# USING A MOTIF AS AN ALL-OVER PATTERN

Suppose we find on a small project a single, unrepeated motif that we really like, and now we want to use it in a much bigger piece, such as a blanket or sweater. There are a few details to consider about copying such a motif all over a new project.

Let's use the purl-diamond motif. Since on a chart we can easily see which stitches make up the motif, let's look at how we might repeat it to make a blanket.

We'll use a smaller version of the motif with only four purl bumps on each side of the diamond, because the resulting charts will be smaller while we're working through the steps.[1]
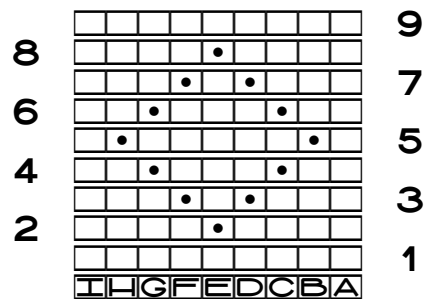
Let's put nine of these motifs together, with shading to show each motif repeat clearly. We'll also keep the original row numbers and stitch letters for the time being.

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[1] In reality, if we went from a small piece like a hot pad to a big item like a blanket, we might well want to use a bigger version of the motif, which we have already learned how to do when we changed the basket-weave hot-pad project from four-by-four purl blocks to eight-by-eight purl blocks in chapter 230.
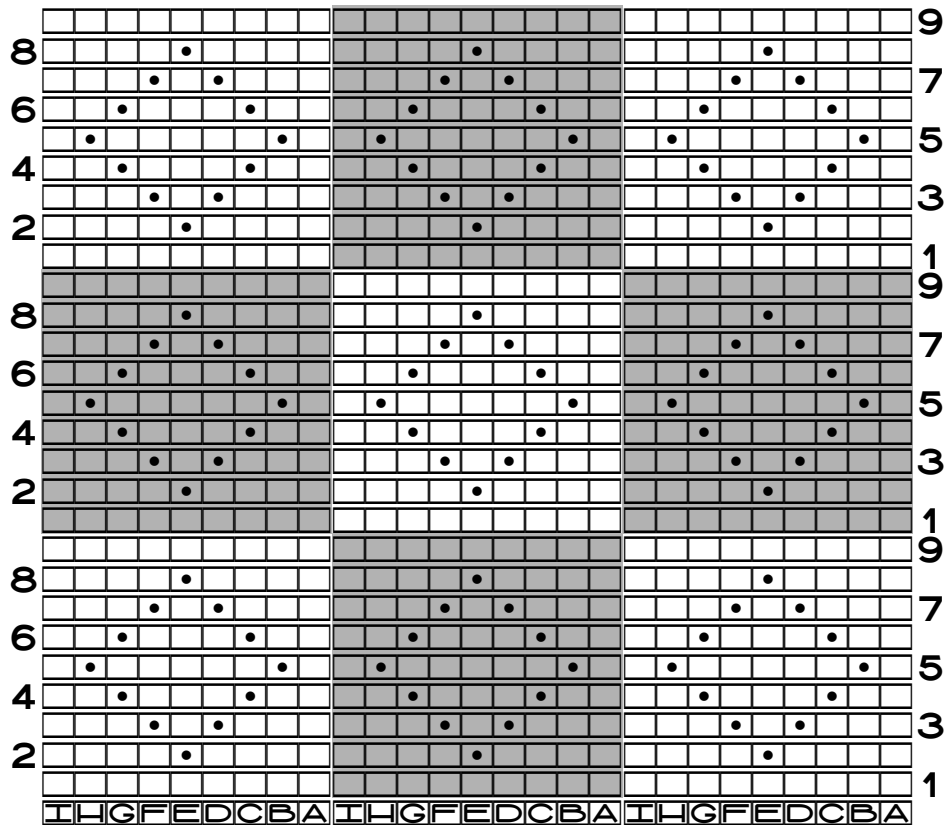
Note that we have two public-side rows next to each other in two spots, where row nine of one row of diamonds meets row one of next row of diamonds. To fix this, we could do one of two things.

1. We simply renumber the rows, leaving the motifs as they are. If that's our design decision, we're done.

2. We eliminate one of those two adjacent public-side rows.

The second option would leave only a single plain row between the points of the diamonds. Let's work through the second option, eliminating the two instances of row nine that are next to a row one, because it's more difficult and takes extra steps that we wouldn't otherwise work through.

IHGFEDCBA IHGFEDCBA IHGFEDCBA
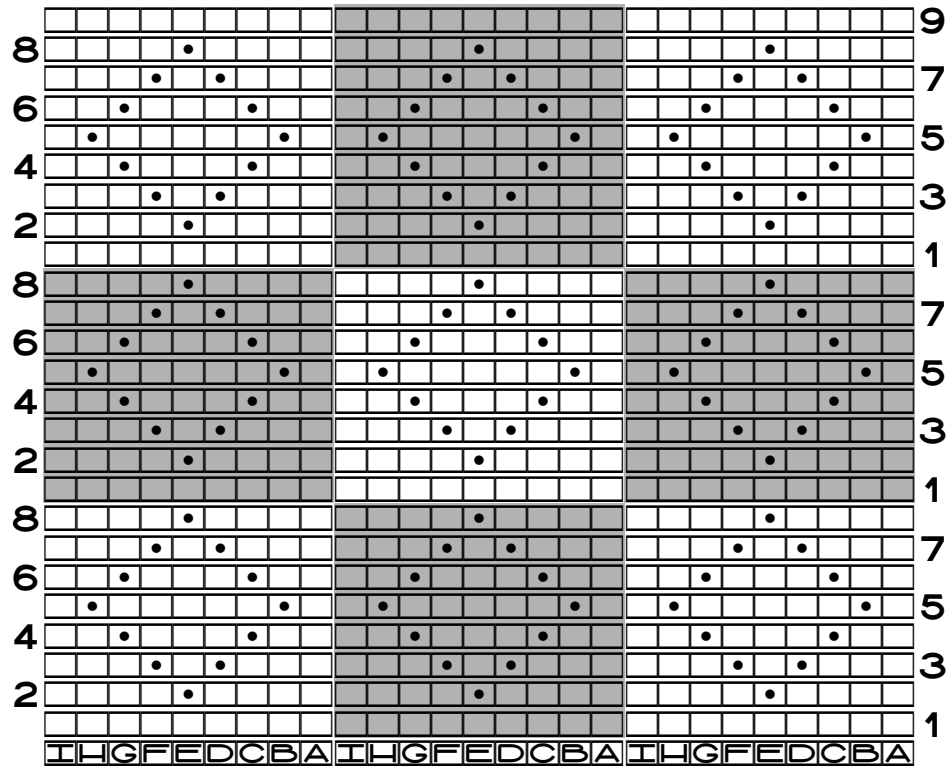
Note that where the diamonds are next to one another in each row of motifs, there are two stitches, I and A, between one diamond's left point and the next diamond's right point. Since we now have only one row between the two rows of diamonds, let's also have only one stitch between the columns of diamonds to keep the design symmetrical.
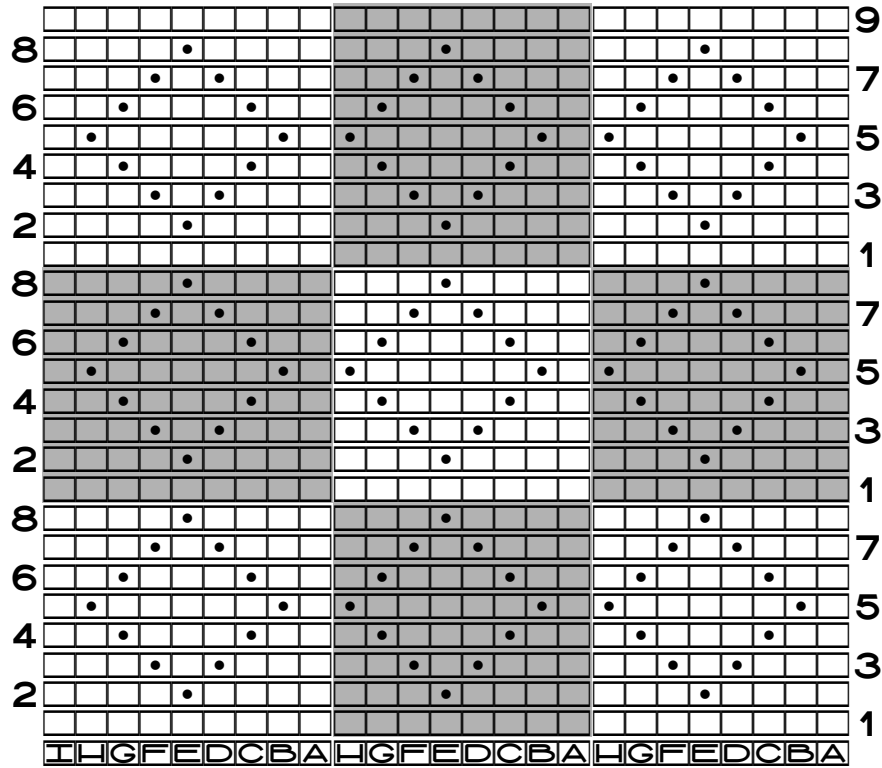
Now, let's renumber the rows and relabel the stitches for absolute clarity in the discussion. Let's also remove the shading so we can truly see the overall appearance of the motifs.

| 24																25

YXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA
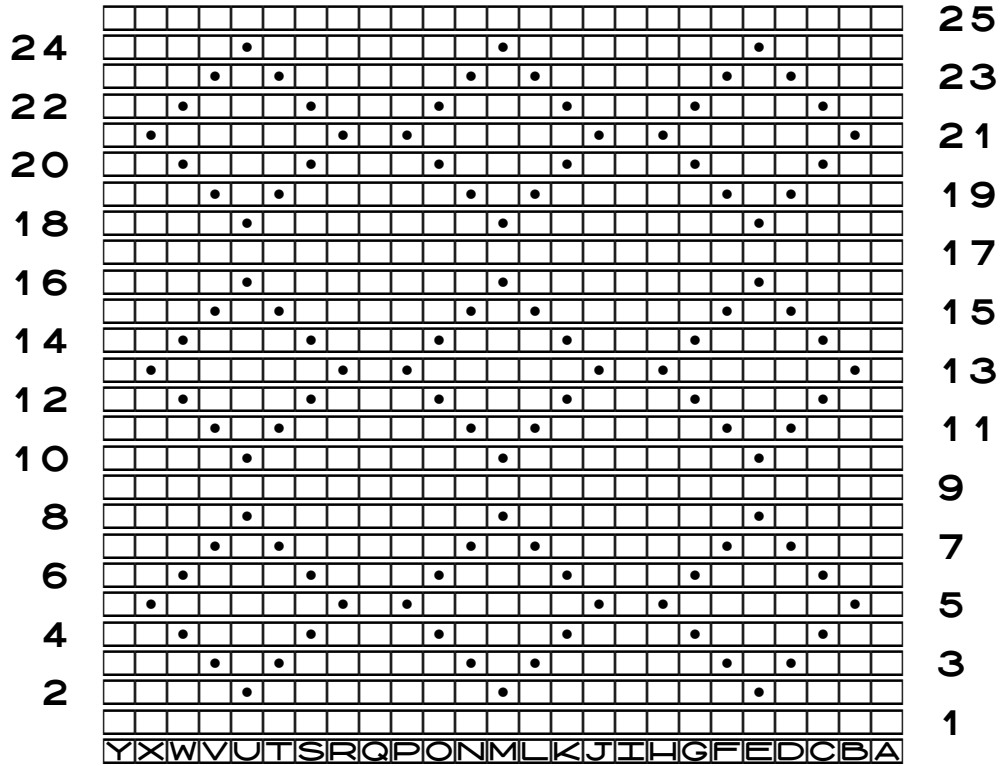
So we have nine diamonds, separated from one another by one stitch (stitches I and Q) and one row (rows nine and seventeen). We have plain rows, one and twenty-five, before the first row of diamonds and after the last row of diamonds. There is also a single stitch on the right and left edges, stitches A and Y.

At this point, we determine the stitch repeat and the row repeat, which we have already learned how to do.[2]
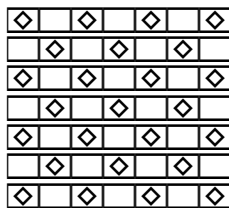
Other Ways to Arrange Motifs

In this first example, we arranged copies of the motif like this:[3]

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
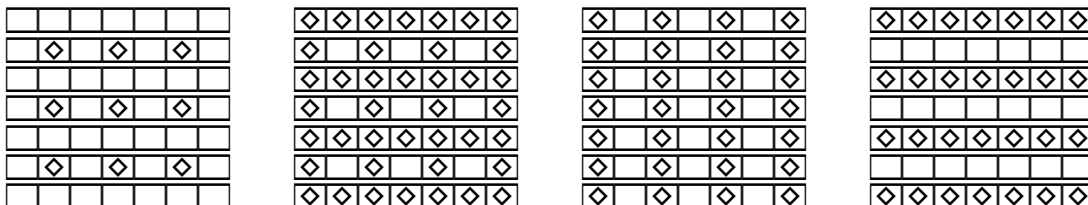◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

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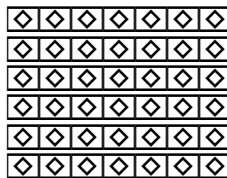
[2] And the pattern repeat happens to be any of the four variations in chapter 210.

[3] This mini-chart is made with a symbol in the knitting font, which has symbols containing a variety of geometric shapes.
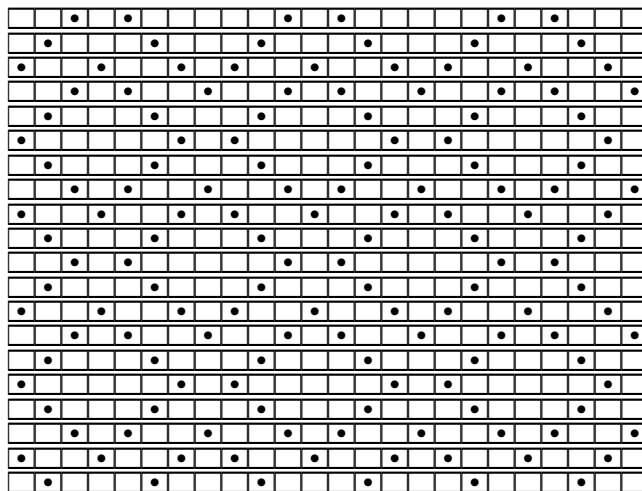
But we could have arranged them in any number of ways, like this


or any of these

We could also have overlapped the diamonds within the rows and/or columns, since the motif has diagonal lines.

For any of these options, and any others you might dream up, determine the stitch and row repeat, figure out the number of stitches to cast on, and get going on your own designer project—designed by you!

A Closer Look at the Interlocking Diamonds

Let's look at this pattern by making lots of copies of it. We'll have to make the font pretty small to see several repeats.
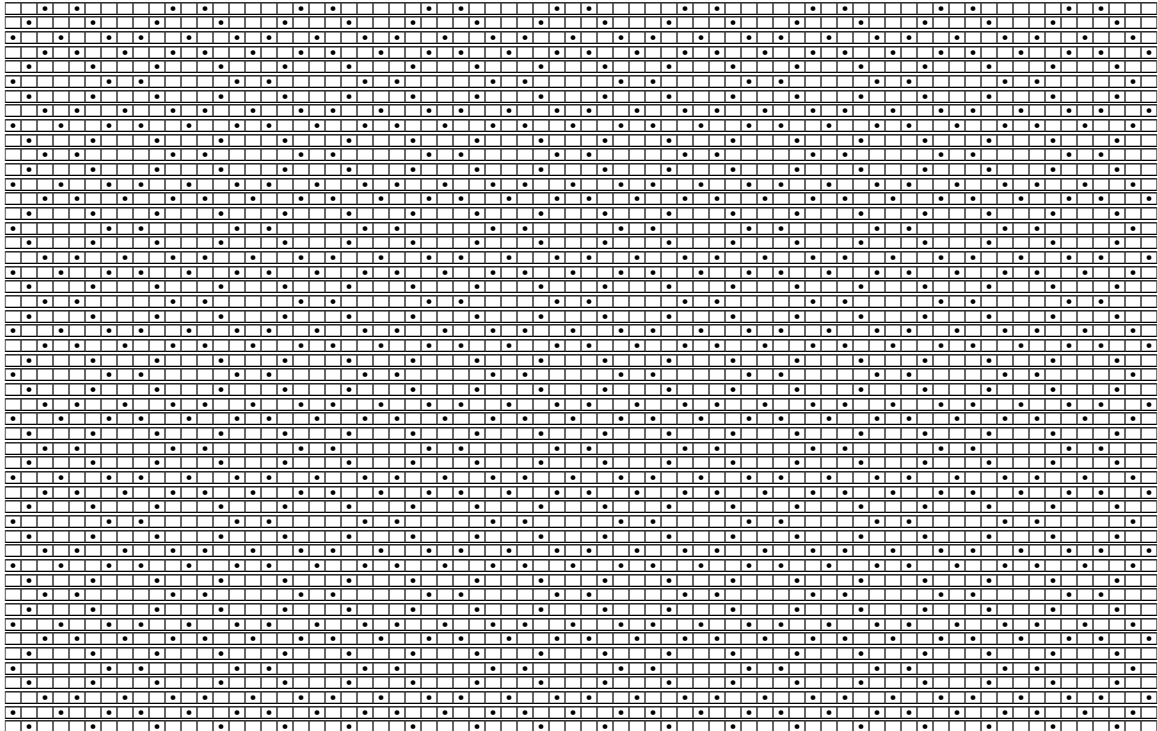

    There are a couple of issues, now that we have enough repeats to get a real idea of what a blanket would look like.

1. The partial diamonds on all four sides don't look very good. (This, of course, is a matter of taste.)

2. The diamonds have a hiccup effect if we try to follow a diagonal line.

Fixing Problem #1

If we decide to have only whole diamonds in the main part of the blanket, we will need plus stitches before and after the stitch repeat, just like we did in the first variation of the basket-weave pattern in chapter 230. Likewise, we might need plus rows before and/or after the row repeat.

    As an exercise, create that chart, which will give this pattern as the main field of the blanket:
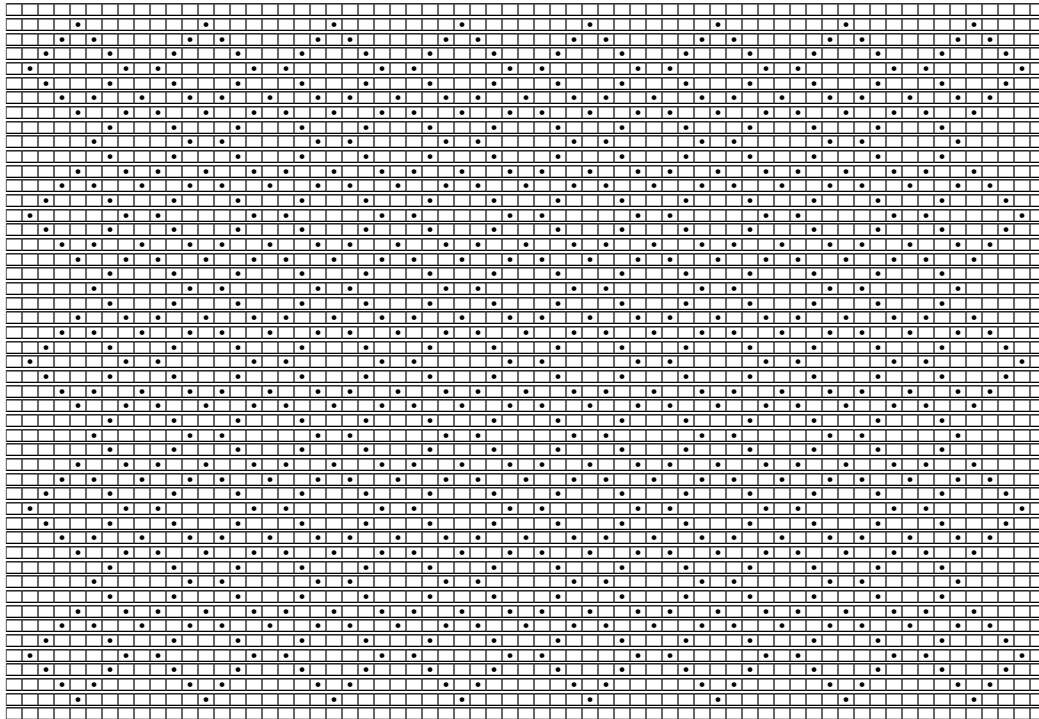
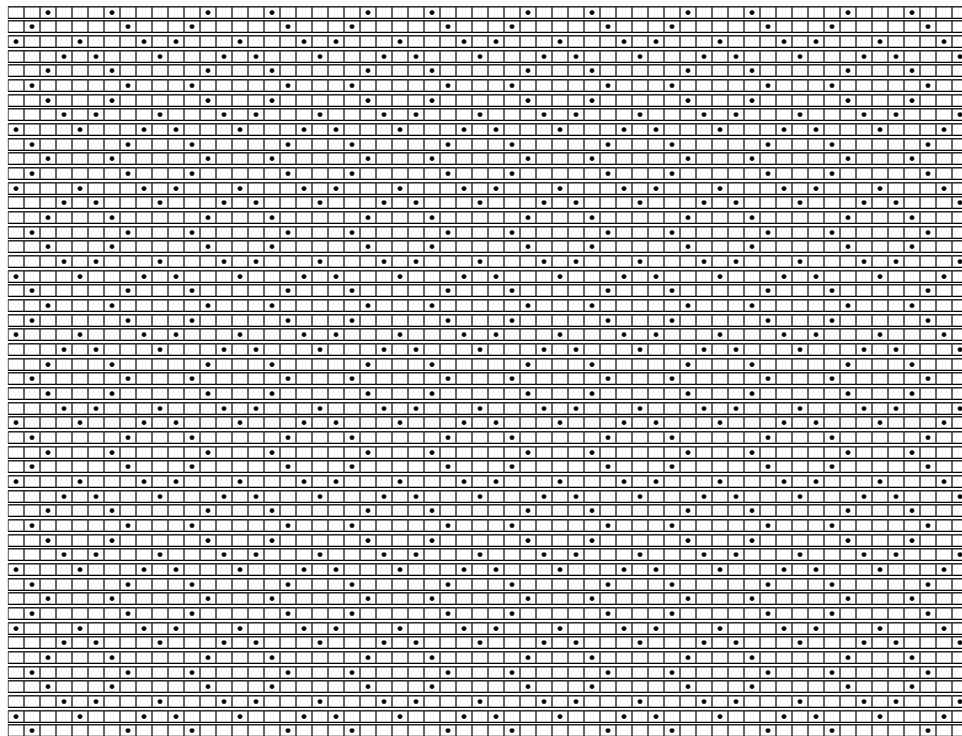One possible chart is shown in the Answers.

Fixing Problem #2

After fixing problem one, do you see how the diagonal lines formed by the edges of the dia-monds still have the hiccup?

Start at the lower-left corner, and follow the diamond's upper-left line to the same line on the diamond at its upper right. The line moves over one stitch, but it moves up two rows, which is what causes the hiccup. We can see the hiccup all the way along that line to the very top of the chart. The same hiccup occurs if we follow any side of the motif.

Compare that effect to this option, where the diamonds' edges are all in totally straight lines with respect to one another, without hiccups.
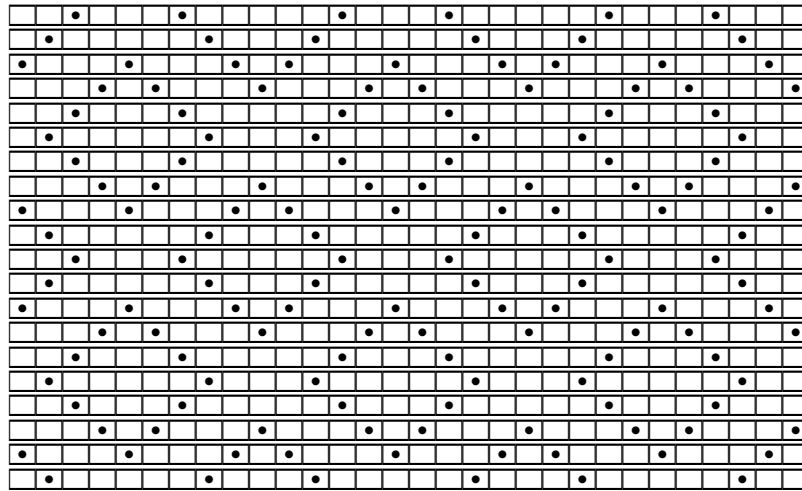
Let's look at this chart in a smaller font size with lots of repeats so we can see what it really looks like and especially to contrast it with the hiccup version.

As an exercise, create the chart for this version as well as one that omits the partial dia-monds on all four sides. One possible chart is given in the Answers.