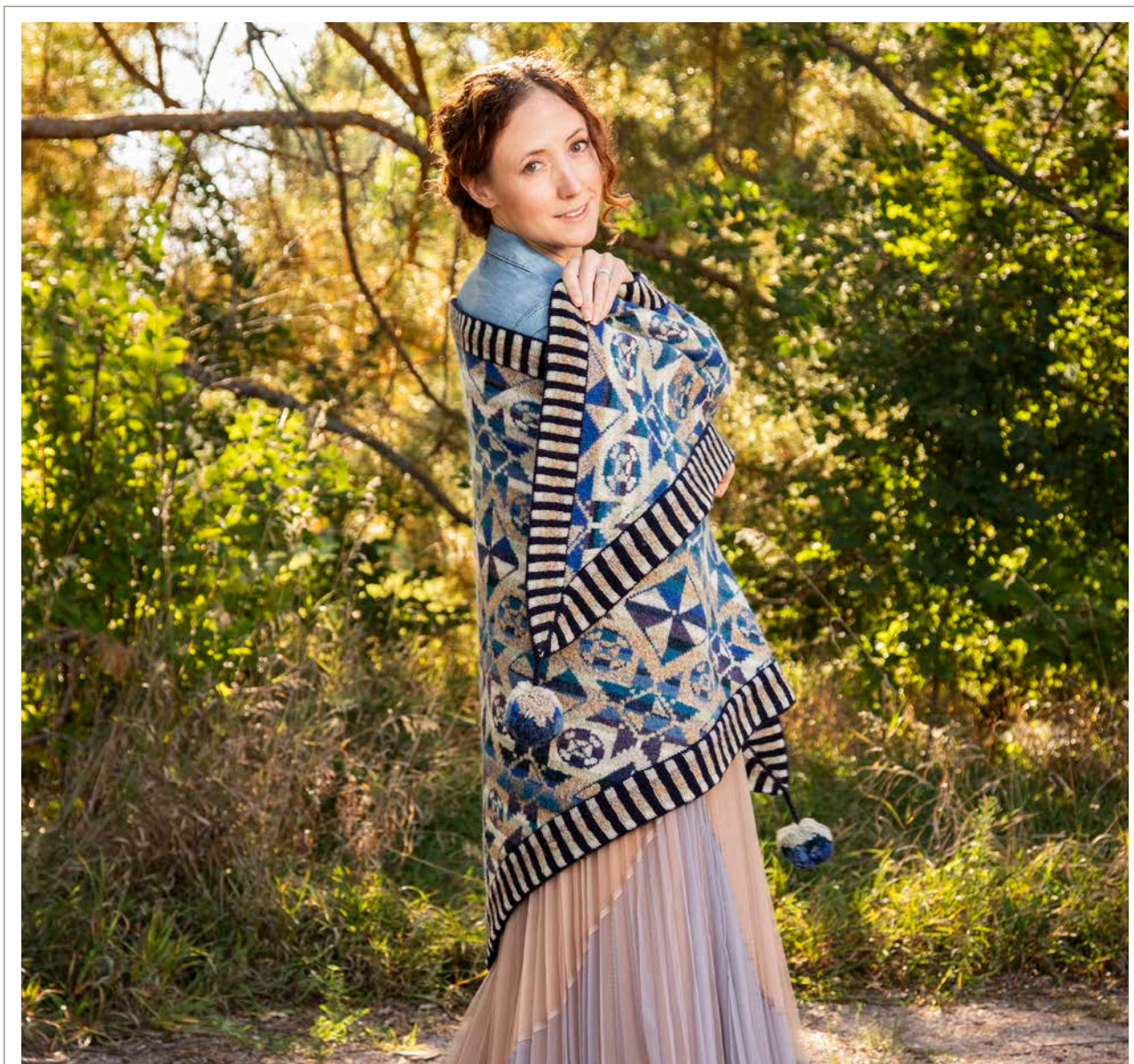# Fanø Tile Shawl

CHRISTEL SEYFARTH

Photos by Matt Graves

PIECEWORK

Fanø Tile Shawl

CHRISTEL SEYFARTH

Wrap yourself in Seyfarth's handknitted masterpiece of color and pattern.
Photos by Matt Graves unless otherwise noted

Fanø, the westernmost island of Denmark, is a small sandbar sandwiched between the great roaring North Sea and the Wadden Sea National Park. It was once the home port for Denmark's largest sailing ship fleet, surpassed only by the capital, Copenhagen. The ships transported goods on the seven seas, and the seamen were often gone for years at a time.

The tile culture on Fanø is closely related to the maritime heydays of the island. The handpainted tiles were used as ballast in the ships sailing from the Netherlands to Fanø. Once the ships returned home, the tiles were set into the walls, creating the most beautiful patterns. Around the year 1900, the golden age of sailing ships was nearing the end, and with it, the beautiful ballast cargo. Luckily, the tiles can still be found in many Fanø homes, and today they are a collector's item, whether sold singly or as multi-tile murals.

- J.C. Rennie & Co. *Supersoft Lambswool 4ply*, (100% lambswool), about 270 yd (246 m)/1.76 oz (50 g): 2 balls each of background colors #412 Cream, #221 Putty, #591 Wheatear, #621 Mushroom, #131 Oyster, and #117 Laurel; 1 ball each of pattern colors of #273 Blueprint, #358 Atlantic Spray, #1048 Ocean Force, #258 Denim, #1008 Petrel, and #158 Ivanhoe; 4 balls border color #183 New Navy
- Needles: size 4 (3.5 mm), 16" (40 cm), 24" (60 cm), and 48" (120 cm) circulars, or size needed to obtain gauge
- Stitch markers
- Contrasting sewing thread and handsewing needle or sewing machine for securing steek
- Square of cardboard 4" × 4" (10.2 × 10.2 cm) or 4" (10.2 cm) form for winding pom-poms

Finished Measurements: 88" (223.5 cm) width across upper edge, 44" (111.8 cm) length from lower point to upper edge, not including pom-poms.

Gauge: 30 sts and 33 rows/rnds = 4" (10.2 cm) in stranded stockinette chart patterns, after washing and blocking.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUE
Magic Ball

This method uses a ball of yarn made up of short lengths of different colors wound one after the other into the same ball. The shawl uses one magic ball with six background colors and another magic ball with six pattern colors. The technique is slightly random, and you will be in a constant state of suspense about how the next color combination from the balls will work out.

Arrange all the colors from one group (either background or pattern) from darkest to lightest. Starting with the darkest shade, wind 4½ to 13 yards (about 4 to 12 meters) into a ball, then continue with the next-darkest color, and so on, until you finish with the lightest shade. While creating the ball, simply overlap the old and new colors and keep rolling, without joining them. Then reverse the colors, working in order backward from lightest to darkest.

Consider how the colors blend so the result is subtle, with no harsh transitions between the colors. While you can skip colors in the sequence, avoid placing a very light color next to a very dark one. Prepare a ball about the size of a tennis ball from the background color group and a second

Antique Dutch tiles, such as these, provided the inspiration for Seyfarth's striking shawl.
Tilel: Sun, Moon, and Stars (Rozenster) 1750–1850, Artist/Maker Unknown, Dutch philamuseum.org/collection/object/205158

ball from the pattern group. You now have two balls, ready to begin knitting!

Make more balls when necessary, keeping the color gradations in mind. Do not worry about how the colors will fit into the patterns. The stripes at the start of the shawl will be taller than the later stripes worked on more stitches, but that doesn't matter. Just knit!

How to Treat Loose Ends

Many color changes mean many ends! You can avoid having to weave them in later by joining as you work. Tie the old and new colors together in a weaver's knot, leaving 2" (5 cm) tails. Smooth one tail against the working yarn on each side of the knot, moisten overlapped section, then rub it between your hands to felt the tails to the yarn. You can also splice the ends together. Do what you feel is easiest.

For step-by-step instructions on the weaver's knot, please visit LT.Media/Weavers-Knot.

NOTES

This shawl is worked in stranded stockinette colorwork. Only two colors are used for each row, a background color indicated by the white squares on the charts, and a pattern color shown by the dark squares. The colors are combined to form the background and pattern color groups using the Magic Ball method (see Special Technique).

The shawl is worked from the bottom point upward. The body of the shawl begins by working back and forth in rows, increasing until there are enough stitches to join the piece for working in the round. Steek stitches are added, and the piece continues in the round to the upper edge. The faced top border is worked as a continuation of the shawl body.

After the shawl body steek has been cut open, stitches for the side borders are picked up along the two diagonal edges of the shawl, then joined with their own steek so that they can be worked entirely in the round. After cutting the ends of the side borders apart, their steeked edges are turned to the WS and stitched invisibly to the edges of the top border.

Because the steeks in this project are inserted between diagonal edges, I prefer to sew the steek stitches by hand to maintain the elasticity of the edges instead of using a sewing machine.

When working in rows, odd-numbered chart rows are RS rows, and even-numbered chart rows are WS rows. When working in the round, read all chart rows from right to left as RS rows.

Refer to the diagram for the placement of the charts. You can also photocopy the individual charts and tape them together for a complete working copy.

Exact gauge is not critical for the success of this project, but it may affect yarn amounts.

Visit pieceworkmagazine.com/abbreviations for terms you don't know.

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INSTRUCTIONS
Body
Using the 16" (40 cm) circular needle and background color, CO 2 sts. Work in rows as follows:
*Row 1 (RS):* K2.
Row 2 (WS): K1f&b 2 times—4 sts.

Join the pattern color but work the following rows entirely in the background color, trapping the pattern color floats on the WS every 3 to 5 sts so the solid-color tip of the shawl will have the same thickness as the stranded colorwork sections.
Row 3: K1f&b with both colors held together, knit with background color to last st, k1f&b with both colors held together—2 sts inc'd.
Row 4: K1f&b with both colors held together, purl with background color to last st, k1f&b with both colors held together—2 sts inc'd.
Rows 5–14: Rep the last 2 rows 5 more times—28 sts.
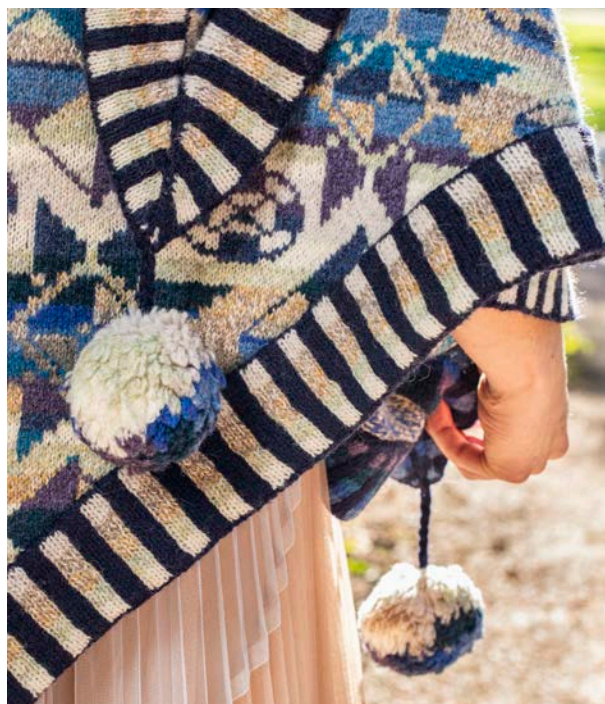
The pom-poms add a lively touch to the striped border.

Note: When working the chart patterns in rows, work each k1f&b with both colors held together, ignoring the dark or light colors of the squares in the pattern chart; this ensures that the colors are carried all the way to each selvedge.
Next row (RS): Work Row 1 of Chart 1 over 14 sts inc them to 15 sts as shown, work Row 1 of Chart 2 over 14 sts inc them to 15 sts—30 sts total.
Next row (WS): Work Row 2 of Chart 2 over 15 sts inc them to 16 sts, work Row 2 of Chart 1 over 15 sts inc them to 16 sts—32 sts total.

Continue as established until Charts 1 and 2 have been completed—120 sts total, 60 sts each chart.

Continue as established working from the main pattern Charts 3 and 4, increasing 1 st at the beginning and end of each row by working k1f&b with both colors held together.
Next row (RS): Work Row 1 of Chart 3 over 16 sts beginning the row where indicated with k1f&b with both colors held together to inc to 17 sts, pm, work Row 1 of Chart 4 over 44 sts for the right half of main pattern rep, work Row 1 of Chart 3 over 44 sts for left half of the main pattern repeat, pm, work Row 1 of Chart 4 over 16 sts inc them to 17 sts by ending with k1f&b with both colors held together—122 sts total; 88 sts between markers, 17 sts each side.
Next row (WS): Work Row 2 of Chart 4 over 17 sts inc them to 18 sts and starting one st earlier on the chart, sl m, work Row 2 of Chart 3 over

Chart 1

Key
- ☐ background color
- ▨ pattern color
- ▢ repeat (red outline)
- in rows: k1f&b with colors held together / in rnds: k1f&b with color(s) shown
- see directions

Chart 2

44 sts for left half repeat, work Row 2 of Chart 4 over 44 sts for right half repeat, sl m, work Row 2 of Chart 3 over 17 sts inc them to 18 sts ending one stitch later on the chart—124 sts total; 88 sts between markers, 18 sts each side.

Continue working as established, increasing 1 st at the beginning and end of each row until there are enough sts on the 16" (40 cm) needle to begin working in the rnd, ending with a WS row. It is your choice when this should happen.

Join in the Round

Next row (RS, odd-numbered chart row): K1f&b with both colors held together, work next row of Charts 3 and 4 to last required st of the current row, k1f&b with color(s) shown on chart, pm for beginning of steek, use the backward loop method to CO 5 steek sts as [1 st pattern color, 1 st background color] 2 times, 1 st pattern color, pm for end of steek and end of rnd, then join for working in the rnd—2 body sts inc'd; 5 new steek sts, not shown on charts.

Note: When working the chart patterns in the round, change to working each k1f&b with the color(s) shown for each stitch in the increase.

Next rnd: K1f&b with color(s) shown, work next row of charts to 1 st before steek m, k1f&b with color(s) shown, sl m, work 5 steek sts using the opposite color for each st for a checkerboard steek pattern—2 body sts inc'd.

When the stitches on each end of the row have increased to the full width of the chart, pm between repeats and begin another repeat of Chart 3, left half, and Chart 4, right half.

Continue in pattern as established until Rnd 86 of all charts has been completed—297 sts total;

88 marked center sts, 44 sts in half-repeats each side of center, 58 sts each side, 5 steek sts.

Next rnd: Continue in pattern as established, starting over with Row 1 of Chart 3 and Chart 4 until Rnd 86 of all charts has been completed—469 sts total; 264 marked center sts, 44 sts in half-repeats each side of center, 56 sts each side, 5 steek sts.

Next rnd: Continue in pattern as established, starting over with Row 1 of Chart 3 and Chart 4 until Rnd 61 of all charts has been completed—591 sts total; 440 marked center sts, 73 sts each side, 5 steek sts.

Top Border

Cut pattern color, but do not cut background color. Join New Navy border color. Remove pattern m as you come to them in the next rnd, leaving m on each side of steek in place.

Next rnd: With border color, k1f&b, knit to 1 st before steek m, k1f&b, sl m, k5 steek sts—588 body sts, 5 steek sts.

Next rnd: With border color, k1f&b, knit to steek m, sl m, k5 steek sts—589 body sts, 5 steek sts.

Next rnd: K1f&b with border color, k1 with border color, *k3 with background color, k3 with border color; rep from * to 5 sts before m, k3 with background color, k1 with border color, k1f&b with border color, sl m, work 5 steek sts as established—591 body sts, 5 steek sts.

Working new sts at each side into established 3×3 colorwork pattern, continue to inc 1 st at each end of shawl body every rnd. Work in pattern until top border measures 2" (5.1 cm) from last chart rnd.

With border color, knit 1 rnd, purl 1 rnd for facing fold line, then knit 1 more rnd.

Exchange the colors in the border facing, using the border color for the columns that were previously in the background color, and vice versa. Continue as follows:

Next rnd: K1 in border color, ssk in color of first st on left needle, work 3×3 color-work pattern with colors reversed to 3 sts before m, k2tog in color of second st on left needle, k1 in border color, sl m, work
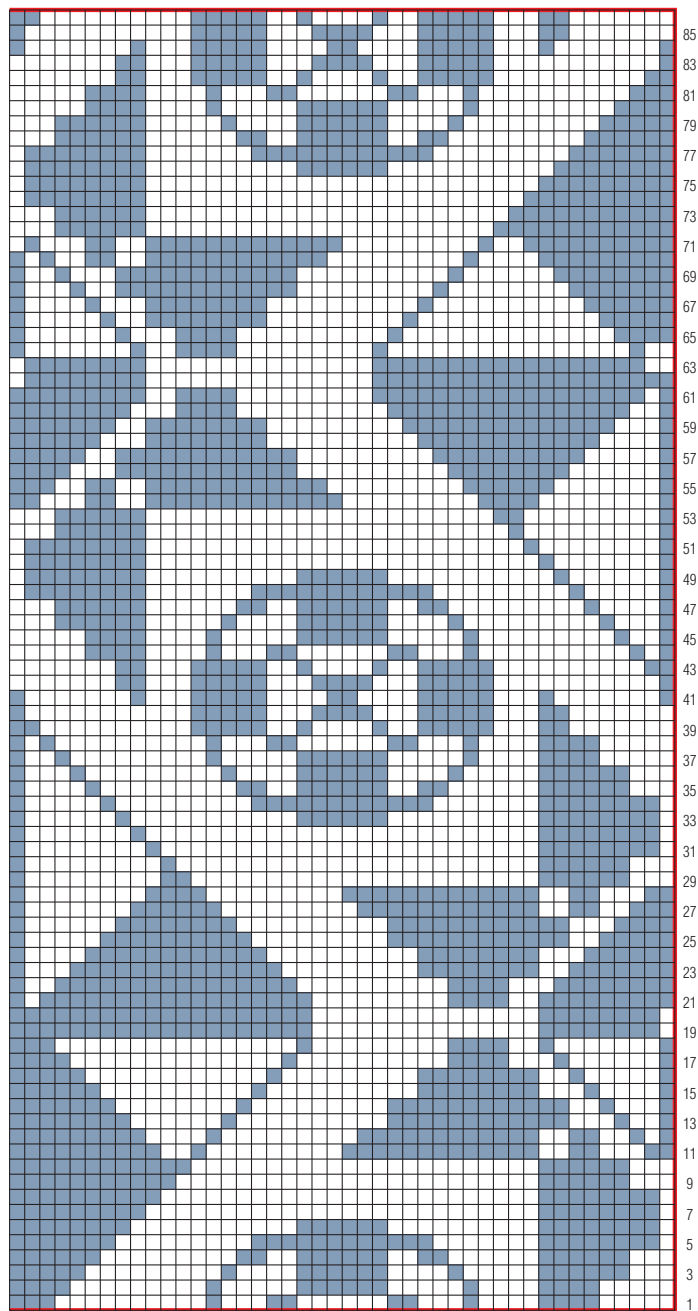
Chart 3, main chart left half

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Begin 1st repeat of left main chart

88-st repeat (both halves)

Chart 4, main chart right half

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21
19
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⌐ End 1st repeat of right main chart

5 steek sts as established—2 body sts dec'd.

Rep the last rnd until facing contains the same number of 3×3 colorwork rnds as the RS of top border. Cut background color.

With border color, knit 1 rnd. BO all sts with border color.

Secure Steek

Using handsewn backstitches or a sewing machine (see Notes), sew a line of stitches between the 1st and 2nd steek stitches, then sew another line between the 4th and 5th steek stitches. Turn the work inside out so you can see the lines of stitching clearly. Before cutting, you may want to lightly felt the steek by steaming with a steam iron. Carefully cut the steek open along its center stitch.

Secure any loose ends, and steam-press the shawl lightly.

Side Borders

Using the New Navy border color and 40" (100 cm) circular needle, with RS facing and starting in last chart rnd at top left corner of shawl body, pick up and knit 295 sts (about 1 for every row or rnd) between the chart pattern and the steek along one side, pm, pick up and knit 2 sts from lower point CO, pm, then pick up and knit the same number of sts along other side, ending in the last chart rnd at the top right corner of shawl body, pm for beginning of steek, use the backward loop method to CO 5 steek sts, pm for end of steek and end of rnd, then join for working in the rnd—295 sts each side section, 2 marked point sts, 5 steek sts.

With border color, knit 1 rnd.

Next rnd: *K1f&b with border color, k1 with border color, [k3 with background color, k3 with border color] 48 times, k3 with background color, k1 with border color, k1f&b with border color,* sl m, k2 point sts with border color, sl m; rep from * to * once more, sl m, work 5 steek sts as [1 st border color, 1 st background color] 2 times, 1 st border color—297 sts each side section in 3×3 colorwork pattern, 2 marked point sts, 5 steek sts.

Working new sts into 3×3 colorwork
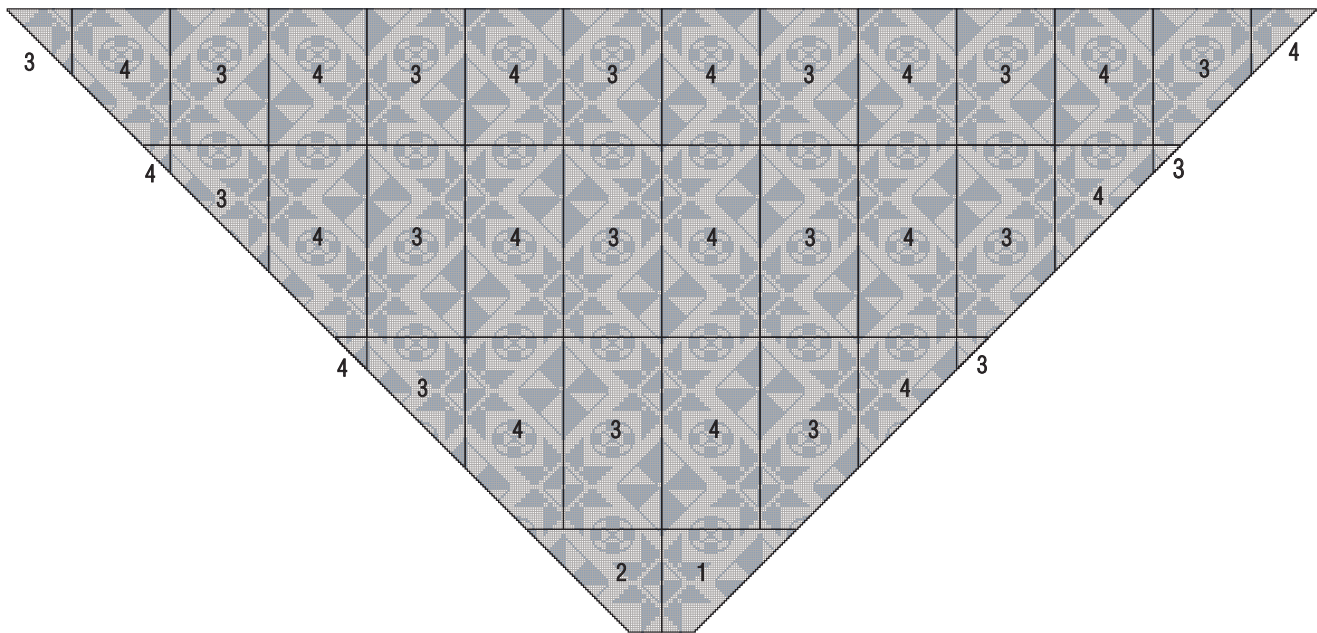
pattern, working 2 marked point sts in border color, and working steek in checkerboard pattern, continue to inc 1 st at each end of both side sections every rnd, taking care to mirror the pattern on each side of the 2 marked point sts. Work in pattern until side borders measure 2½" (6.5 cm) from pickup rnd.

With border color, knit 1 rnd, purl 1 rnd for facing fold line, then knit 1 more rnd.

As for the top border, exchange the colors in the side border facings, using the border color for the columns that were previously in the background color and vice versa. Continue as follows:

Next rnd: *K1 in border color, ssk in color of first st on left needle, work 3×3 colorwork pattern with reversed colors to 3 sts before m, k2tog in color of second st on left needle, k1 in border color,* sl m, k2 point sts with border color, sl m; rep from * to * once more, sl m, work 5 steek sts as established—2 sts dec'd each side section.

Rep the last rnd until facings contain the same number of 3×3 colorwork rnds as the RS of side borders. Cut background color.

With border color, knit 1 rnd. BO all sts with border color.

Sew and cut steek as for shawl body.

FINISHING

Secure any loose ends. Steam-press again, turning facings to WS along purled fold lines and lightly pressing the folds.

Sew BO edges of facings as invisibly as possible to WS of shawl, making sure the side borders cover the cut edges of the shawl body. Fold cut edges of side border steek to WS and sew side and top borders together along their mitered corners, easing to fit.

Pom-poms

Make three pom-poms. For each, cut a 12" (30.5 cm) length of yarn and set it aside. Wind the first color around the cardboard until the pom-pom is halfway full, then wind the rest of the way with the second color. Slide the length of yarn between the wrappings and the cardboard at the top, remove the cardboard, and tie the strand firmly to cinch the wound yarn. Using sharp scissors, cut the across the bottom of the wrappings to open the pom-pom. Fluff the strands, and trim into a round shape. Attach one pom-pom to each corner using a 2" (5.1 cm) length of twisted cord in border color.

Using liquid wool soap gently wash the shawl in lukewarm water, either by hand or in the washing machine on the wool cycle. Rinse well and run an extra spin cycle if necessary to remove excess water. Lay flat until thoroughly dry. Press again using a steam iron and lots of steam.   ❖

CHRISTEL SEYFARTH is one of Denmark's best known knitwear designers, with fans all over the world. She is particularly known for her fantastic pattern mix and an exceptional eye for colors. Christel Seyfarth has developed knitting techniques that make her complicated models much, much easier to knit than you might think at first glance. She works from her studio store on the island of Fanø in Denmark. Read more about Christel Seyfarth at christel-seyfarth.dk.

Key

- ☐ background color
- ▨ pattern color
- ▢ (red outline) repeat

in rows: k1f&b with colors held together
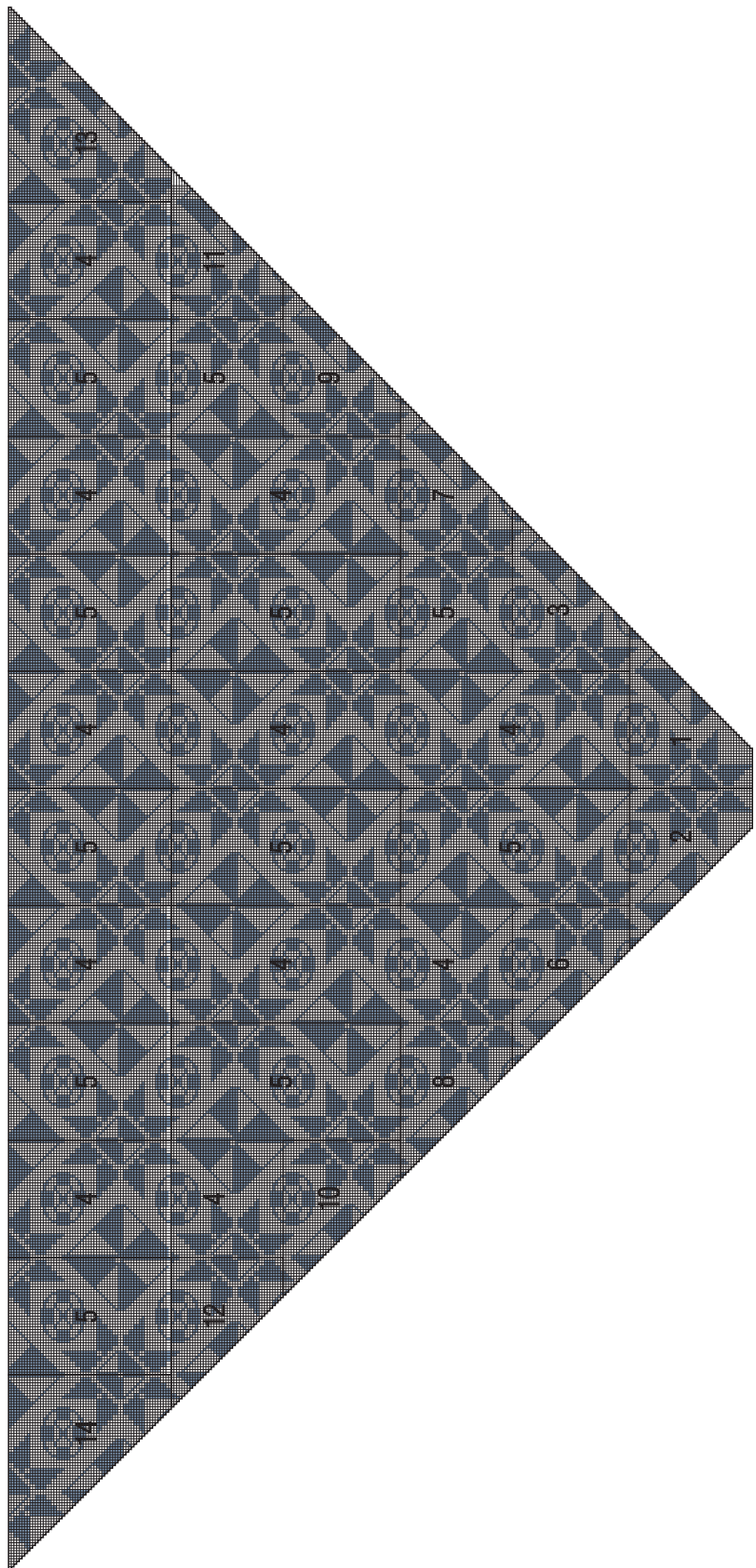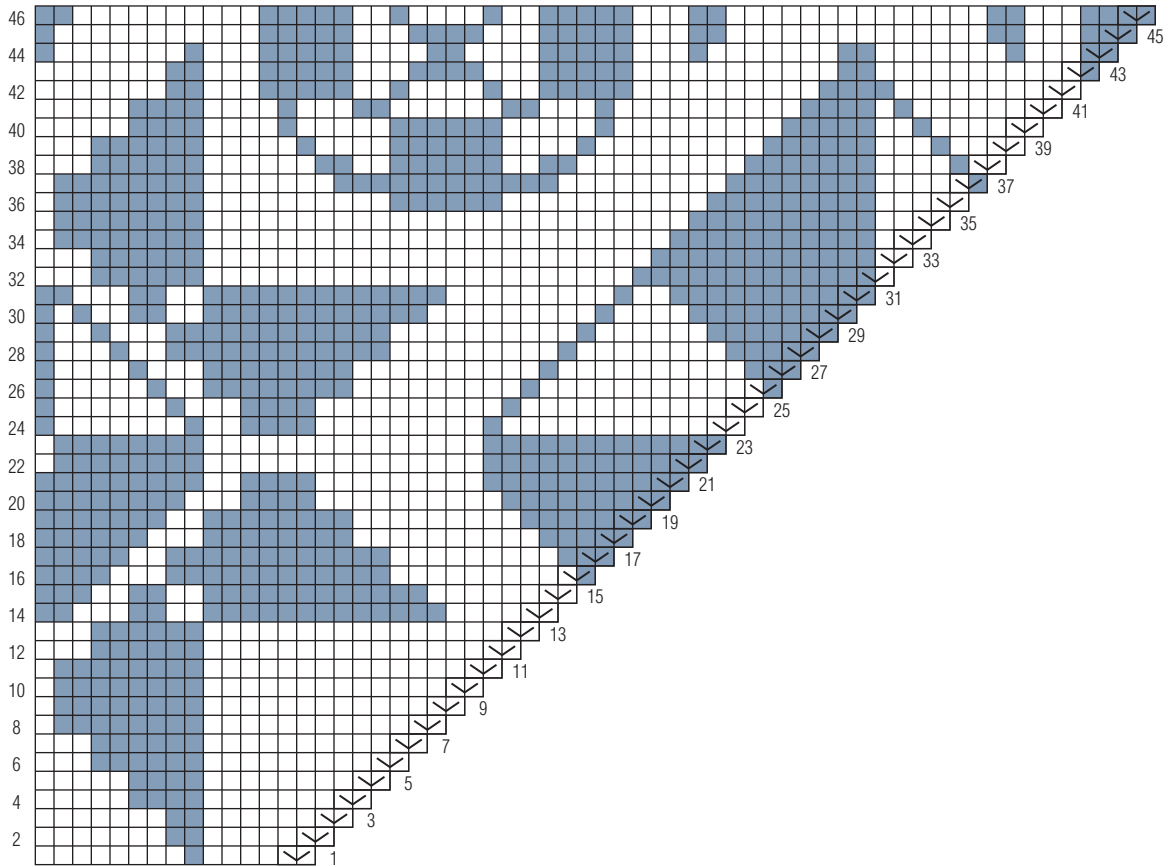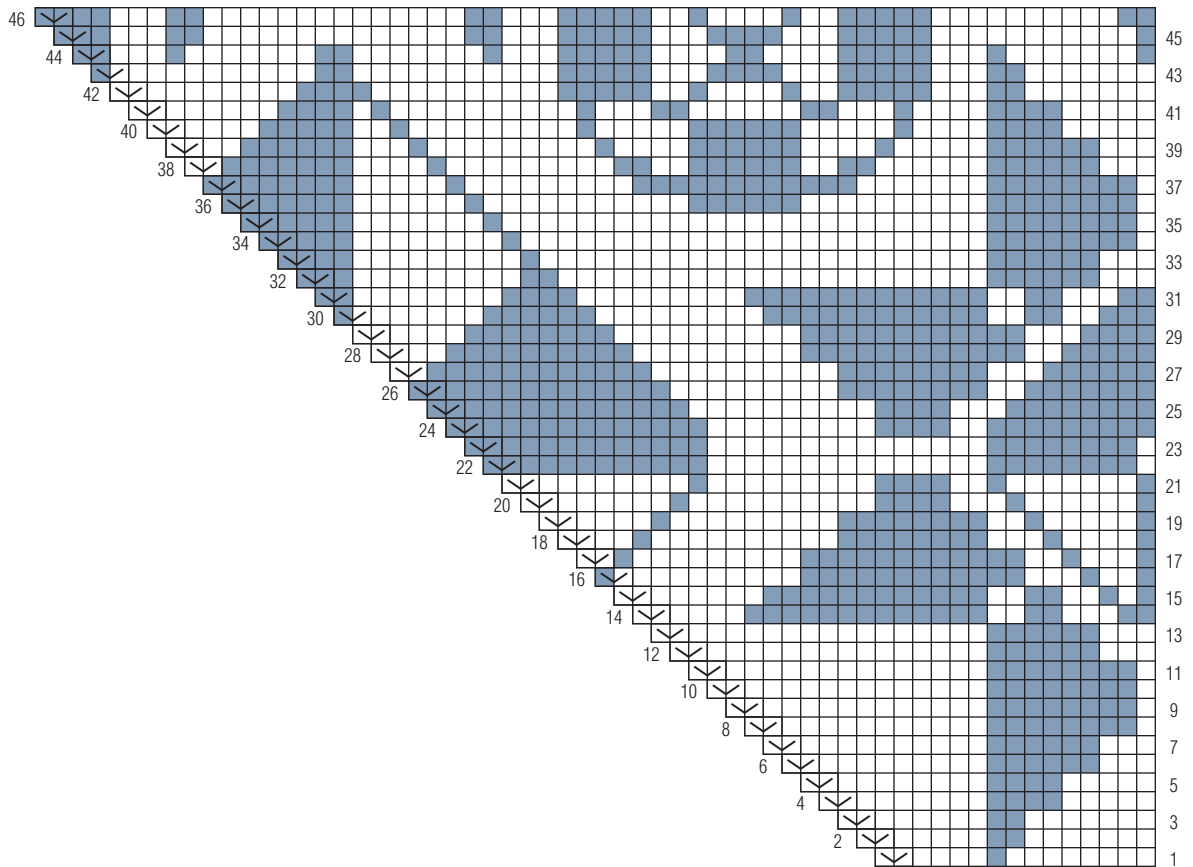in rnds: k1f&b with color(s) shown

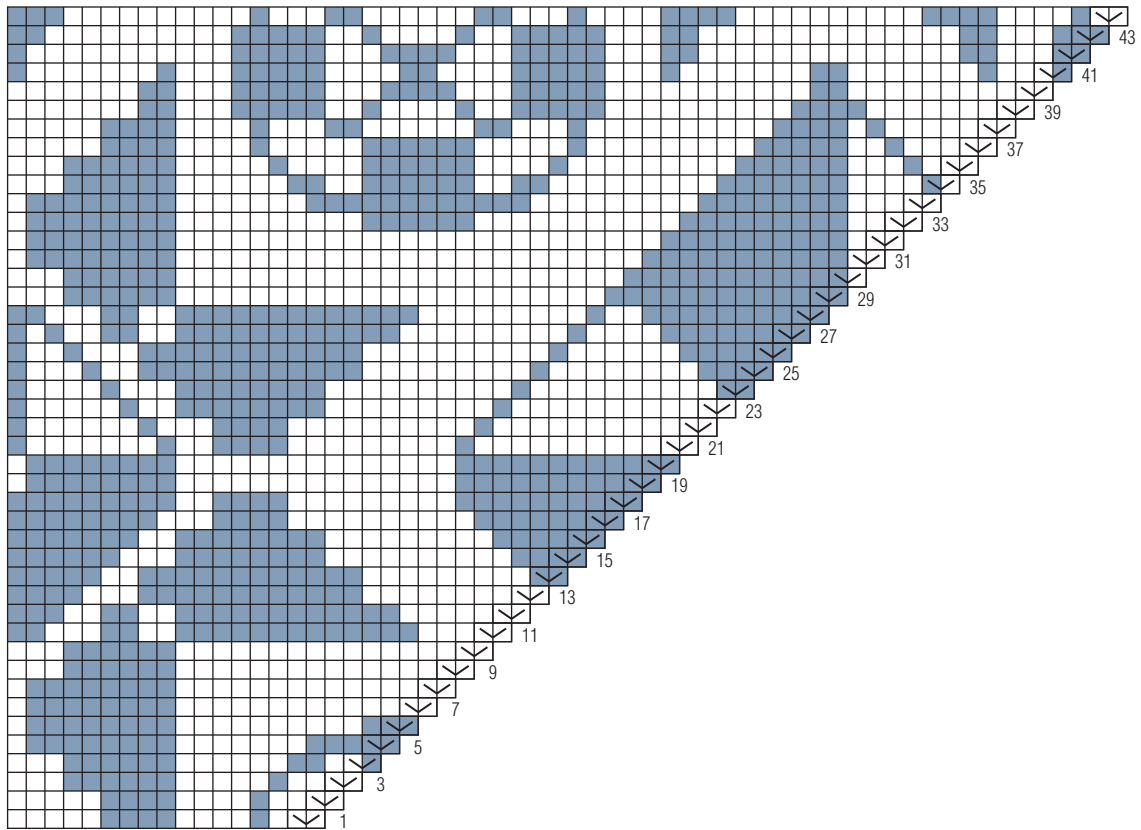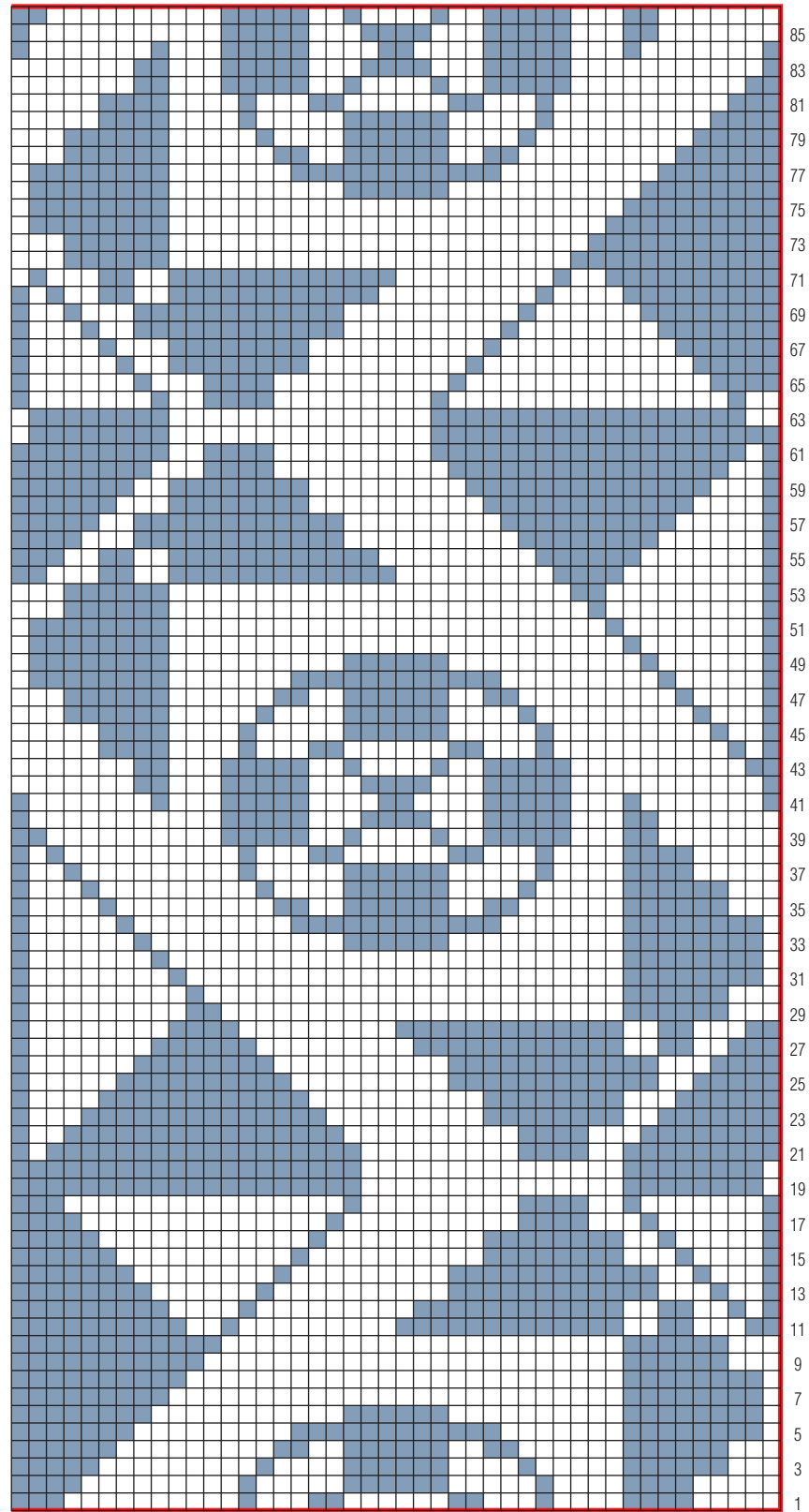see directions

Chart Layout

Chart 1
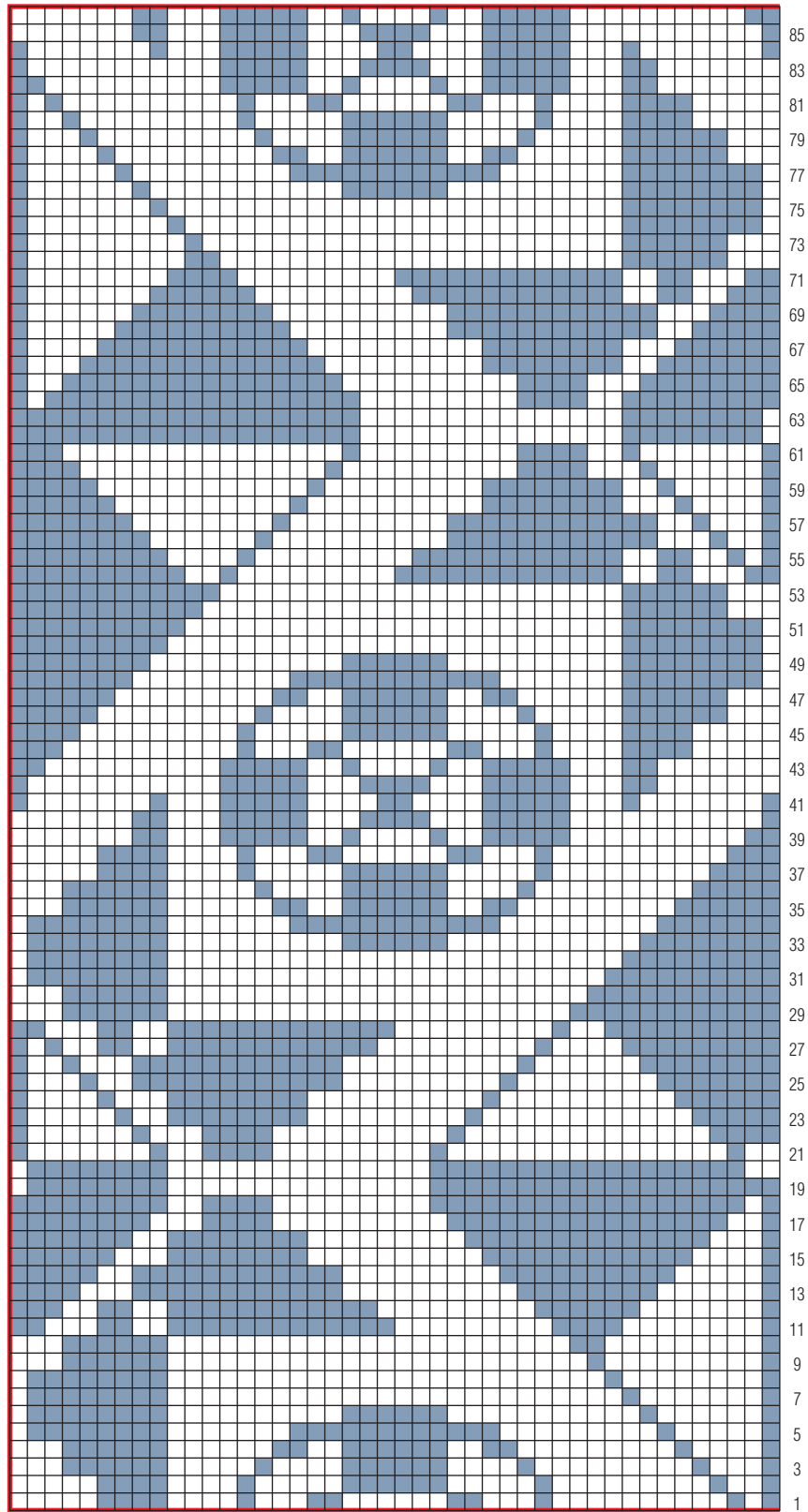

Chart 2

Chart 3

Chart 4 repeat right half

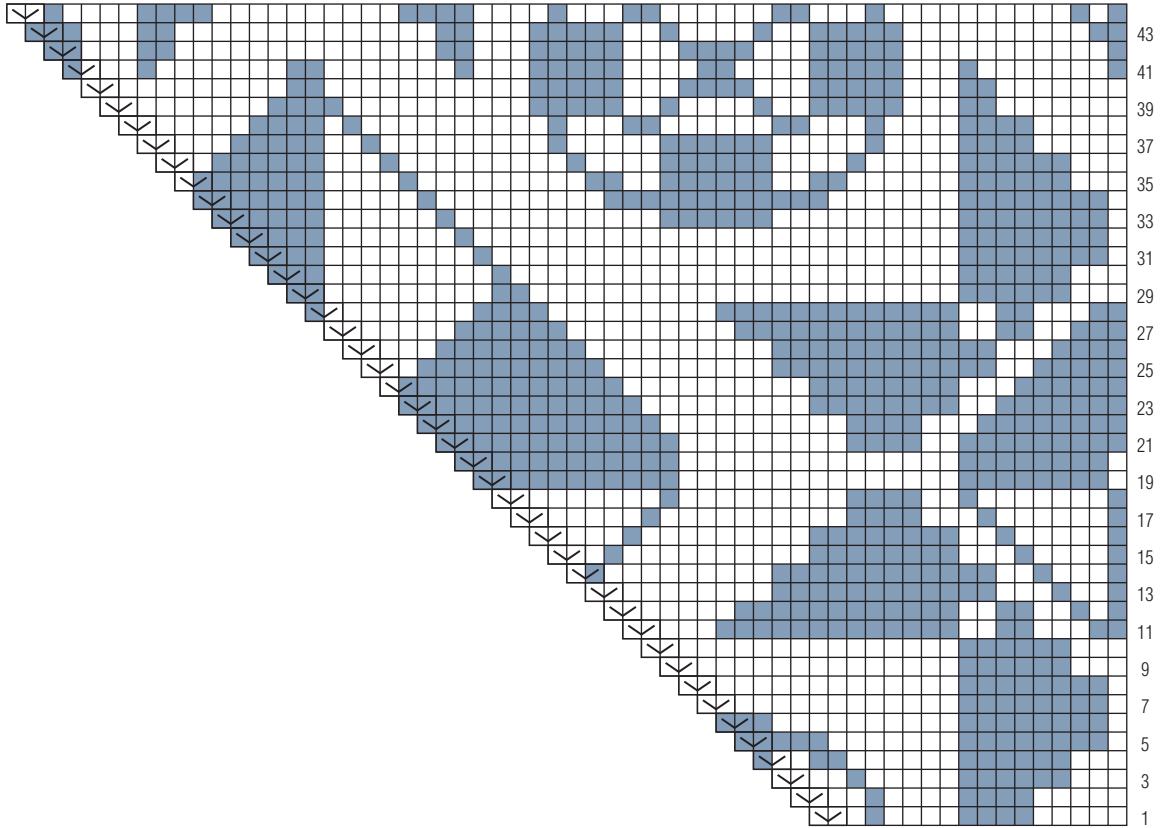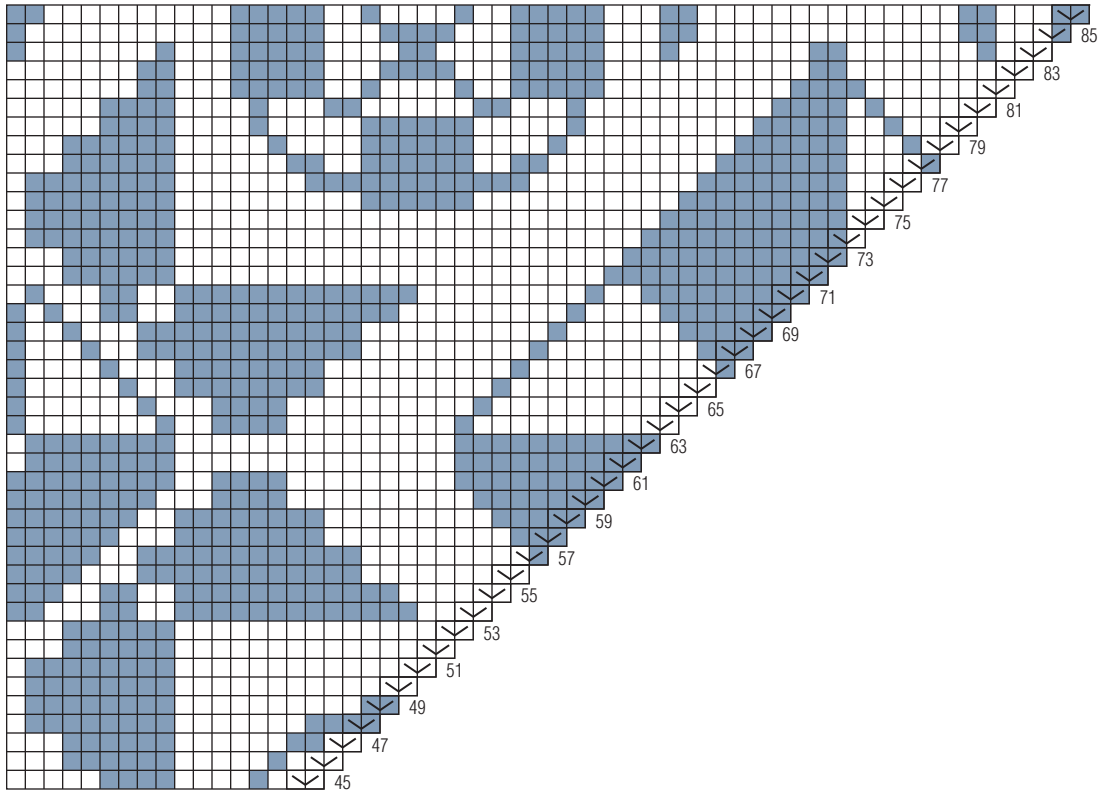Chart 5, repeat left half

Chart 6

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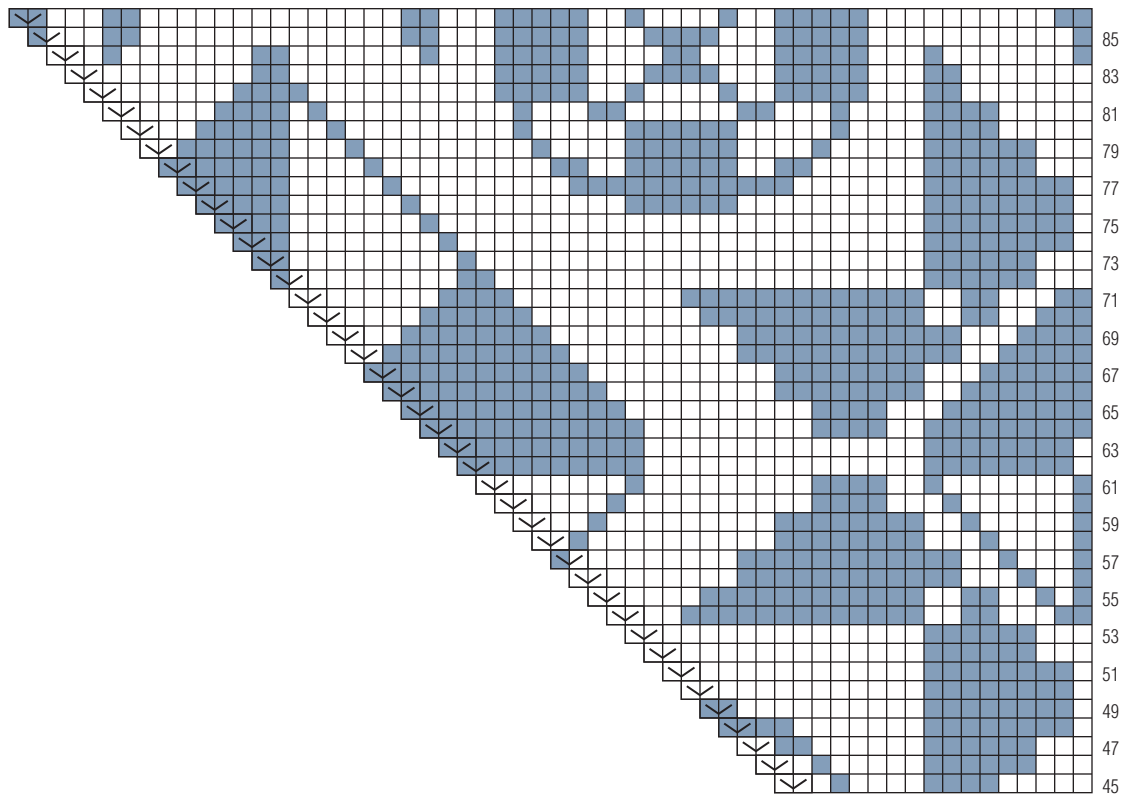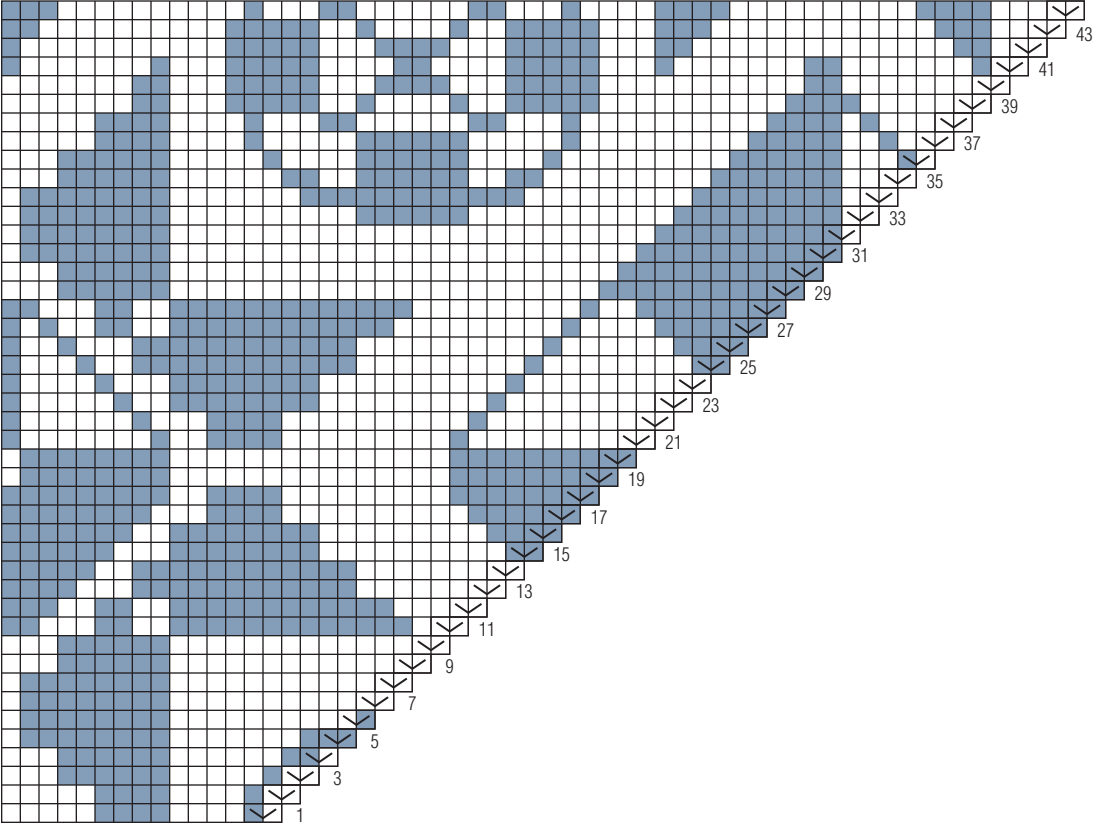41
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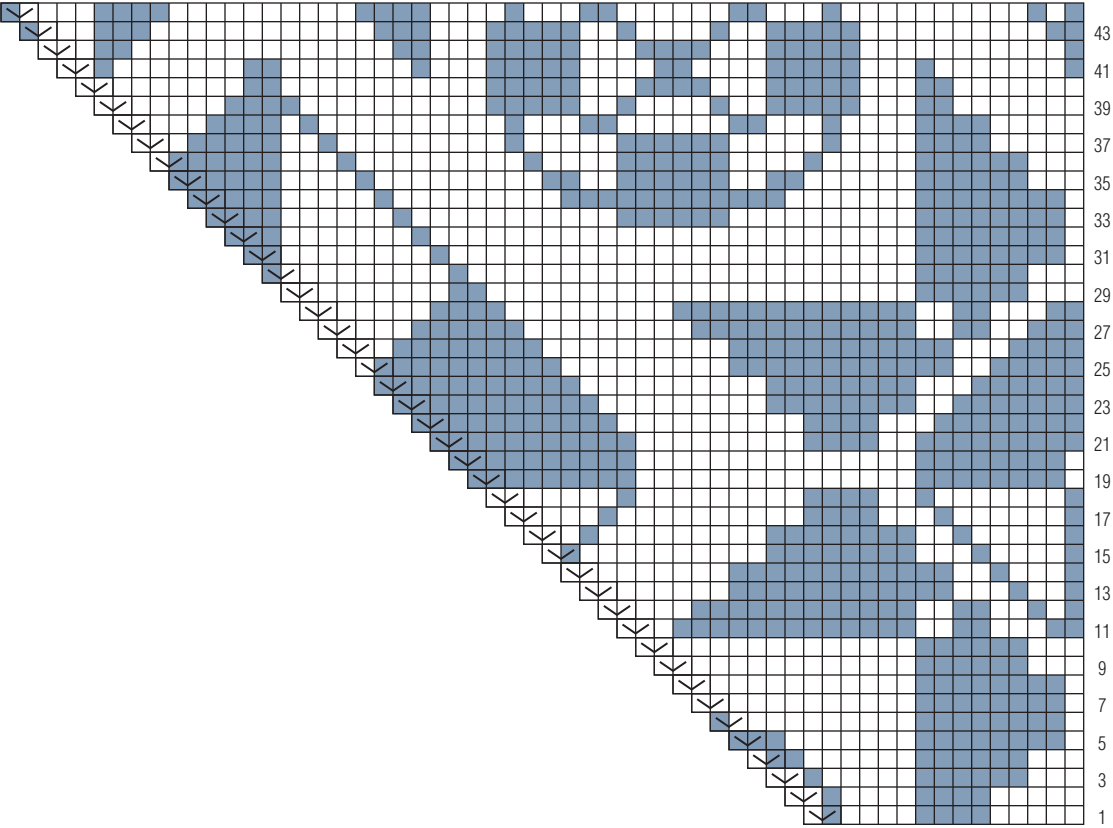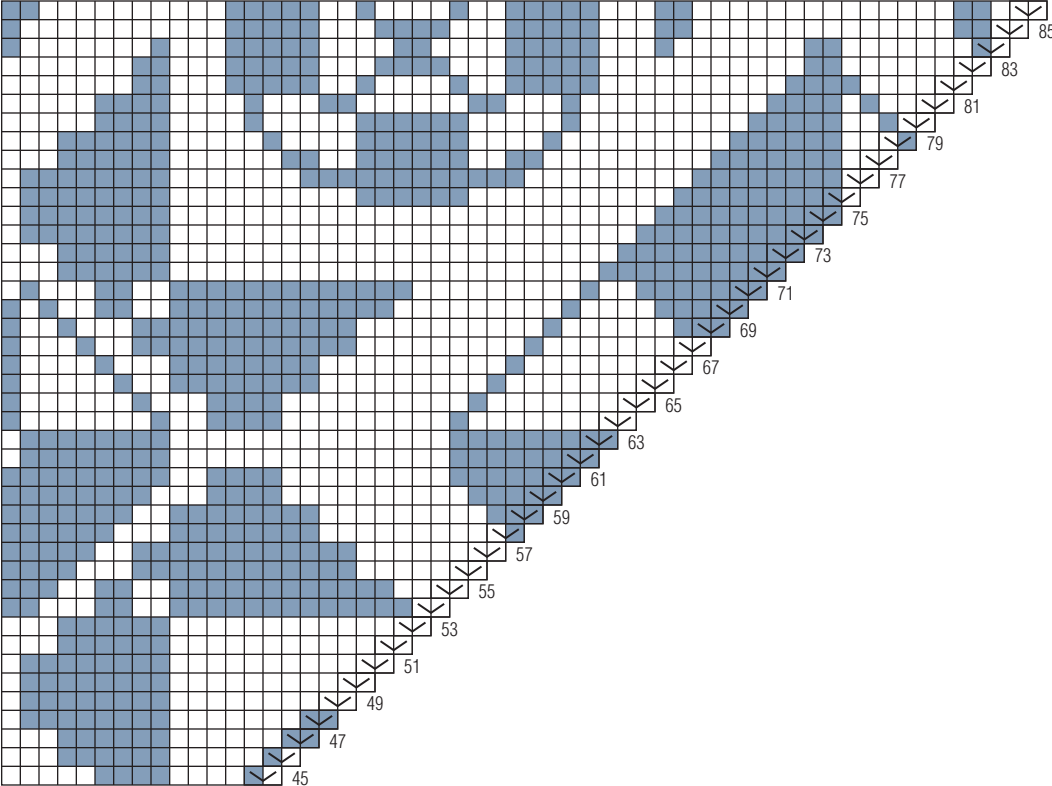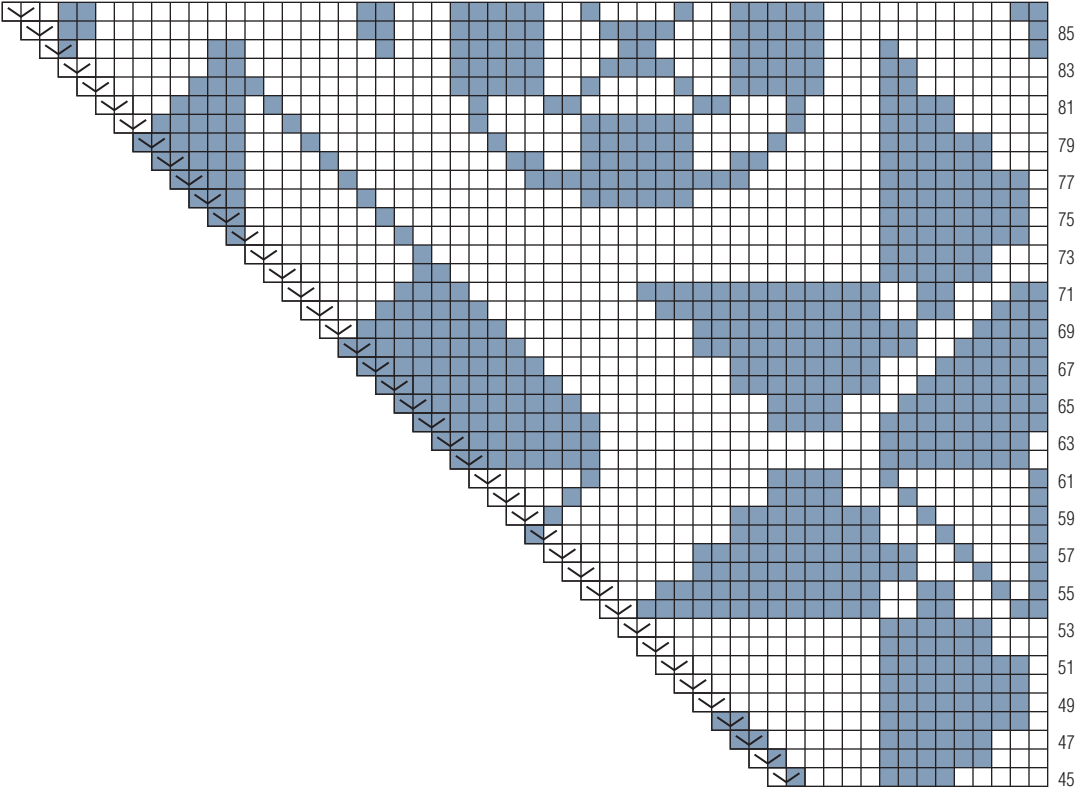21
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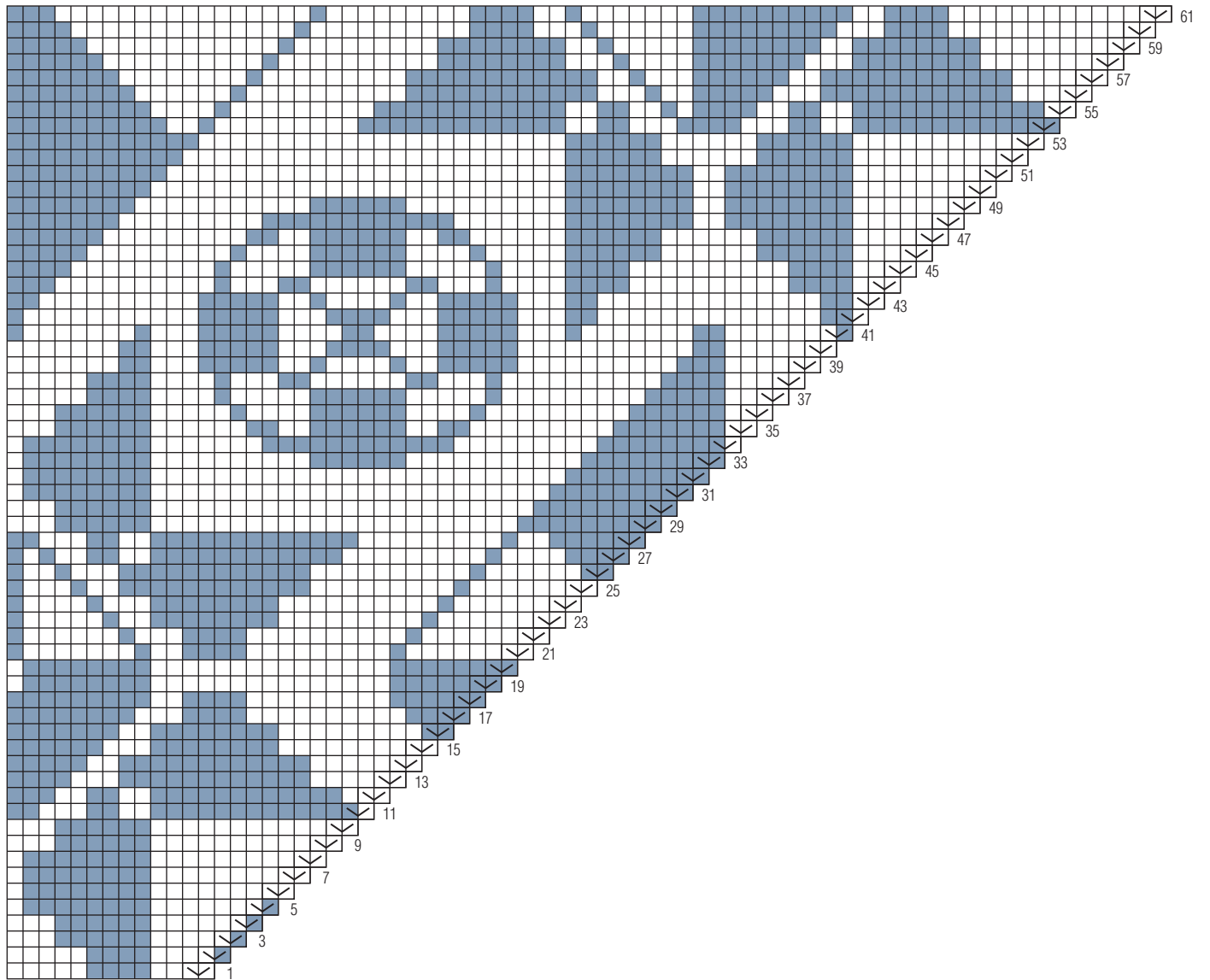17
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Chart 7

Chart 8

Chart 9

Chart 10

Chart 11

Chart 12

Chart 13

Chart 14