

Porcupine Island Shawl

By Denise E. M. Bartels

Yarn - Lace weight. I used a handspun yarn spun from a blend of merino, other wools, silk, and tencel.

Yardage - Approximately 780 yards (115 grams).

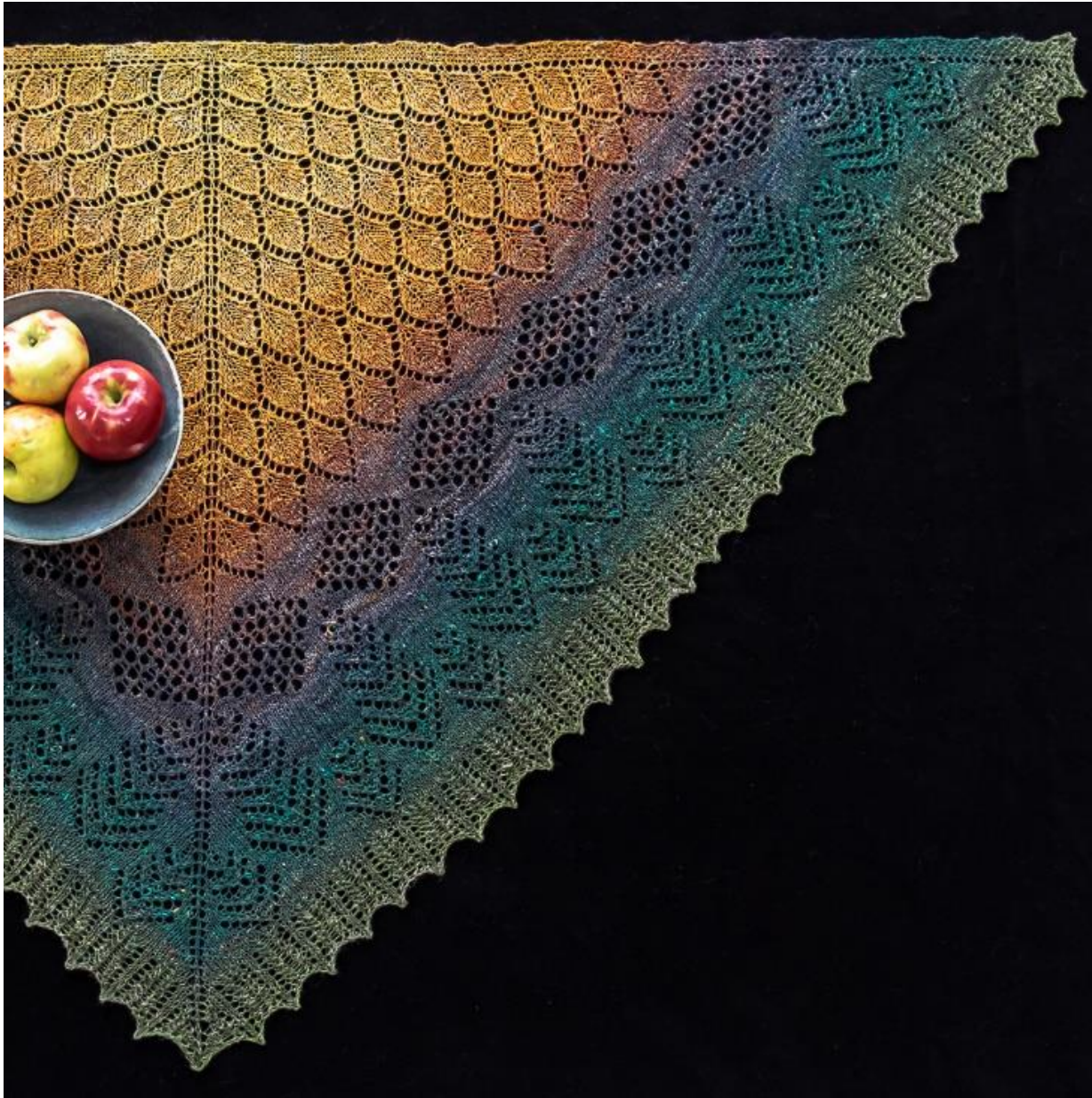
Needles - I used US 2 (2.75 mm) but I knit very loosely.

Depth at Center - 33 inches.

Length - 64 inches.



The basic design for this shawl popped into my head when I first saw the batt that would eventually become the handspun yarn for the shawl. The golds demanded to be birch leaves, the greens wanted to be evergreen trees, and the greys called out to be granite outcroppings. Since the shawl is knitted from the top down and I wanted a leaf pattern where the leaves would end up pointing down, I had to play around with various leaf patterns to get the look I wanted.



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I also had to modify the Shetland tree of life pattern (*Heirloom Knitting* by Sharon Miller, page 222) so it could be knit from the top down. I added an unintended change by being cocky and not double-checking the symbols used in the book: I forgot that she uses both a blank square as well as a square with a dot to indicate a knit stitch. I am used to a dot square representing a purl stitch and I didn't realize my mistake until I was deep into the trees. I decided I liked the subtle 3-dimensional effect and continued on. You can choose to do the purls in the tree patterns or not.

The shawl is triangular and is knit from the top down with increases on every right-side row, worked at the edges and on each side of the center stitch.

Note - the shawl can be made larger by repeating rows 187 - 248 until either the shawl is large enough or you run out of yarn. I did the latter. The green repeat will need to be done two more times for each repeat of these rows.

Start with a tab cast-on. I like a seed stitch edging instead of a garter stitch one because the gauge is closer to the stockinette gauge and I like the texture. Cast on 5 stitches and do 6 rows of k1, p1, k1, p1, k1. On the seventh row, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, turn work 90 degrees and pick up 3 stitches along the side of the little tab you just made, turn another 90 degrees and pick up 5 stitches along the cast-on edge. You can also start with a provisional cast-on to give you the final 5 stitches.

All wrong-side (even) rows are k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, purl to last 5 stitches, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1. Double yarnovers from the previous row are worked p1, k1. Reverse yarn overs from the previous row are purled in the back loop.

Rows 1 - 42: K1, p1, k1, p1, k1, Chart 1, k1, Chart 1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.

Rows 43 - 62: K1, p1, k1, p1, k1, Chart 2, k1, Chart 2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.

Repeat rows 43 - 62 three times in total doing the purple repeat three times the first time, five times the second time and seven times the third time.

Rows 103 - 134: K1, p1, k1, p1, k1, Chart 3, k1, Chart 3, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.

Rows 135 - 178: K1, p1, k1, p1, k1, Chart 4, k1, Chart 4, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.

Rows 179 - 194: K1, p1, k1, p1, k1, Chart 5, k1, Chart 5, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.

Bind off loosely and block. I bound off on the purl side using the bind off P1, *p1, slip stitches back to left needle and p2tog, repeat from *.

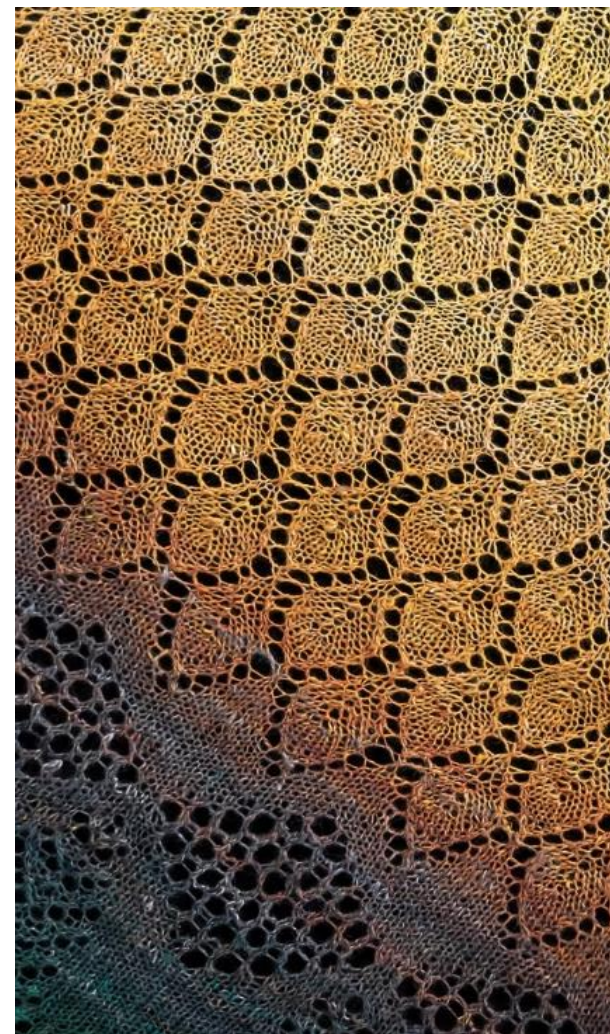


Chart 1

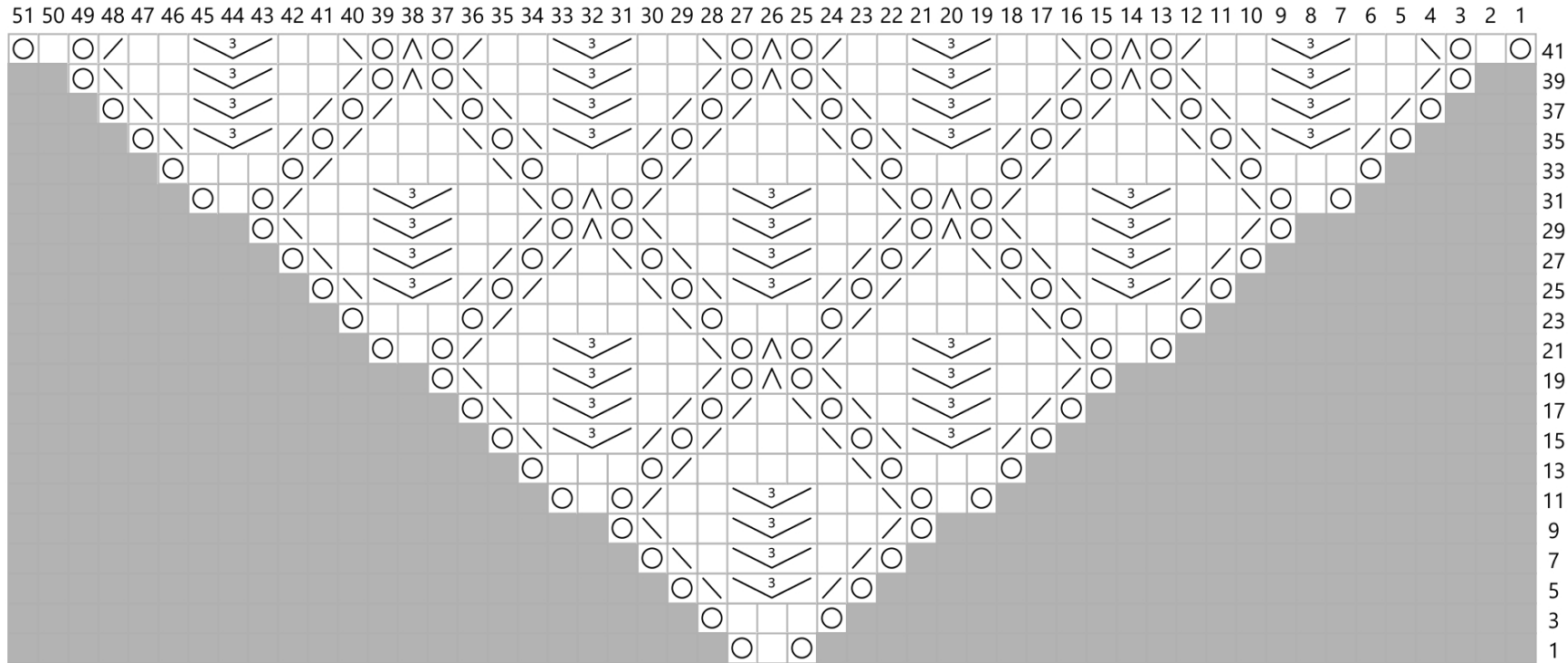


Chart 2

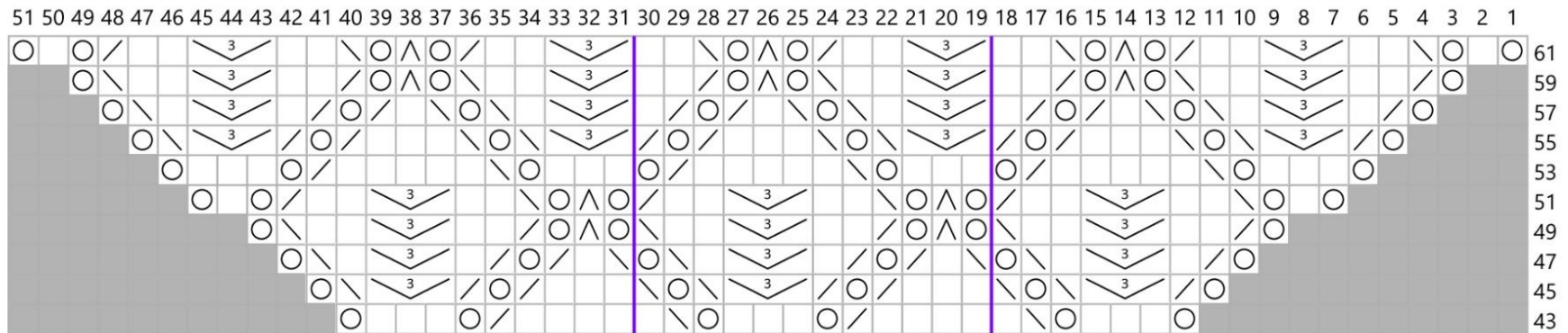


Chart 3

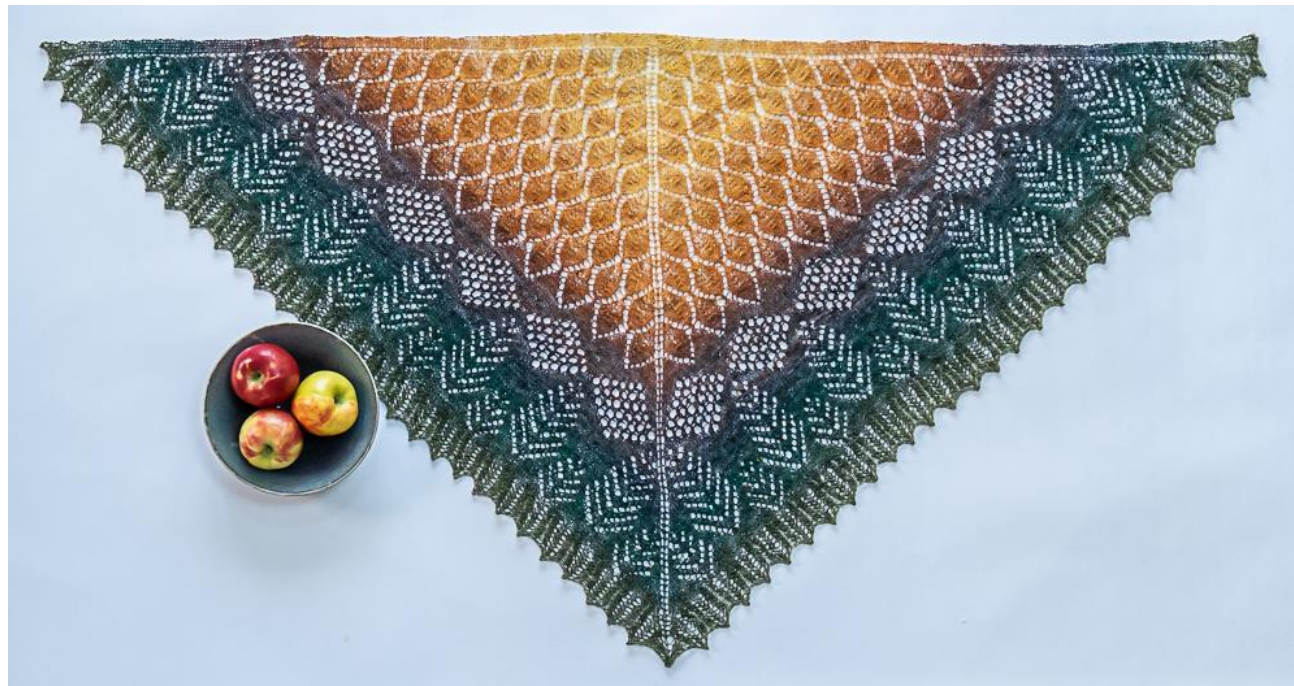
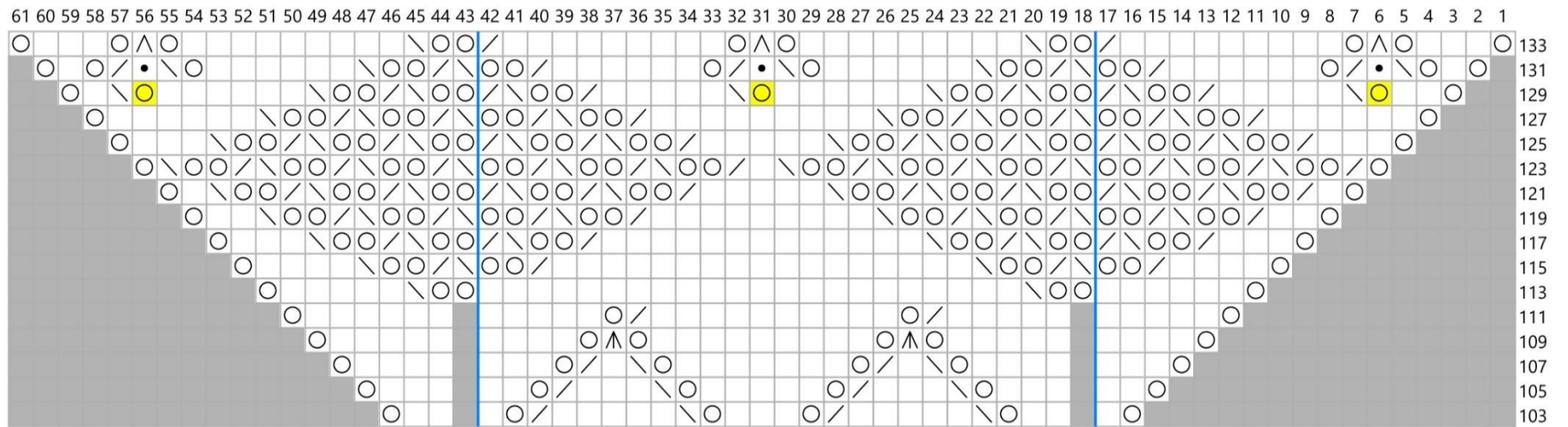


Chart 4a

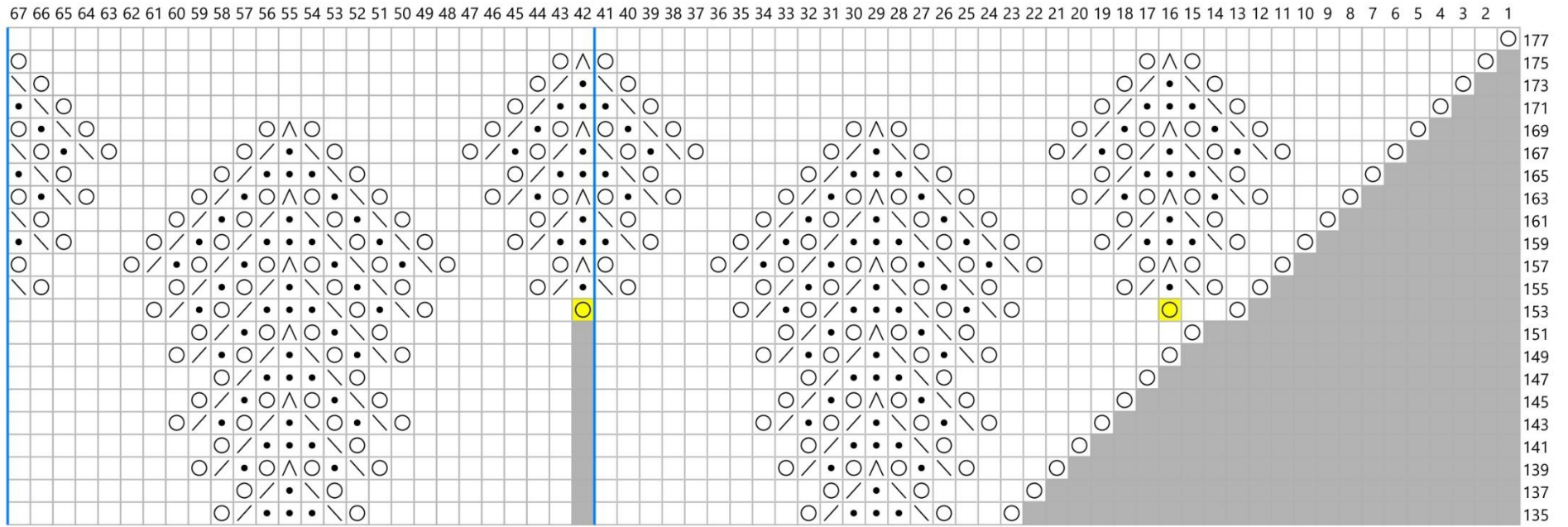


Chart 4b

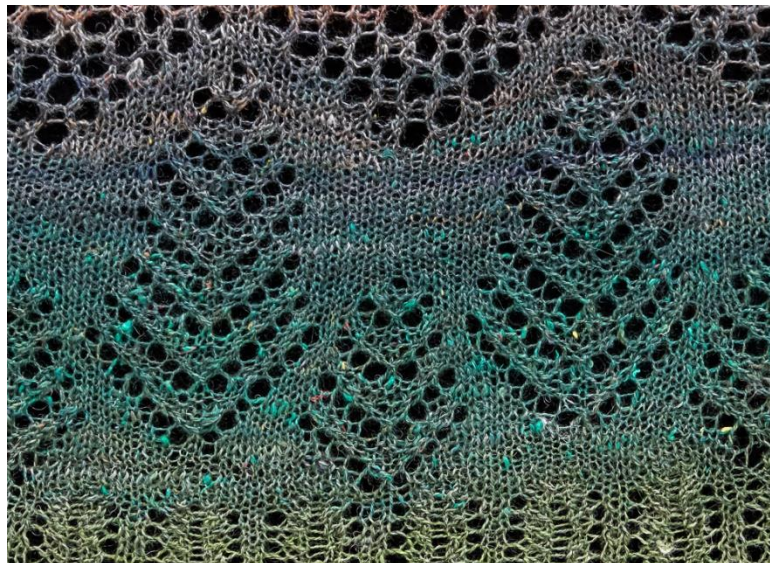
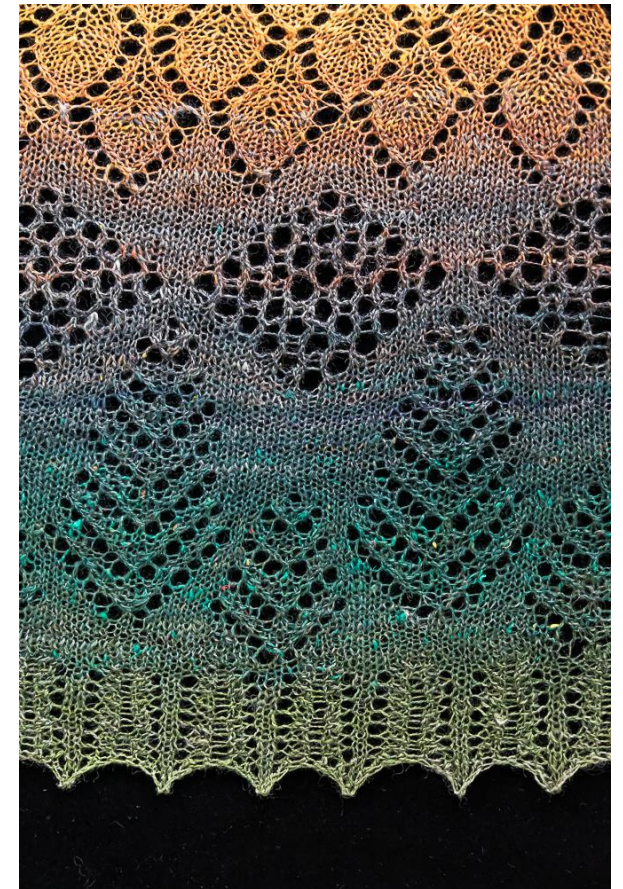
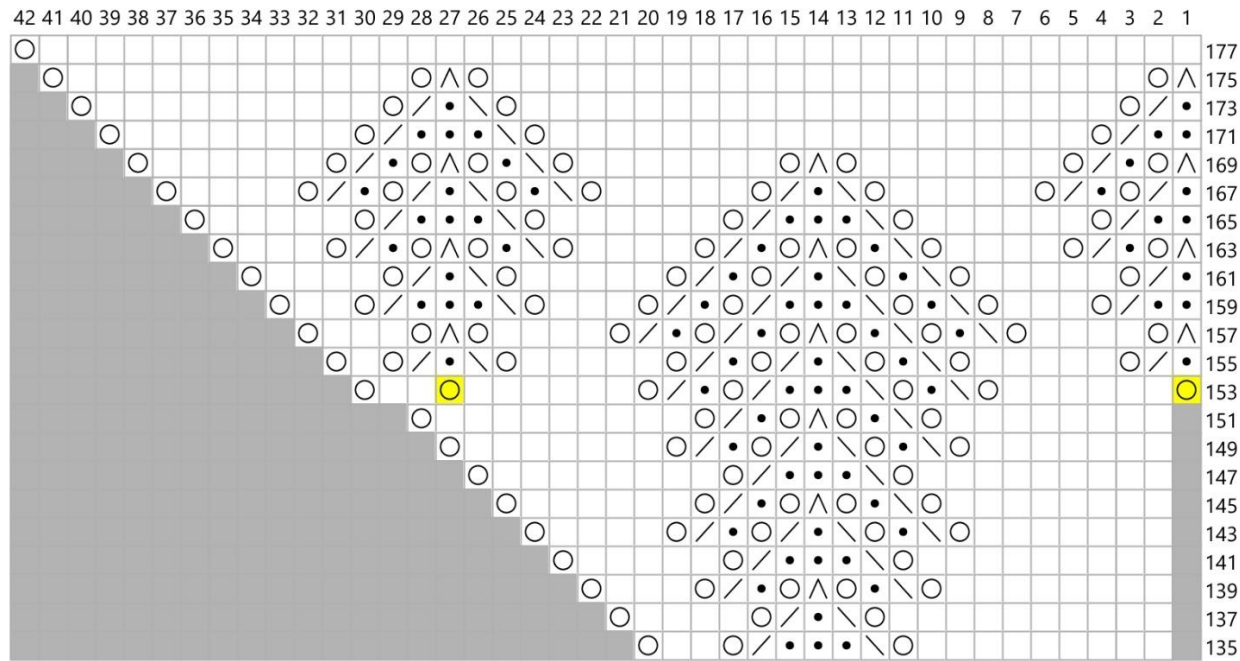


Chart 5 Left

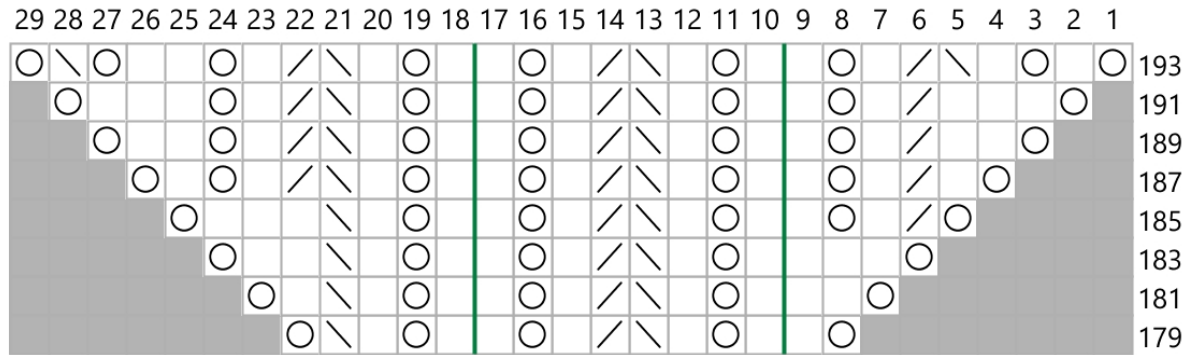
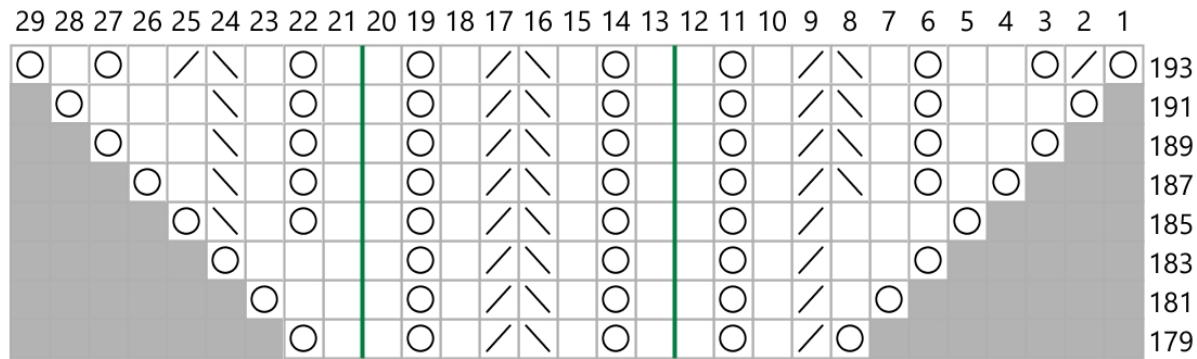


Chart 5 Right



Key	
<input type="checkbox"/> RS: knit WS: purl	<input type="checkbox"/> yo
<input type="checkbox"/> ● RS: purl WS: knit	<input type="checkbox"/> yellow - reverse yarn over
<input type="checkbox"/> grey no stitch	<input type="checkbox"/> $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\rangle$ (k1, yo, k1) in one stitch
<input type="checkbox"/> / RS: k2tog WS: p2tog	<input type="checkbox"/> repeat 3, 5, or 7 times
<input type="checkbox"/> \ RS: ssk WS: ssp	<input type="checkbox"/> repeat 5 times
<input type="checkbox"/> ^ RS: sl1, k2tog, pss0 WS: sl1 wyif, p2tog tbl, pss0	<input type="checkbox"/> repeat 26 times
<input type="checkbox"/> ^ RS: sl2, k1, p2sso WS: sl2, p1, p2sso	

Key notes - A yellow highlighted yarn over is a reverse yarn over which is formed by wrapping the yarn clockwise around the right-hand needle instead of the usual counter-clockwise. It makes a slightly bigger hole than a normal yarn over. Reverse yarn overs are purled in the back loop on the following row.

The purple repeat is done three times the first time through (rows 43 - 62), five times the second time (rows 63 - 82) and seven times the third time (rows 83 - 102).

