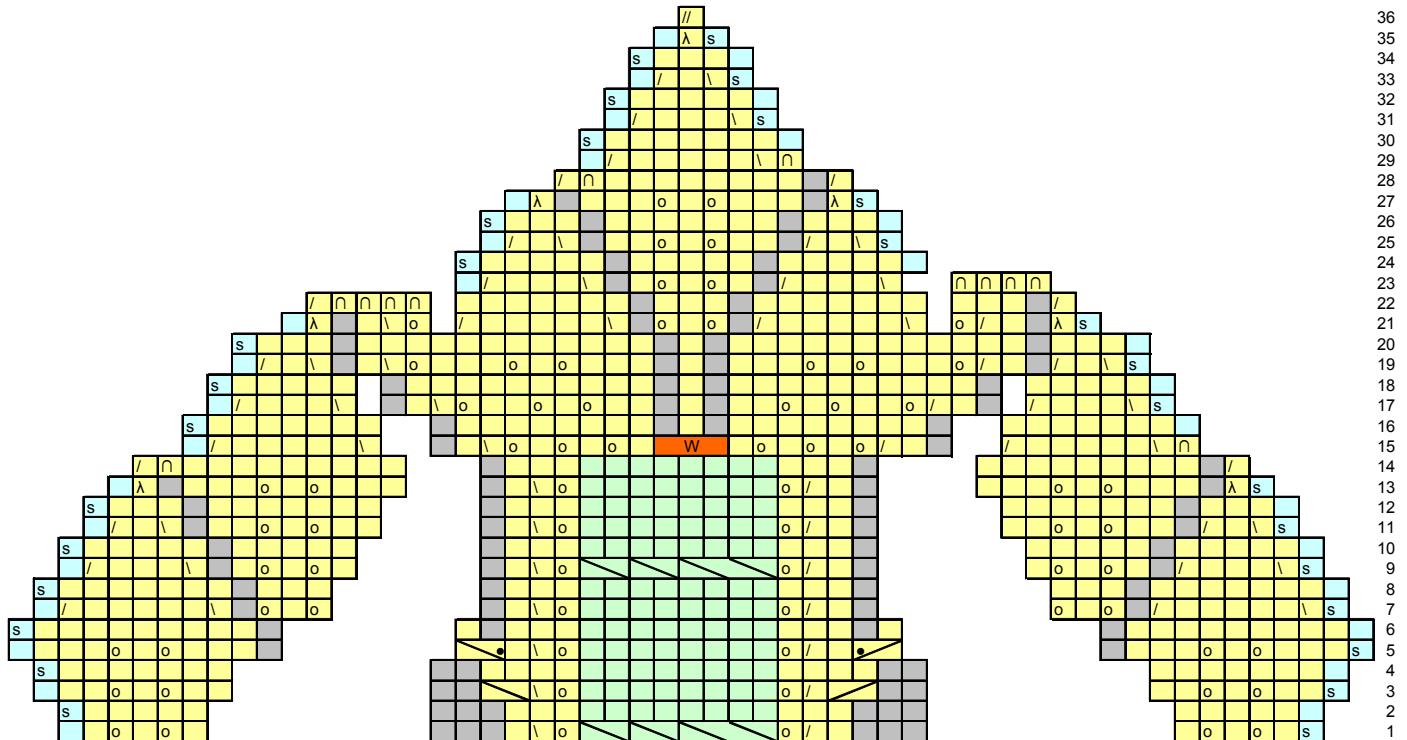


Chart 6 - Leafy end of scarf.

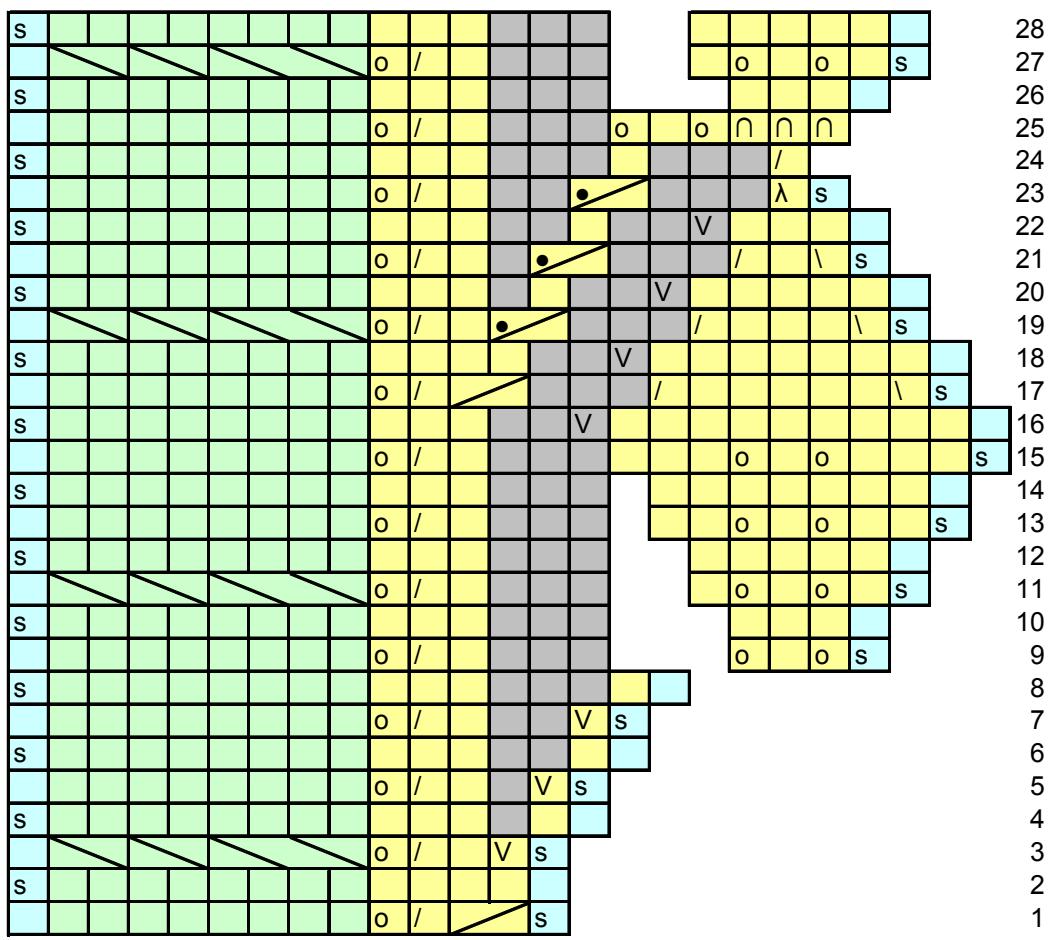


Chart 7 - Right side of neck band

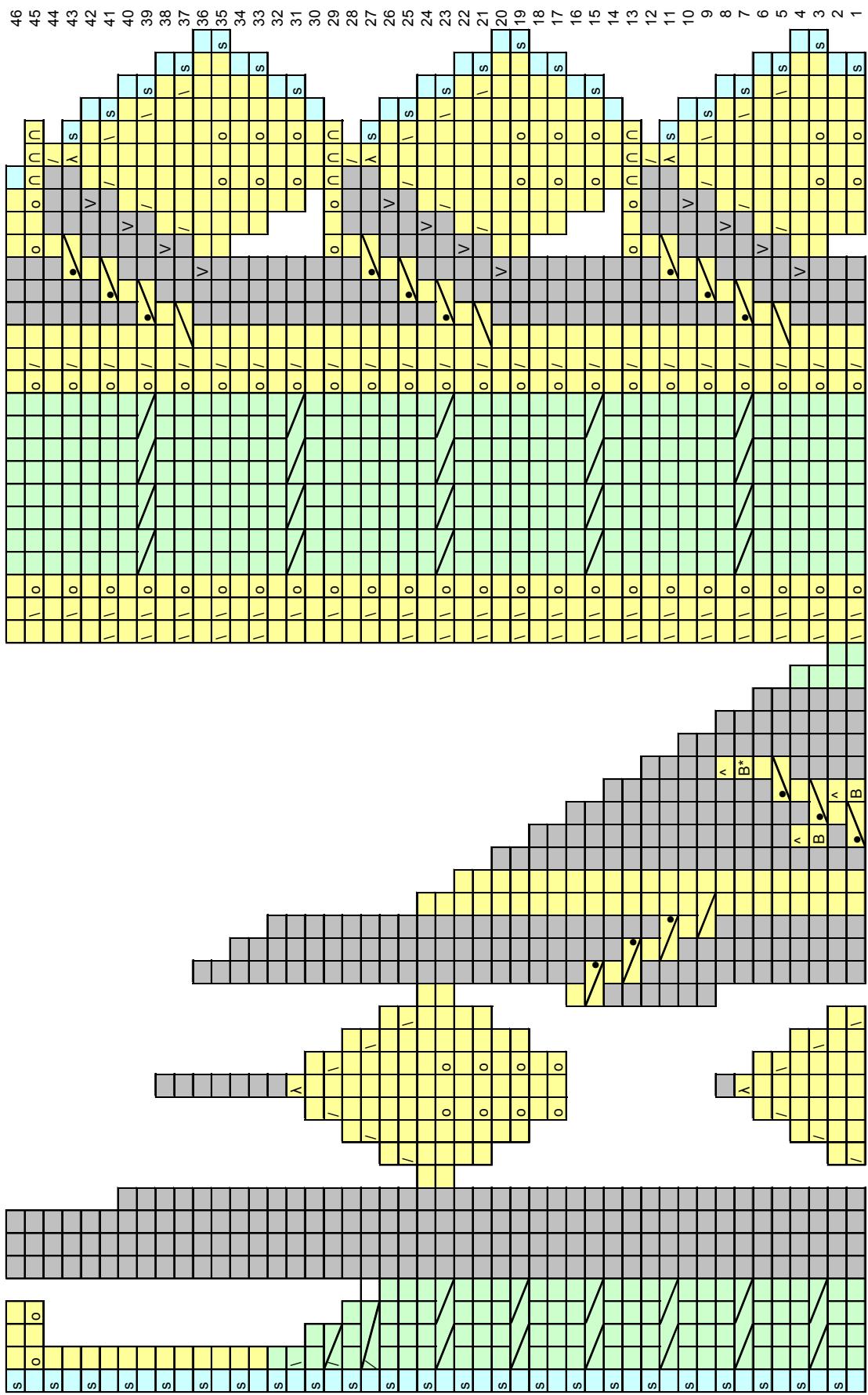


Chart 8 – Combined right side.

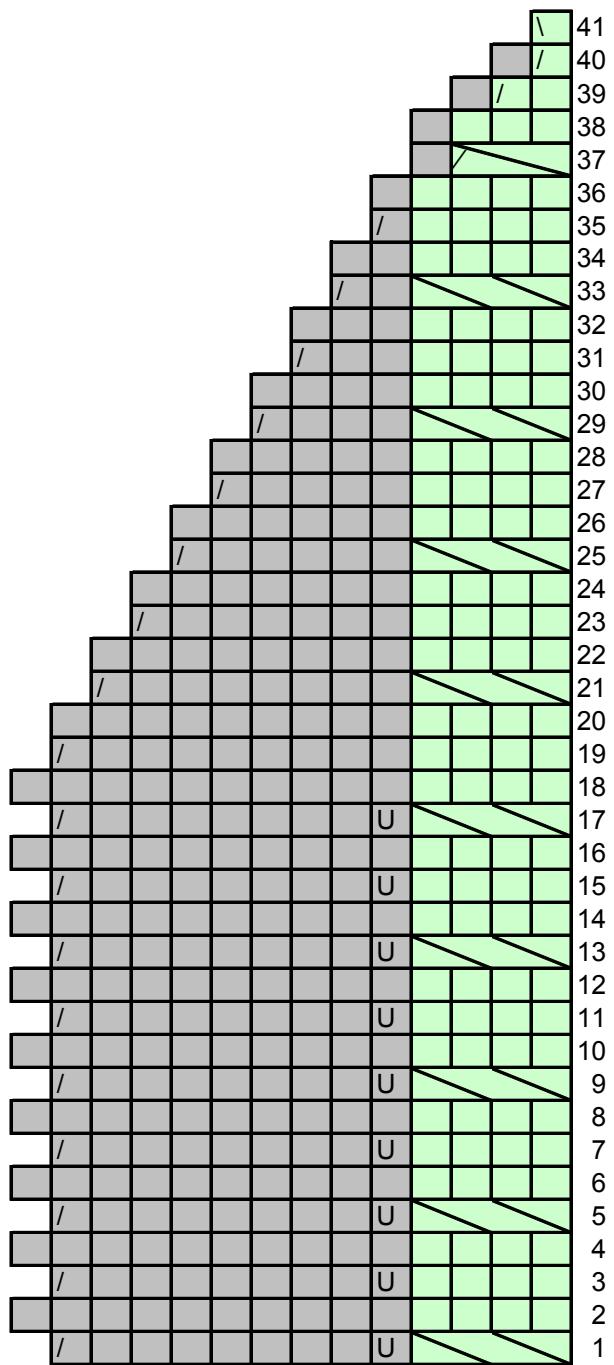


Chart 9 - Centre - repeat eight times around.