

This design has been kindly donated to Médecins Sans Frontières as part of the p/hop project. p/hop is pennies per hour of pleasure, so please feel free to use this pattern, then donate what you think it was worth to MSF.

Find out more and donate at www.msf.org.uk/phop
Or, visit the p/hop blog at www.p-hop.co.uk

Thank you for supporting MSF!



CROCUS POCUS



A flippant little snippet of a spring scarf for your wardrobe!
Dangling crocus beads on every point add to the charm.

BY SUNFLOWER DESIGNS

Turn Your Face to the Sun!



Crocuses are symbolic of youth, cheerfulness, and gladness. Part of the iris family, the plants grow from corms and are mainly perennials. Found in a wide range of habitats including woodland, scrub and meadows, they are among the first signs of spring in many parts of the world.



DETAILS

SIZE: 54" / 137 cm wide by 25" / 64cm long (at center point)

MATERIALS:

437 yards/ 400 meters lace or fingering weight yarn (main color.) 20 yards/ 18 meters contrast color (if desired) for trim

2750 size 8/0 seed beads

(larger beads make scarf too heavy)

74 Czech pressed glass bellflower beads

Size 5 (US)/ 3.75 mm needles, stitch markers, size 14/ 0.6 mm or 16/ 0.4mm crochet hook (for beading)

GAUGE: each crocus motif measures 1 1/2 in/ 3.8cm across (blocked)

Crocus comes from the Greek "Krokos". Blooming around Valentine's Day (if you're lucky) the crocus was once considered an aphrodisiac. (That'll make you cheerful!)

One story has Zeus and Hera making love so passionately that the heat of their ardor made the bank on which they lay burst open with crocuses. Another tells of Zeus gazing upon the Phoenician princess Europa gathering flowers in a springtime meadow. He transformed himself into a bull and breathed a crocus from his mouth to draw her near and so carry her away.

In yet another myth, Crocus was a friend of the Greek god Hermes. One day as the two friends were playing, Hermes accidentally hit and killed his friend. A small flower grew at the place of the accident. Three drops of Crocus' blood fell on the center of the flower and formed the red stamens found on the variety from which the spice saffron is derived.

Some tales say Crocus was transformed into a flower not because of Hermes's carelessness, but because of his unfulfilled love for a nymph called Smilax.

DIRECTIONS

Cast on 3 stitches.

Row 1: K1, (yo, k1) twice.

Row 2: K1, purl to last stitch, K1. (5 stitches)

Susan's Helpful Hint: Always begin each row with a Knit stitch. This helps prevent the edge from curling.

Now you are ready to begin chart A (Crocus Stitch). You will begin at the lower right hand side, working each row from right to left (outside edge to center) and back again (left to right or center to outside edge.) Center stitch is marked in pink or red. **This stitch is only knitted once.**

Susan's Helpful Hint: Remember to reverse k2togs and ssk's on your way back, so the decreases slant in the proper direction. If you are unsure which way to go, think of it in terms of its orientation. Does the line in the pattern tilt towards the center? Or towards the outer edge? You do not need to reverse the sk2p at the top (as you knit) of each crocus motif.

Susan's Helpful Hint: You will always have a yarn over inside the outermost stitch and on either side of the center stitch. These increases give the piece its triangular shape.

All beading is done on the wrong side rows. These rows are always purled, with the exception of the first and last stitch (selvedge.)

Upon completion of chart A, begin chart B (Crocus Stitch). At this point the pattern becomes too wide to fit on the page, so I have charted it as follows:

Beginning at right hand side of chart, work stitches before the red line once. Place marker. Now repeat the stitches between the red lines as many times as necessary until you have the right number of stitches left before the center as are on the left hand side of the chart. Place marker. Now work remaining stitches to center. Work center (red or pink) stitch once.

Now reverse, again repeating stitches between the red lines, as necessary, placing markers as outlined above.

Susan's Helpful Hint: Number of lace motifs within the markers will increase by one each time you begin another ten rows.

Charts B, C, & D are all charted in this fashion.

Upon completion of Chart B, begin chart C (Inner Border).

Susan's Helpful Hint: Notice the additional bead lines running vertically between the motifs beginning in row 4 of chart C and diagonally on row 8. This marks the start of the inner border pattern, which begins in earnest on row 11.

Upon completion of chart C, begin chart D (Outer Border).

Susan's Helpful Hint: Be especially attentive to the decreases in sections outside of your repeat markers (left & right on chart, as opposed to center. At times, they vary from the norm to ensure proper shape and orientation.

On rows 7 and 15, there are no decreases beyond the outer edge motifs. This overall increase in number of stitches is what makes the pointed edge.

On row 17, you may choose to switch to a contrasting color (marked on charts in blue.) Row 18 is knit back to form a garter stitch edging.

Switch to size 7 needles and bind off **loosely** as follows:

K2, slip stitches back to left hand needle and knit together through back loops. Repeat to end.

Susan's Helpful Hint: The looseness and elasticity of your bind-off permits the points to take shape. The degree to which you can pull them out determines their length.

Finishing:

Soak and block lace.

Attach larger beads to points as follows:

Cut 6-inch length of edge yarn. Fold in half. Holding yarn by center loop, pull through beads in the same fashion you would do a beaded stitch. You will have a loop closed with two beads and two loose tails of yarn hanging beneath the beads.

Now insert your crochet hook through the point of the scarf from front to back. Catch yarn loop in hook and pull loop through knitting from back to front.

Being careful not to slide beads off of the ends of your yarn tails, bring ends from back through the loop on the front of the scarf and pull tight, making sure beads sit on the outside of the join.

Now slide the beads up as close as you can, make a slip knit beneath them to hold them on and trim ends to desired length.

Now you're ready to turn your face to the sun. May the symbolism of the crocus fill you with good cheer and remind you always that new beginnings lie within, waiting but for an undeniable spring to bring them into bloom. BLESSINGS!

Check out our blog and be the first to know of new pattern releases:

<http://afewstitchesshort.blogspot.com>

Questions, comments, and corrections may be submitted by email to: susanpandorf@comcast.net

**LARGE PRINT PATTERN AVAILABLE FROM DESIGNER UPON
REQUEST**

Pattern intended for private use only. Copying or use of pattern for commercial purposes is forbidden without permission of designer.

p/hop = pennies per hour of pleasure, so please feel free to use this pattern, then donate what you think it was worth to you to MSF.

MSF is an independent humanitarian medical aid organisation, committed to providing medical aid wherever it is needed, regardless of race, religion, politics or gender. We currently work in over 60 countries helping victims of war, natural disasters, disease epidemics and those who simply have no access to even basic healthcare. For more info, please visit www.msf.org.uk

To donate or find out more about p/hop, please visit the p/hop blog at www.p-hop.co.uk.

Thank you for supporting MSF!

center

outside edge

Chart A

Crocus
Stitch

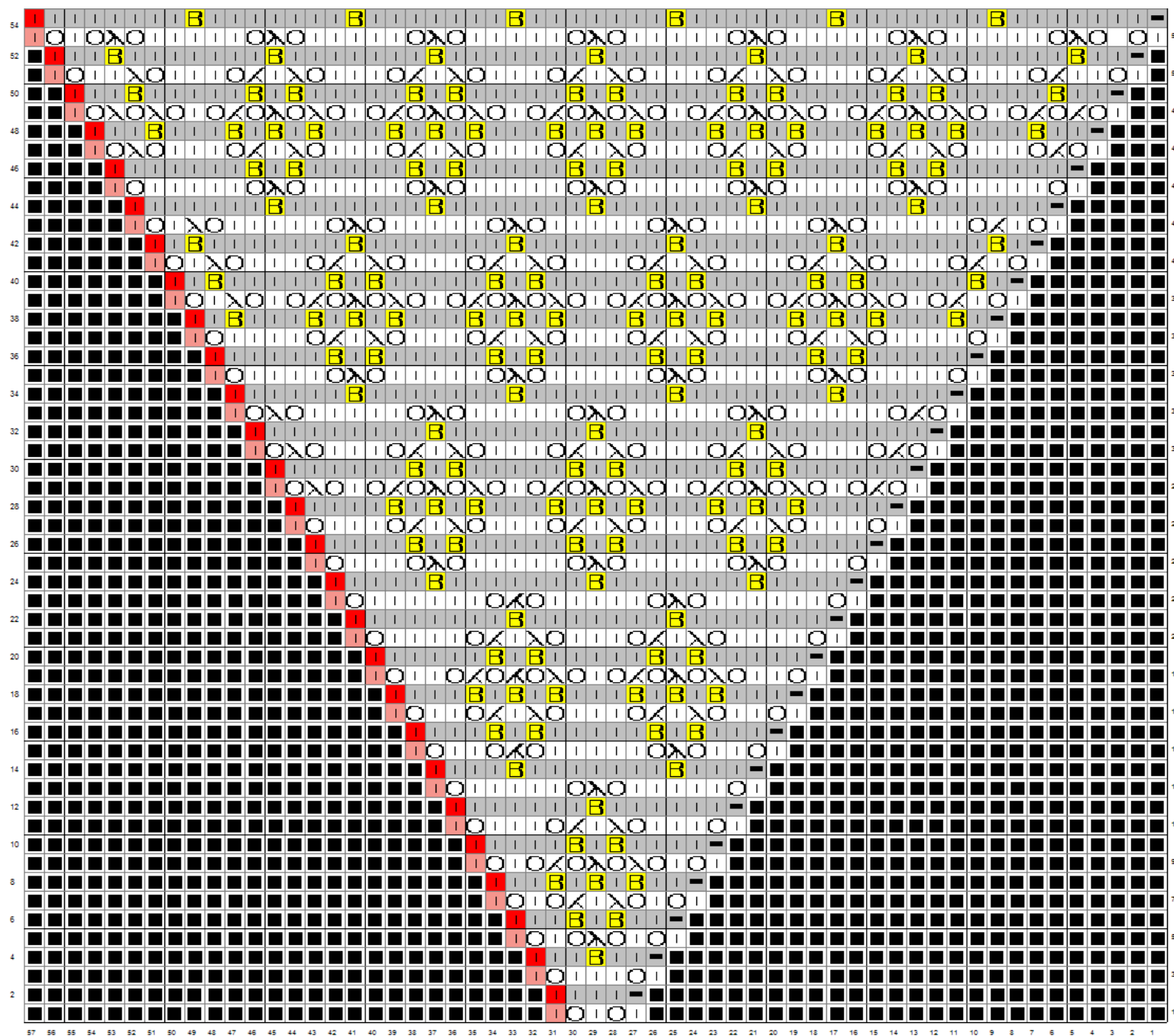


Chart B Crocus Stitch

center

outside edge

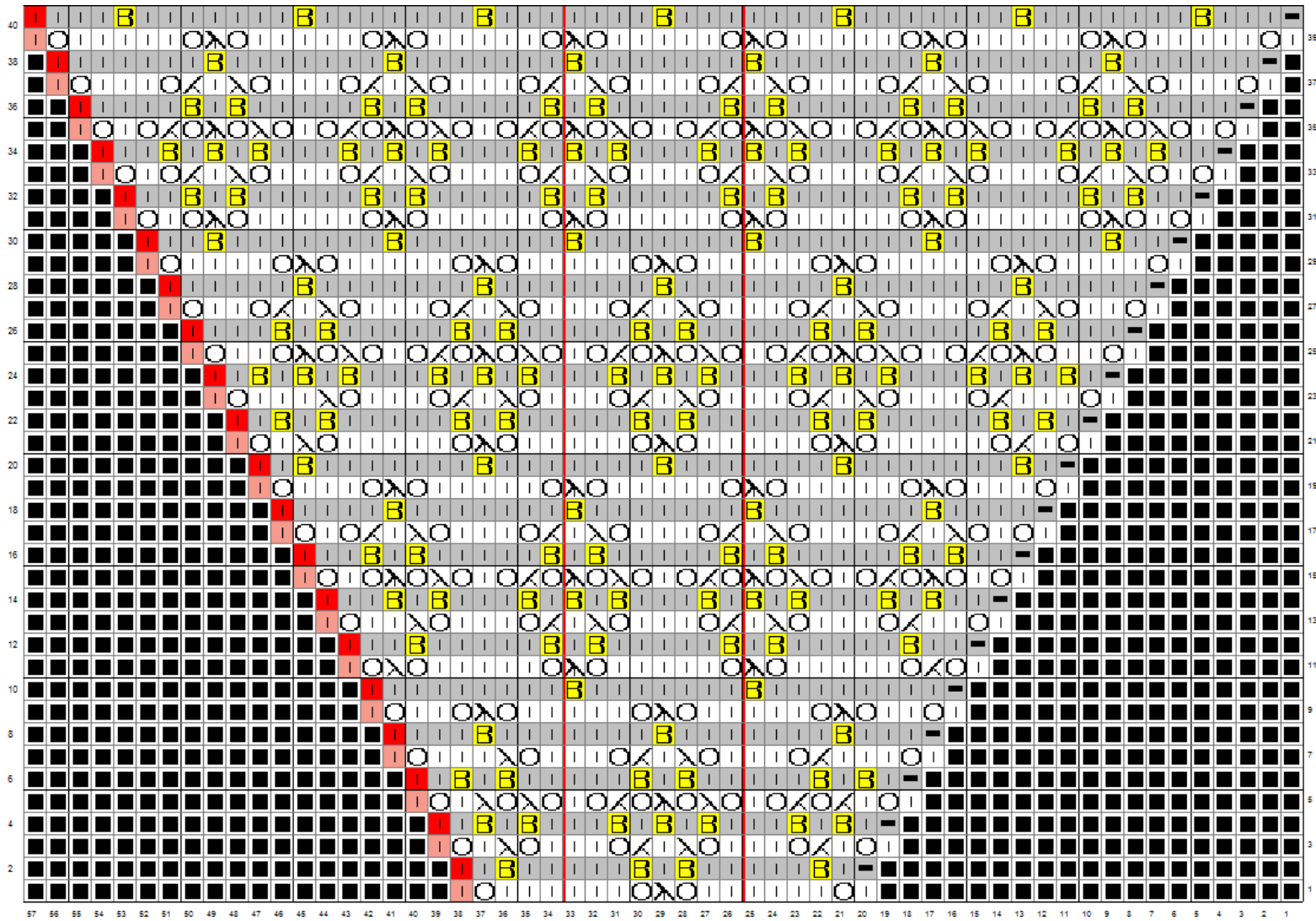


Chart C Inner Border

center

outside edge

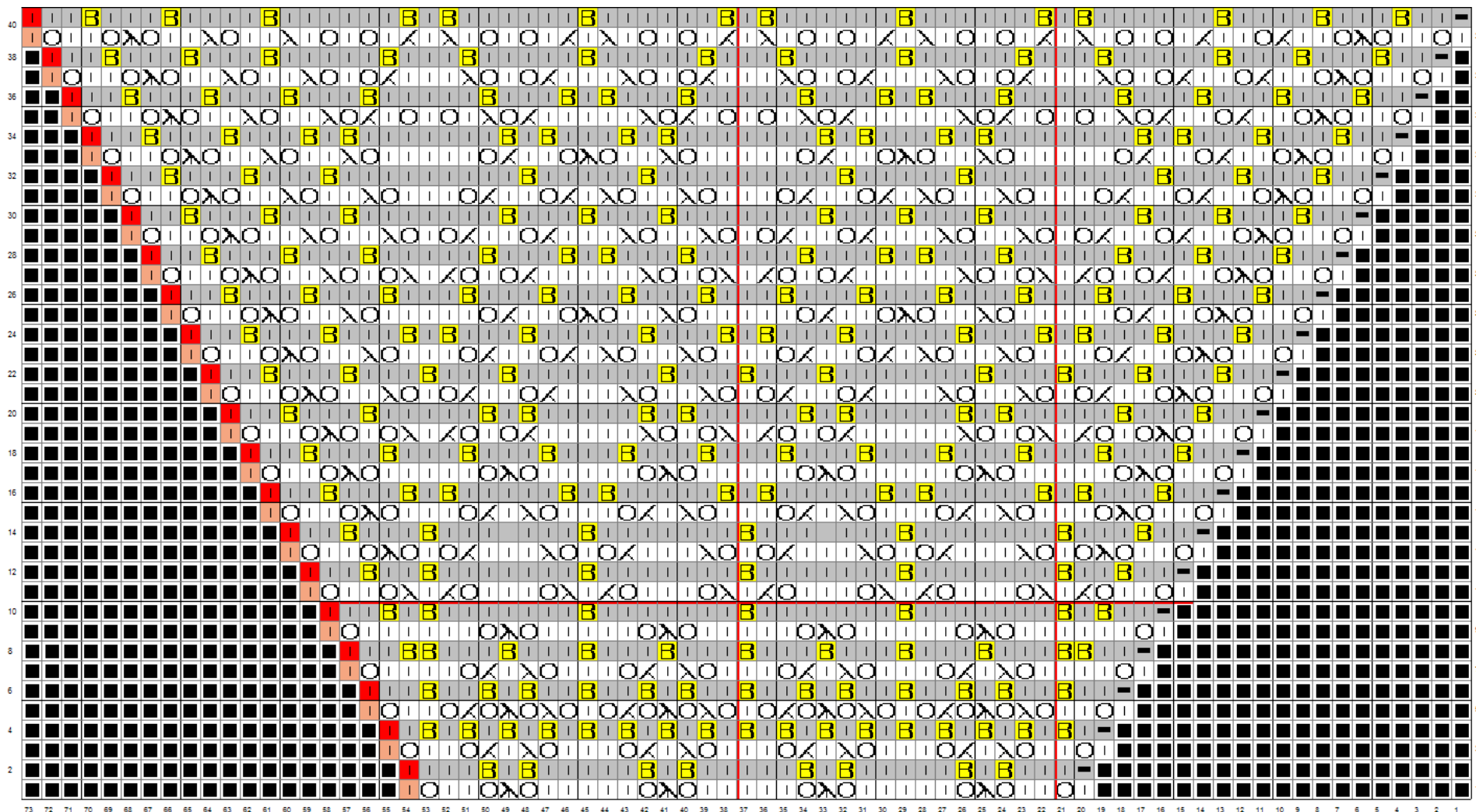
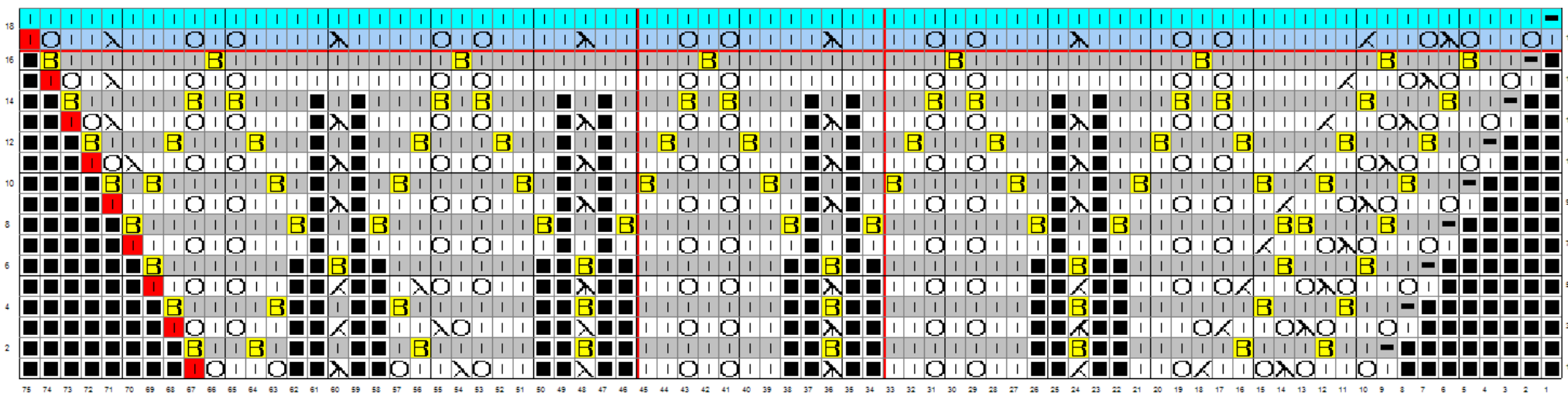


Chart D

center

Outer Border

outside edae



Stitch Notes:

Place bead:

Impale bead onto crochet hook small enough to fit through the hole of bead. Insert hook into stitch loop where bead will sit, making sure hook is facing you. Pull loop through bead. Replace stitch loop onto left needle and knit as usual.

Should you decide to omit beading, simply substitute a purl stitch.

	knit on right side, purl on wrong
-	purl on right side, knit on wrong
/	knit 2 together
\	ssk
O	sk2p
O	yarn over
B	place bead
■	no stitch
	red lines divide repeats