

The Emperor's Bride Socks

Pattern and photos: Tiina Kuu

The Emperor's Bride Socks design was inspired by designs in Augusta Abrahamsson's embroidery book 'Märkbok' published in 1955. The socks are knitted toe up with a pinstriped gusset in the sole, a round heel turn and a slipped stitch heel flap.

This is a revised and extended version of the original pattern first published in 2014. The pattern is titled 'Keisarin morsian' in Finnish.

YARN AND YARDAGE

Main colour (MC): nurja merino sock (75% merino, 25% nylon; 420 m / 100 g), 50-65 grams of black (onyx colourway)

Contrasting colour (CC): Säie Wool Säie Merino Sock (75% merino, 25% nylon; 420 m / 100 g), 40-50 grams of light brown (Silver Bliss colourway)

Any other fingering weight yarns can be used. A distinct contrast between the colours is recommended to best show the delicate pattern.

GAUGE

36 sts and 36 rows in stranded colourwork pattern with larger needles = 10 cm / 4 inches



NEEDLES

2.0 mm / US0 and 2.5 mm / US1½ (or suitable to obtain gauge) circular needles, at least 80 cm / 32 inches long.

Socks can be knitted with dpns, two shorter circulars or a mini circular but the instructions have been written for magic loop.

SIZE

There are instructions for sizes small (64 sts), and medium/large (72 sts), which are referred to in the instructions as S (M/L). If only one stitch count is given, it applies to both sizes. With the given gauge, sizes S (M/L) fit foot circumference of approximately 18.5 (21) cm / 7¾ (8¼) inches with some negative ease.

BEFORE YOU START

Please read the instructions carefully. The instep and front of the leg are worked on needle 1. The sole, gussets, heel and back of the leg are worked on needle 2.

INSTRUCTIONS

Toe

With MC and smaller needles, cast on 20 (24) sts in total, using Turkish or any other toe-up cast-on method of your choice. *There are now 10 (12) sts on each needle.*

Work the toe increases as follows:

rnd 1: Knit.

rnd 2: On needle 1, work *k1, kfb, knit until 2 sts remain, kfb, k1*. Repeat * - * on needle 2.

Repeat rnds 1 and 2 until there are 32 (36) sts on each needle. *There are now 64 (72) sts in total.*

Foot and gusset

Knit two rounds with MC, one round with CC and one round with MC. Switch to larger needles if preferred.

In this stranded colourwork pattern it's recommended to use MC as the dominant colour.

Work sts on needle 1 according to chart A1 (B1) and sts on needle 2 according to chart A2 (B2) until work measures approximately 9 (10) cm / 3½ (4) inches less than the desired final length.

Next, continue to work sts on needle 1 according to chart A1 (B1). Work sts on needle 2 as follows: work chart A2 (B2), sts 1-16 (1-18), work chart C, work chart A2 (B2), sts 18-32 (20-36). *Please note that chart C (i.e., the pin-striped gusset) replaces chart A2 (B2), stitch 17 (19).*

Work as described until you have finished chart C, row 20 (24). Slip the first stitch of needle 2 onto needle 1. *There are now 33 (37) sts on needle 1 (i.e., the instep) and 51 (59) sts on needle 2 (i.e., the sole).*

Heel

The heel is worked back and forth on needle 2 with MC. Switch to smaller needles if preferred.

Turn work and work a set-up row with MC on the WS as described for each size:

set-up row, size S: If the first stitch is a MC stitch, sl1 and p50. If the first stitch is a CC stitch, p51.

set-up row, size M/L: P59.

Work the round heel turn back and forth, starting on the RS as follows:

row 1 (RS): Sl1, k32 (k38), kfb, k1, w&t.

row 2 (WS): P18 (p22), pfb, p1, w&t.

row 3 (RS): K17 (k20), kfb, k1, w&t.

row 4 (WS): P16 (p18), pfb, p1, w&t.

row 5 (RS): K14 (k16), kfb, k1, w&t.

row 6 (WS): P12 (p14), pfb, p1, w&t.

row 7 (RS): K10 (k12), kfb, k1, w&t.

row 8 (WS): P8 (p10), pfb, k1, w&t.

row 9 (RS): K6 (k8), kfb, k1, w&t.

row 10 (WS): P4 (p6), pfb, p1, w&t.

row 11 (RS): K19 (k22), knitting the wraps together with the wrapped sts if preferred, turn.

row 12 (WS): Sl1, p30 (p34), purling the wraps together with the wrapped sts if preferred, turn.

Work the slipped stitch heel flap back and forth, starting on the RS as follows:

row 1 (RS): *Sl1, k1*, repeat * - * a total of 15 (17) times, ssk, turn.

row 2 (WS): Sl1, p29 (33), p2tog, turn.

Repeat heel flap rows 1 and 2 until 32 (36) sts remain on needle 2 and you have just finished a RS row. **Do not turn** but continue working in the round.

Heel (continued from the previous page)

Slip the last stitch of needle 1 onto needle 2. There are now 32 (36) sts on needle 1 (i.e. the front of the leg) and 33 (37) sts on needle 2 (i.e., the back of the leg).

Work sts on needle 1 according to chart A1 (B1). Work sts on needle 2 according to chart A3 (B1) as follows: k1 with the colour that is st 1 of chart A3 (B1) for the same row as worked on needle 1, then k2tog with the colour that is st 2 of chart A3 (B1) for the same row and finally, work chart A3 (B1), sts 3-32 (3-36) for the same row.



Chart key

	k
	M1L
	M1R
	MC
	CC

Leg and cuff

Work sts on needle 1 according to chart A1 (B1) and sts on needle 2 according to A3 (B1) until leg measures approximately 3-4 cm / 1½ inches less than the desired final length. *For the best result, it's recommended to finish the stranded colourwork pattern after row 1 or 11.*

Switch to smaller needles if desired. Knit one round with MC, one round with CC and one round with MC. Cut CC.

With MC, work *ktbl, p1* ribbing for 14 (16) rnds or to desired cuff length. Bind off using any elastic bind-off method of your choice. The sample socks have been bound off with sewn bind-off.

FINISHING

Soak the socks in lukewarm water. Remove excess water by rolling the socks in a towel. Let dry flat or on sock blockers. Weave in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS

CC – contrast colour
k – knit
kfb – knit through front and back loop
MC – main colour
M1L – make 1 left
M1R – make 1 right
p – purl
pfb – purl through front and back loop
p2tog – purl 2 sts together
rnd(s) – round(s)
RS – right side
sl – slip
ssk – slip, slip, knit
st(s) – stitch(es)
WS – wrong side
w&t – wrap and turn

Chart A1 size S (needle 1, instep)

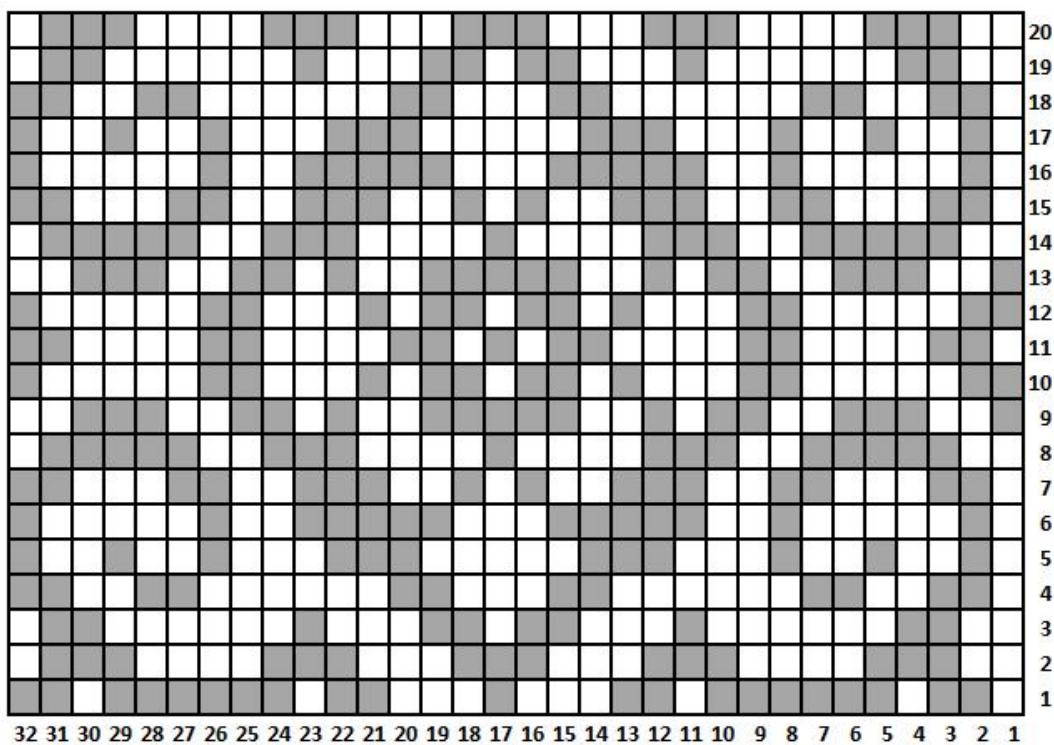


Chart A2: size S (needle 2, sole)

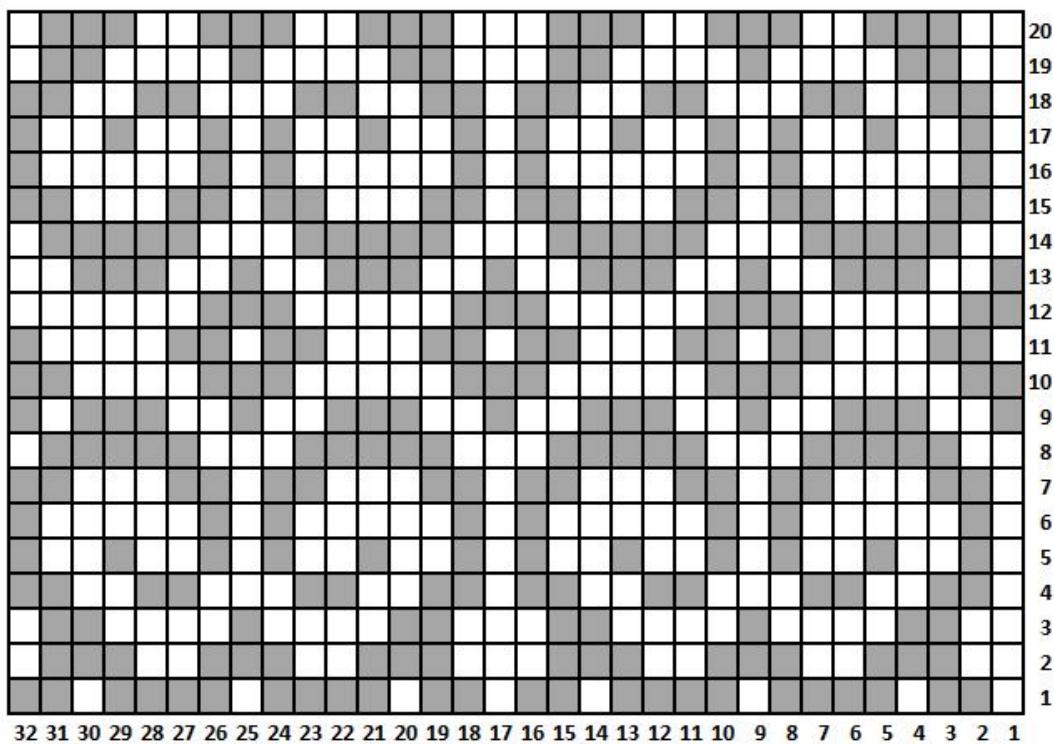


Chart A1 size S (needle 1, front of the leg)

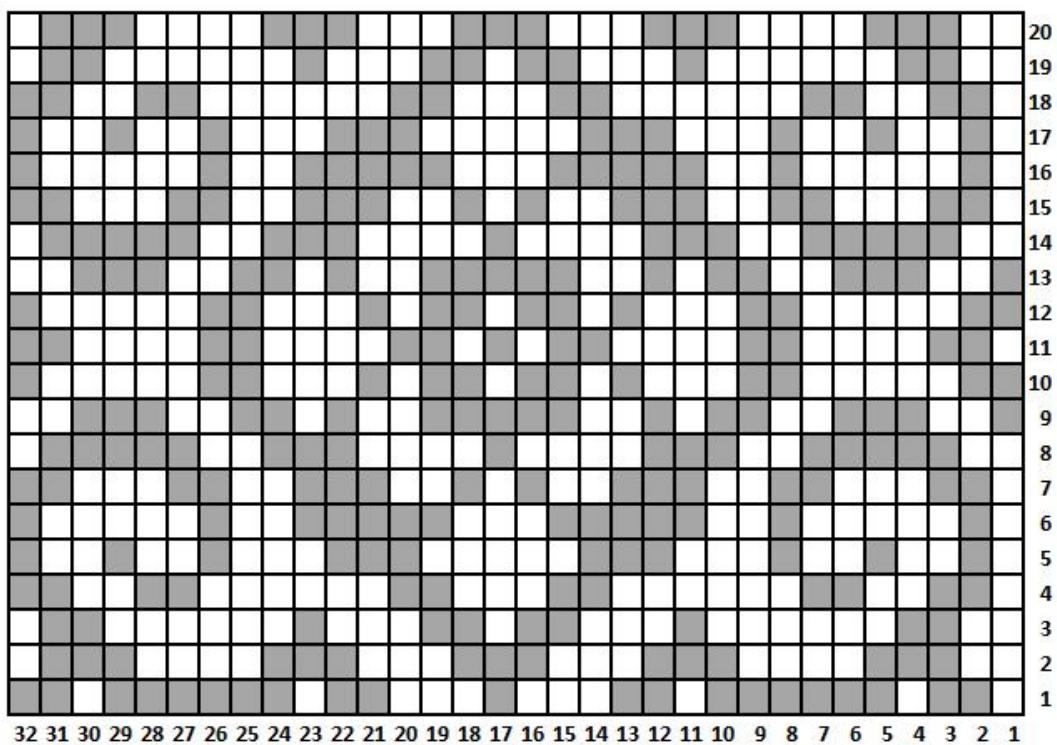


Chart A3 size S (needle 2, back of the leg)

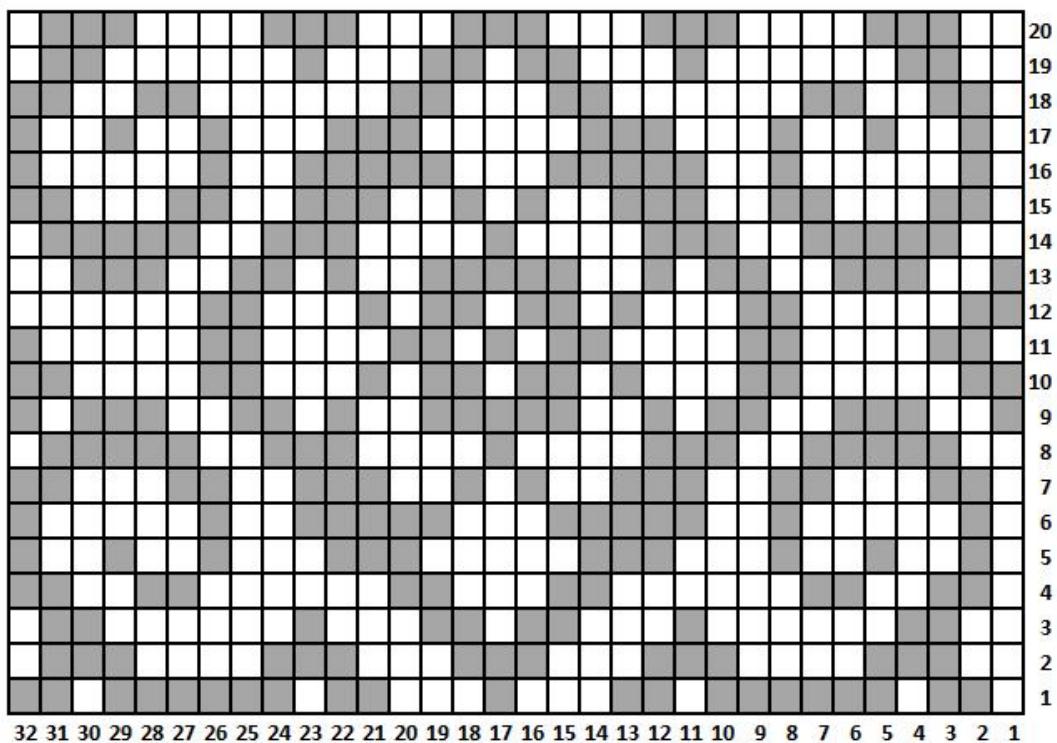


Chart B1: size M/L (needle 1, i.e. instep in the foot, both needles in the leg)

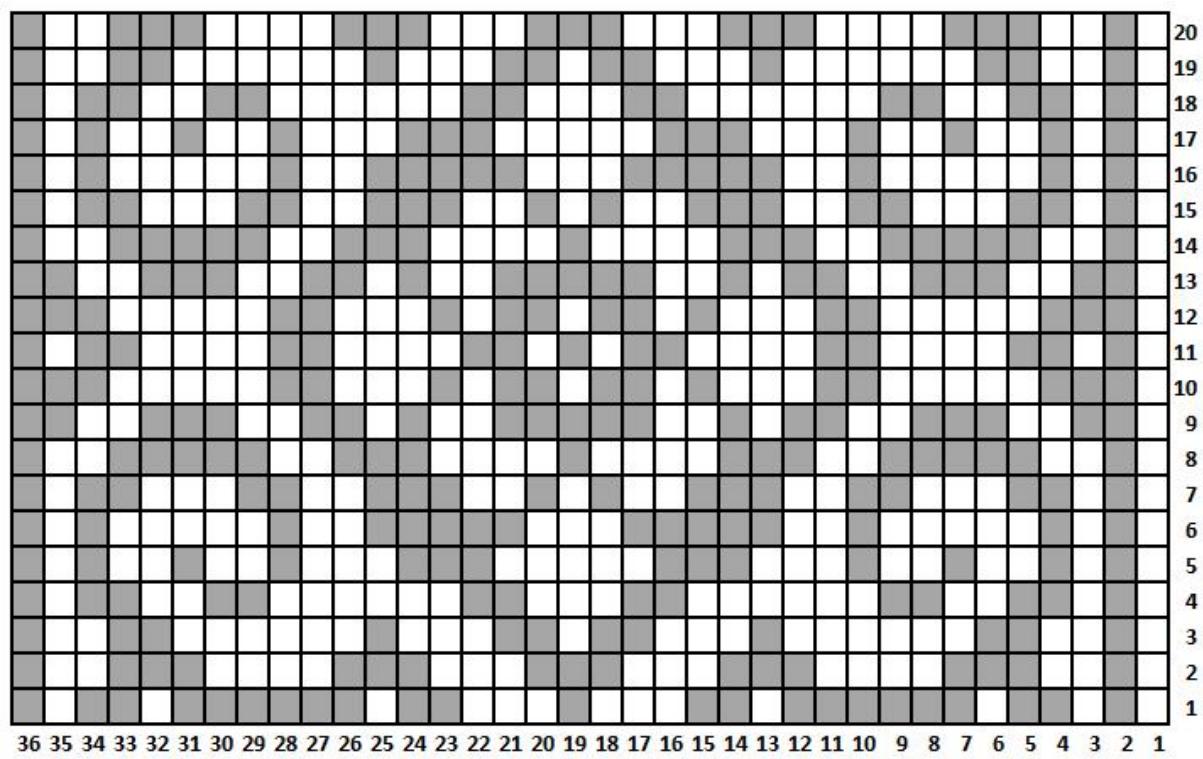


Chart B2: size M/L (needle 2, sole)

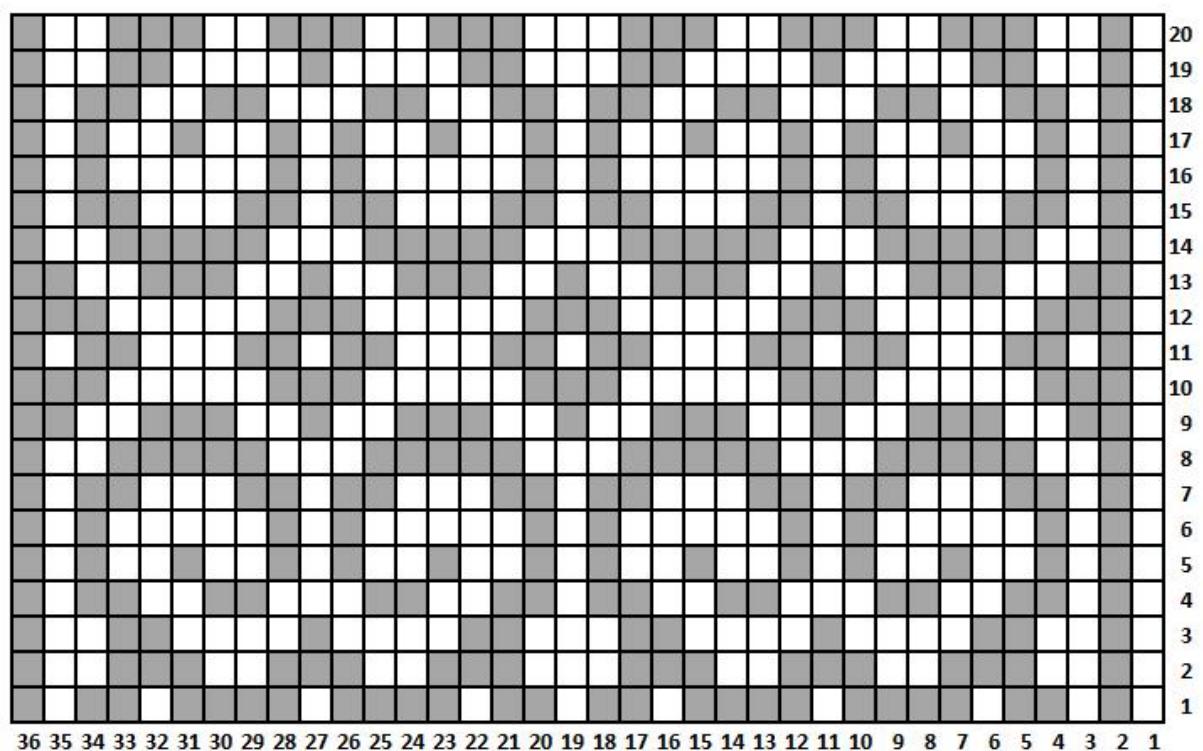


Chart C: pin-striped gusset

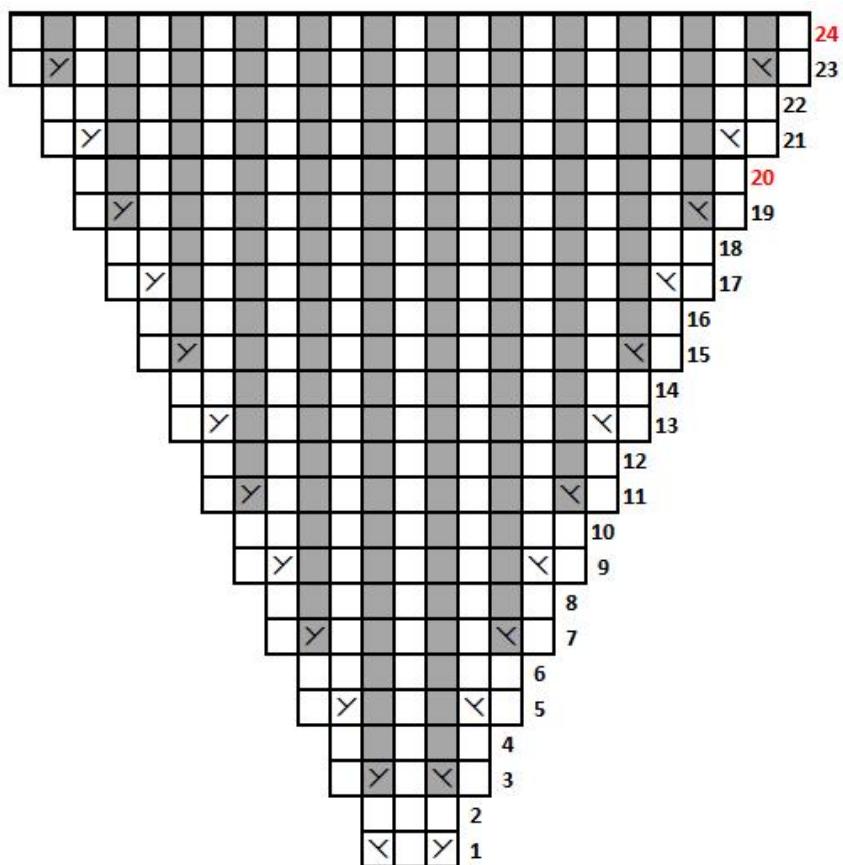


Chart key

	k
	M1L
	M1R
	MC
	CC



size S