

Chapter 15

FINDING THE PATTERN REPEAT

In the purl diamond project in part one, we saw how to separate a single motif from a border. In this chapter, we'll learn to isolate the repeat used to make a fabric with an all-over pattern.

Project 6: The Basket-Weave Hot Pad

This project is an all-over basket-weave pattern in a size suitable for a hot pad. We like the photo of the hot pad, but we'd really like to make a blanket with this stitch pattern. The instructions are written in the typical way, so they give us no help at all in figuring out how to adapt the stitch pattern to make a different item. Let's chart the project, then find the pattern repeat ourselves.

BASKET-WEAVE HOT PAD

CO 40.

Rows 1–7: K.

Row 8 (WS): K4, P32, K4.

Row 9 (RS): K6, * P4, K2 *, rpt btw * to last 4 sts, K4.

Row 10: * K4, P2 *, rpt btw * to last 4 sts, K4.

Rows 11–12: Rpt rows 9–10.

Rows 13–14: Rpt rows 7–8.

Row 15: K4, P3, * K2, P4 *, rpt btw * to last 9 sts, K2, P3, K4.

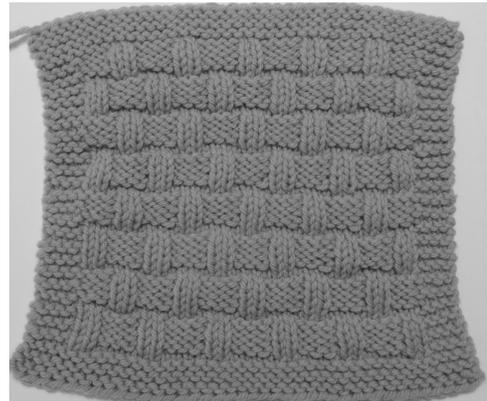
Row 16: K7, * P2, K4 *, rpt btw * to last 3 sts, K3.

Rows 17–18: Rpt rows 15–16.

Rows 19–54: Rpt rows 7–18 3 times.

Rows 55–60: K.

BO.



Gleaning What We Can from the Instructions

The first seven rows make garter stitch, so let's move on to row eight. When we compare the instructions with the photo, it's pretty clear that the block of thirty-two purl stitches in row eight is where the main pattern starts.

Notice that the instructions for rows nineteen through fifty-four say to repeat rows seven through eighteen three times. Ah ha! That statement alone tells us how many rows make up the pattern: rows seven through eighteen inclusive, which is twelve rows (subtract the smaller number from the larger, then add one).¹

Knowing that row seven is part of the pattern and not part of the bottom border in turn tells us that there are six rows of garter stitch for the bottom border (rows one through six). If we take that information to the end of the pattern, we can assume that rows fifty-five through sixty inclusive form the garter stitch top border.²

We can probably expect garter stitch left and right borders as well. Hopefully, whoever—*cough*—designed the project knows that six-row garter stitch top and bottom borders are matched perfectly by garter stitch left and right borders that are three stitches wide. We'll figure out the width of the designed left and right borders from the chart we make.

A Warning

It would be wonderful if pattern and project instructions were written so that we could tell immediately which stitches form the border and which form the stitch pattern's stitch repeat (and plus stitches, if it has them). We could then simply lift out the stitch pattern to use it in another project. Unfortunately, instructions aren't usually written that way.

It's a good idea to assume that the asterisks do not actually fall on the true stitch repeat boundaries (as we described them in the chapter "Working a Pattern Repeat") and that the border, stitch repeat, and/or plus stitches are mixed together. Why? Perhaps because most pattern writers, or the book editors, seem to be trying to save space. Mixing instructions for the border with the instructions for the stitch pattern and plus stitches saves a few characters here and there.³

If the asterisks don't fall on the true pattern repeat boundaries, then we can't simply omit all the stitches outside the asterisks, because we'll throw away some of the pattern's stitches, from the pattern repeat itself and/or any plus stitches.

Let's Chart

As we start, we must keep in mind two particular charting rules.

¹ Really. You have to add one. You might be thinking to yourself, *Yes, but I wouldn't add one if the row repeat was rows one through twelve*. Well, actually, you do. If you subtract one from twelve, you of course don't get twelve. So you did actually add one, so that the range of row numbers would include the first row.

² Why row fifty-five and not row fifty-four? Because sixty minus fifty-**five** plus one equals six.

³ We'll come back to this idea in an appendix where we convert a chart to "Better Written-Out Instructions." A slightly different style of written instructions will yield very surprising and truly useful results.

- ☉ the rules of reversal for charting public- and private-side rows
- ☉ the unwritten assumption that public-side rows are worked right to left

Because of the unwritten assumption that we're all traditional knitters, the charts have the public-side row numbers on the right, and the stitch labels run from right to left.

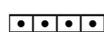
The Beginning Pattern Rows

Rows one through six are garter stitch, so let's skip to the first pattern row.

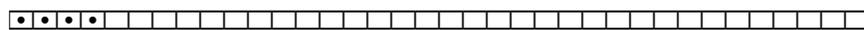
Row seven is simply knit all the way across.

 7

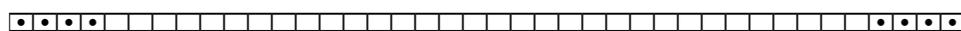
Row eight knits the first four stitches, shown as public-side purls

8 

purls the next thirty-two, which are public-side knits

8 

and finishes with another four knits, which are public-side purls.

8 

The fact that we're looking for garter stitch left and right borders, combined with row eight's starting and ending with four knit stitches, tells us that the left and right borders are four stitches wide.⁴

Representing Asterisks in the Chart

Row nine has some asterisks that seem to indicate the purl block, but we ought to suspect that the asterisks are not at the true stitch repeat. Why? Because row nine starts with "K6." Since row eight had four stitches of garter stitch at each end, the "K6" at the beginning of row nine almost certainly means row nine's instructions combine the right border's stitches with two stitches of the basket-weave pattern or its plus stitches, if it has any.

There's no real need to indicate the locations of all the asterisks, especially since we think at least some of them are in the wrong place. Showing them is instructive, though, because they're clues about how pattern writers and editors think. They may also be helpful if we have to double-check a chart row against its written-out instructions. We'll chart them, then compare charts with and without the repeat marks.

⁴ Since the left and right borders are four stitches wide, then they'll be slightly wider than the top and bottom borders are tall.

On Paper

For this task, we need to draw thick lines on the edges of the appropriate grid cells instead of just skipping a grid cell as we've done before. It will be **much** easier to find the stitch repeat if the stitch symbols are all on top of one another.⁵

If the grid cells are too small to allow us to use thick borders, we might lightly color in every other repeated group of stitches.

In the Computer

The easiest thing to do is type the stitch repeat boundary symbol (under the | character) for every asterisk as we type up each row. We wouldn't want to put each group into its own table column or separate the groups with spaces, because that will make it much harder to find the stitch repeat.

The Public-Side Row

We'll read the written-out instructions in the usual direction, from left to right, which means we have to chart the symbols from right to left according to the rule of reversal. So we start with six knit stitches

□ □ □ □ □ □ 9

then we'll note the presence of the asterisk by adding some kind of boundary indicator, whether by drawing a thick line on paper or using the knitting font's boundary symbol in the computer.

▣ □ □ □ □ □ 9

Then it's P4

• • • • ▣ □ □ □ □ □ 9

K2

□ □ • • • • ▣ □ □ □ □ □ 9

and a stitch repeat boundary marker for the second asterisk.

▣ □ □ • • • • ▣ □ □ □ □ □ 9

Now we keep adding groups of P4–K2–stitch repeat boundary marker.

▣ □ □ • • • • ▣ □ □ • • • • ▣ □ □ □ □ □ 9

⁵ So how would I find the pattern repeat in some kind of lace or other pattern that needed spaces or No Stitch symbols within the chart? That's an excellent question! Maybe the answer will be in the second edition.



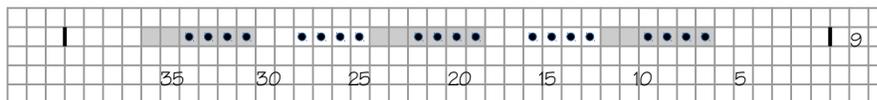
When we get to the last four stitches, we add them as knits.



Here's the complete row with every other grouping shaded in.



Since I'd be too lazy to do anything other than let plain grid cells represent knit stitches if I were charting on paper, I had to add the short vertical lines to separate the row nine's actual stitches from the rest of the grid. (Eventually, there will be a box all the way around the final chart, since it wouldn't take up the entire sheet of grid paper.)



The Private-Side Row

Row ten is a private-side row, so we read the instructions and add the symbols from left to right, but we must reverse knits and purls as we do so. We'll continue to use our chosen marking method to indicate where all the asterisks are.

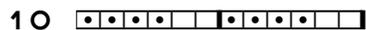
We start right away with stuff inside the pair of asterisks. Since it's "K4, P2," we have to add that as four purls and two knits.



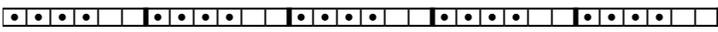
Notice that we didn't start the row with the boundary mark. It's needed in the written-out instructions to enclose the repeating group, but we don't need to chart it because there are no stitches before it. But we do need to put in the mark that separates the first group from the second.



Now it's just a matter of adding those same seven symbols most of the way across.

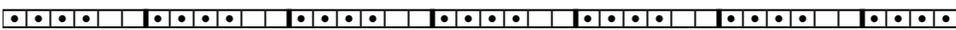


10 

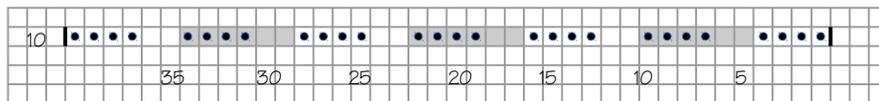
10 

10 

At the end of the written-out instructions, after the asterisk, we have what we can consider, for row ten anyway, the plus stitches. Since it says to knit four, we have to show four purls.

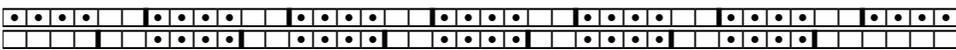
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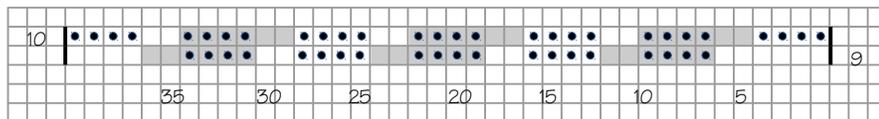
On paper, we're still lightly shading every other repeating group.



Let's Combine These Two Rows

There's already one thing that's obvious.

10  9

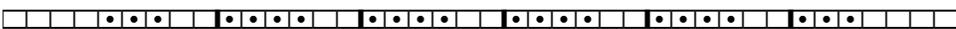


The instructions **are** grouping six stitches together, but they count the groups starting from the first worked stitch of each row. That's why the stitch repeat boundary symbols are not aligned across rows nine and ten. But it's almost certain that our pattern repeat will wind up being six stitches wide. We'll verify that after we construct the rest of the chart.

The Rest of the Rows

Rows eleven and twelve duplicate rows nine and ten, so we simply copy the symbols in rows nine and ten but give them the correct row numbers. Row thirteen is all knit, which is easy to chart. Row fourteen is the same as row eight, so we copy row eight but with the correct row number.

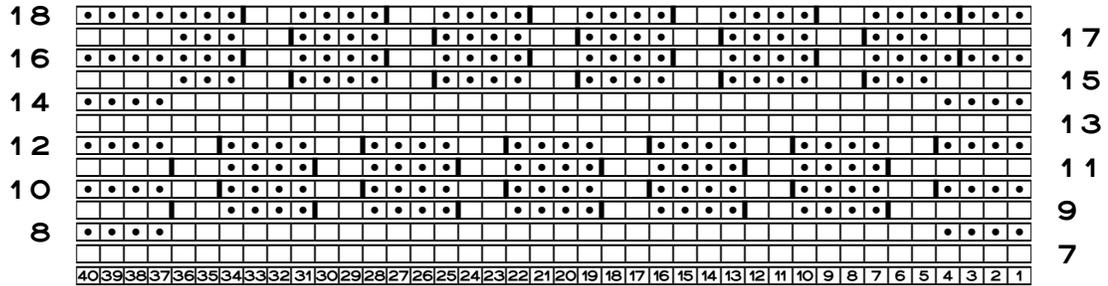
Now let's look at row fifteen. It's a public-side row, so we'll read from left to right and add symbols to the chart from right to left. We chart the stitches as they are (knits as knits and purls as purls), still marking the repeating groups.

 15

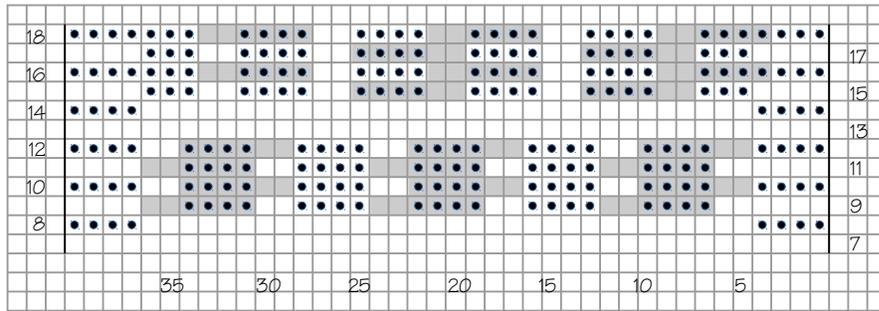
Row sixteen, a private-side row, is read and charted from left to right but with the opposite stitch symbols.



Rows seventeen and eighteen are the same as rows fifteen and sixteen, so we simply copy those two rows with the new row numbers. Let's put rows seven through eighteen together.



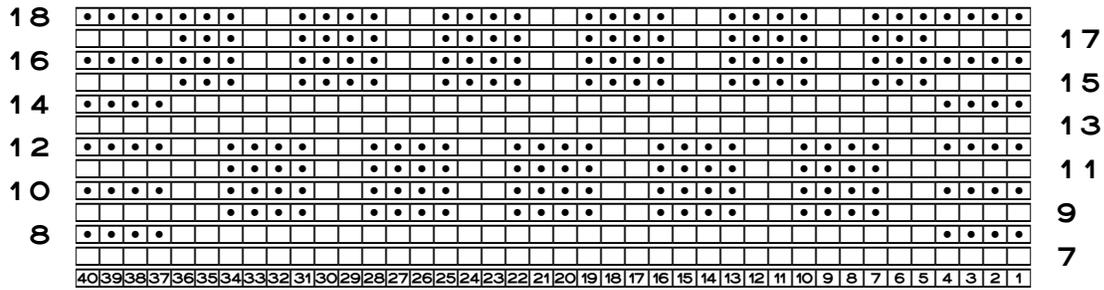
The partial paper chart looks fairly similar.



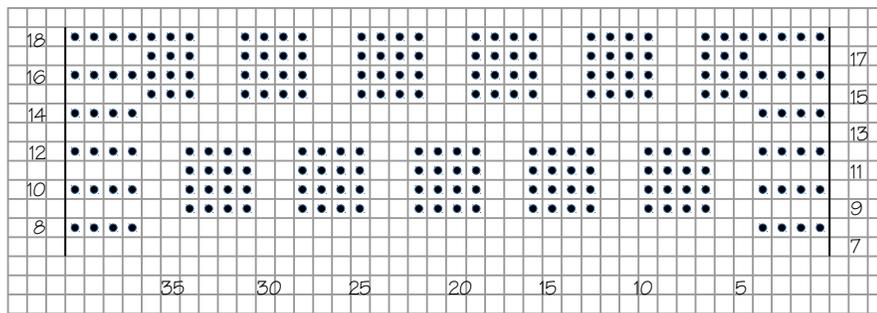
Because rows fifteen and seventeen have a total of sixteen stitches outside the asterisks (seven stitches at the beginning and nine at the end), we can shade in only two groups on those rows.

The Charts Without the Stitch Repeat Boundaries

Once we've charted written-out instructions several times, we may decide we don't need to show in the chart the locations of the asterisks and other repeat indicators. Some of us might not bother with them from the very beginning, considering them extraneous clutter with no particular purpose or benefit.



The paper chart looks much simpler as well.



In the rest of the chapter, we’ll work with the chart showing the repeat boundaries as a way to help us navigate through the steps.

Analyze the Partial Chart

From the chart we can see that there are two rows of stockinette stitch followed by blocks of purl stitches, with each purl block four stitches wide and four rows high. Two columns of knit stitches separate the blocks’ vertical edges. Two rows of stockinette stitch follow the first row of blocks, then there’s a second row of blocks offset from the row of original blocks.

Since the instructions for rows nineteen through fifty-four tell us to repeat rows seven through eighteen three times, we know that row eighteen is the final pattern row. We therefore don’t need to chart rows nineteen through fifty-four, because they only add length to the project, not any new parts of the pattern. Nor do we need to chart the top border.

If we wanted a different border (or a wider border or no border), we would simply change (or add to or eliminate) stitches one through four and thirty-seven through forty (along with rows one through six, not shown in the chart above).

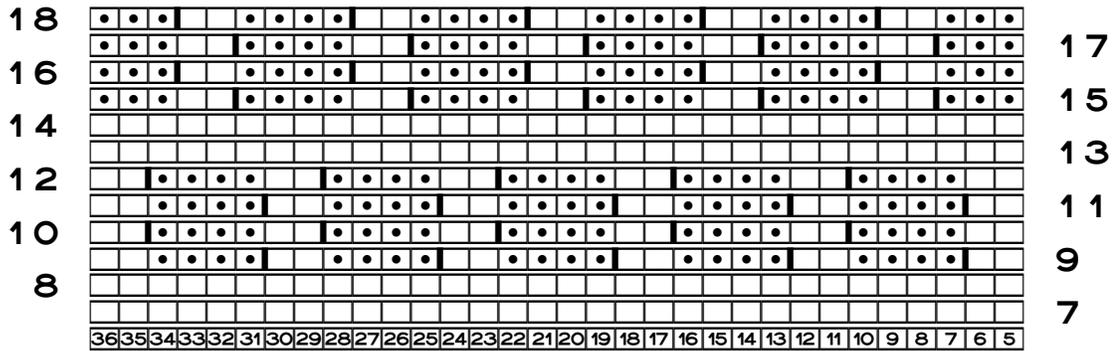
Since the border is not part of the basket-weave pattern, let’s do a border-ectomy so we can concentrate on the central thirty-two stitches that make up the purl blocks. After all, we

want to isolate the blocks' pattern repeat so we can make a basket-weave blanket, not switch the border that the hot pad uses.

If a project has any foundation rows, like those we saw in the part one chapter "Cables and Twists," we need to remove them as well, since they would not form part of the stitch pattern we'll be looking for. (We would add them back in at the bottom of the final chart.)

Some project instructions, especially for sweaters and other garments worked in flat pieces, may include a selvedge stitch or two on the left and right edges that will be used for sewing-up and other finishing steps. We should remove such stitches from the chart as well, since they're not part of the fabric's pattern stitch.

The next chart has been trimmed down to just the basket-weave pattern stitches. We'll retain the original row numbers and stitch labels in case we need to double-check the chart with the written-out instructions.



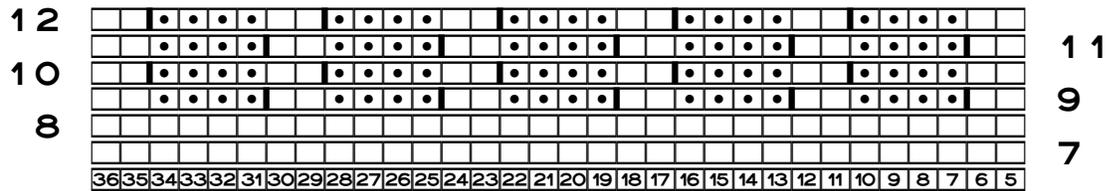
Finding the Stitch Repeat

Let's go to the lower right corner of the chart, since that's where traditional knitters start. Working up and to the left, we need to figure out where the stitches and rows start to repeat themselves.

What we're looking for is a section of the chart that could be made into a sort of rubber stamp which could then be used to create identical groups of stitches all the way across the chart.

The Row of Original Blocks

Let's look at just the row of original blocks, in rows seven through twelve.



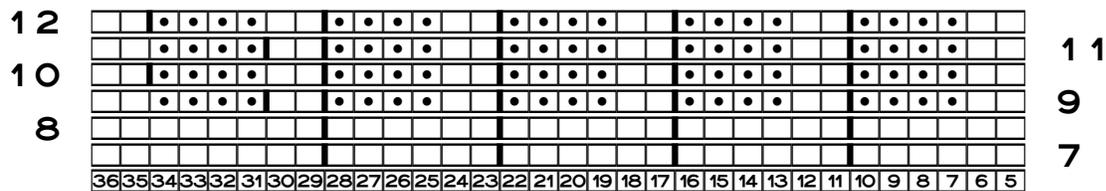
We start at the very first stitch, stitch five on row seven. What, precisely, does that stitch represent? It’s the first stitch of the two rows of stockinette below and the two columns of stockinette to the right of the purl block’s bottom right corner at stitch seven on row nine.

As we now track left across row seven, we’re looking for the next stitch that represents the same thing: two rows below and two stitches to the right of the next purl block’s bottom right corner.

Stitch eleven on row seven is that stitch. If we look up and to the left from stitch eleven on row seven, there are two rows and two columns of stockinette, followed by four rows and four columns of purls to make the block.

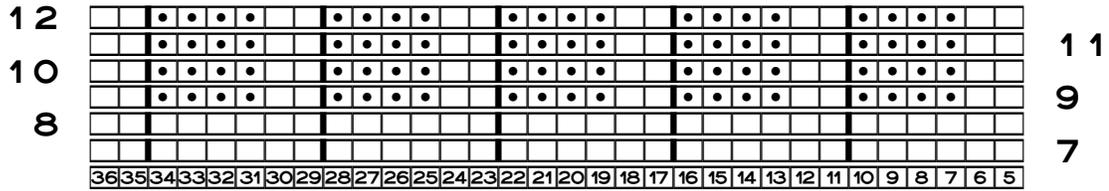
Stitches seventeen, twenty-three, and twenty-nine on row seven are those same initial stitches for their corresponding purl blocks.

These initiating stitches mean that the stitch repeat boundary symbols need to be re-positioned between stitches ten and eleven, sixteen and seventeen, twenty-two and twenty-three, and twenty-eight and twenty-nine on all six rows.⁶



What do we do about the stitch repeat boundary symbols around the last purl block, in stitches thirty-one through thirty-four? Clearly, the block from stitch twenty-nine on row seven through stitch thirty-four on row twelve is identical to the blocks whose stitch repeat boundary symbols are already lined up. That means we can re-position the stitch repeat boundary symbols between stitches thirty-four and thirty-five on all six rows.

⁶ The knitting font’s stitch repeat boundary symbol “floats above” whatever symbols are on either side of it, so you may have trouble deleting it if you’re charting along with the book. The easiest way to remove it is with Find and Replace. Put a | in the Find box and leave the Replace box empty. To get rid of them all, click Replace All. Otherwise, * click Find Next, then click either Replace or Find Next. Repeat from *. To use the keyboard, click to the right of the symbol to the right of the stitch repeat boundary symbol, press the Left Arrow key, then press Backspace. Or, click to the left of the symbol to the left of the stitch repeat boundary symbol, press the Right Arrow key, then press Delete. (Backspace removes the character to the left of the cursor, while Delete removes the character to the right of the cursor.)



So for the entire row of original blocks (rows seven through twelve), the stitch repeat is from stitch five through stitch ten, two knit stitches both up and to the left, followed by four purl stitches, both up and to the left.

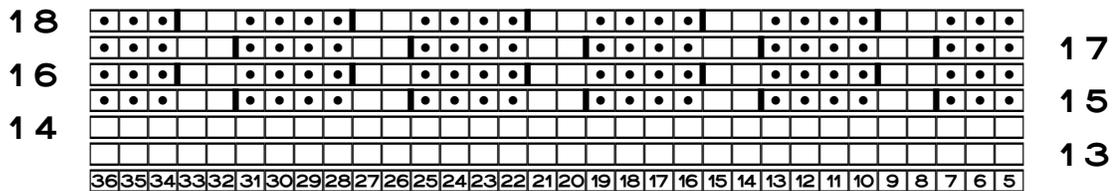
Each six-by-six group is identical, as though they were all made by a single rubber stamp.

Those Last Two Stitches

Why are there two stitches, thirty-five and thirty-six, out there past the last block? See how the first block has two columns of knit stitches to its right, in stitches five and six? The last two stitches, thirty-five and thirty-six, are the plus stitches for the first row of blocks, making the left edge mirror-image the right edge.

The Stitch Repeat in the Row of Offset Blocks

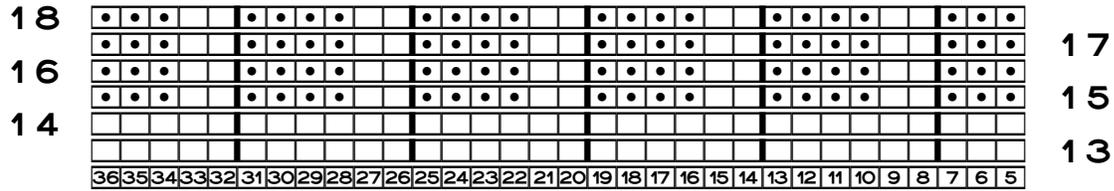
Let's look at rows thirteen through eighteen.



There are two ways to approach the offset blocks' stitch repeat.

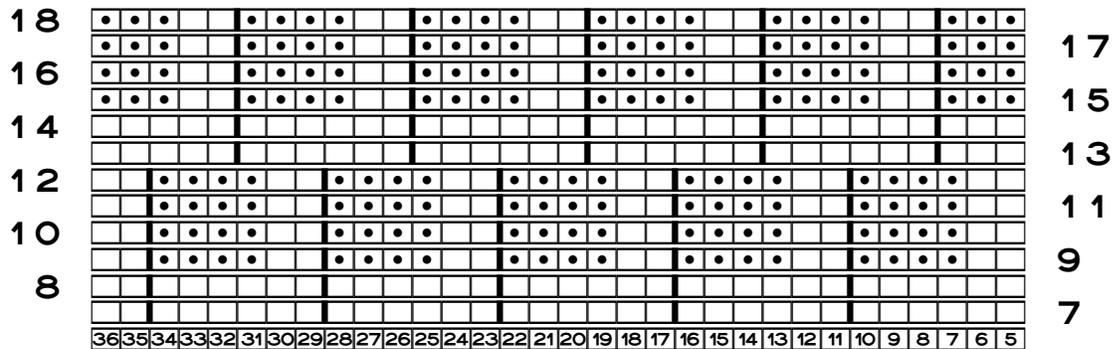
Option A: Keep the Same "Rubber Stamp"

Some of us may want to put the stitch repeat boundary symbol between stitches seven and eight, thirteen and fourteen, nineteen and twenty, twenty-five and twenty-six, and thirty-one and thirty-two. Doing so uses the same rubber stamp for the offset blocks as for the original blocks.



We may find it easier to always think of the main part of the pattern repeat—the purl blocks—as this same six-by-six group of stitches. We would then handle what’s going on in stitches five through seven and thirty-two through thirty-six of the row of offset blocks as needed.

Let’s look at the chart with both rows of blocks.



Now that we see both rows of blocks together, we can decide if the “hiccup” is going to be a problem or not.

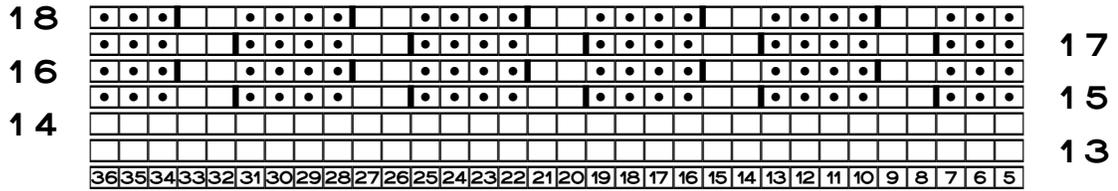
If we want to use stitch markers between pattern repeats, we’ll have to re-position them every time we switch between rows of original blocks and offset blocks. Most of us would of course not bother with stitch markers for **this** pattern, but there are plenty of patterns where stitch markers would be almost mandatory.

Moving stitch markers every time we run into the chart hiccup is completely doable; we just need to decide if it will drive us crazy in needles and yarn.

If we don’t want to move the stitch markers every few rows, we can try to find an aligned or a straight-edged stitch repeat.

Option B: Look for an Aligned Pattern Repeat

Let’s follow the same procedure that we used on the row of original blocks.



We again start with the first stitch at the lower right and search up and to the left until we find the same stitch grouping. Since there are purl stitches in the column of stitch five, it seems like we have a slightly more complicated situation than for the row of original blocks.

There is only a partial purl block in stitches five through seven of rows fifteen through eighteen. So we need to look for the same partial block as we move up and left through the stitches.

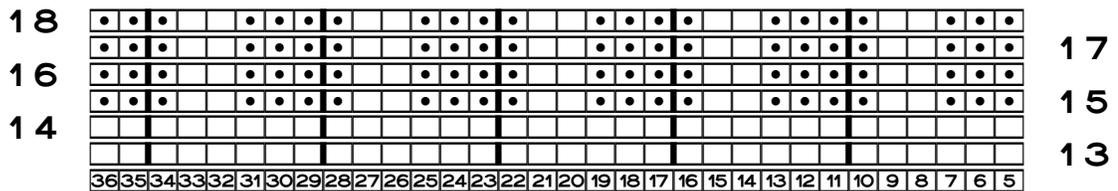
The partial block represents the left portion of the purl block, since it's followed by two columns of knit stitches in stitches eight and nine. Then the full block appears in stitches ten through thirteen. Since the purl blocks are four stitches wide, that means that the partial block in stitches five through seven is the same as the partial block in stitches eleven through thirteen.

Let's double-check that conclusion.

Stitches five through seven are purls, followed by knits in stitches eight and nine. If we look at the last three stitches of the second block in stitches eleven through thirteen, we see that those three purls are followed by two knits in stitches fourteen and fifteen.

That means that for the row of offset blocks, the knit stitches are cutting the blocks into two pieces: there will be three purls to the right of the two knits, and there will be one purl to the left of the two knits.

So let's re-position the stitch repeat boundary symbols in rows thirteen through eighteen.



If we look at each six-by-six group (six stitches wide and six stitches tall), we can see that the five groups in stitches five through thirty-four are identical. Again, we could consider that these six-by-six groups were made with a rubber stamp (though with a different rubber stamp than that used for the row of original blocks).

We don't need to be distressed that the purl blocks are cut in two within each of these

repeated groups. When the stitch repeats are put next to one another, we still wind up with the same four-by-four purl blocks separated with two columns of knit stitches.

The End of the Row of Offset Blocks

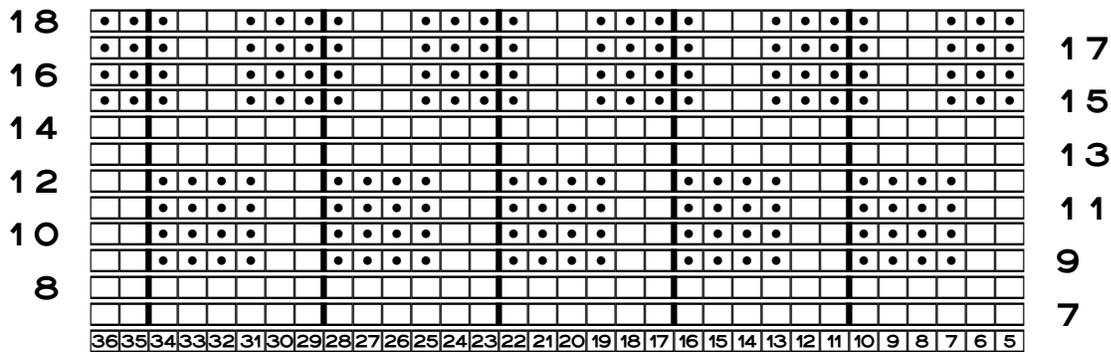
Notice that on each row there are those extra two stitches, thirty-five and thirty-six, that fall outside the stitch repeat boundary symbols and act as the plus stitches.

See how the first partial block is just three purl stitches wide (stitches five through seven)? Stitches thirty-five and thirty-six combine with the purls in stitch thirty-four to end rows fifteen through eighteen with a three-stitch-wide partial block.

So the row of offset blocks starts and ends with an identical partial purl block. Stitches thirty-five and thirty-six are still the pattern’s plus stitches, even on the row of offset blocks.

The Aligned Stitch Repeat

Let’s put this version of the row of offset blocks with the chart for the original blocks.



The stitch repeat boundary symbols in both of the partial charts are now all straight lines, since we were careful to start looking for repeated stitch groups from the same place, stitch five, in each row of blocks.

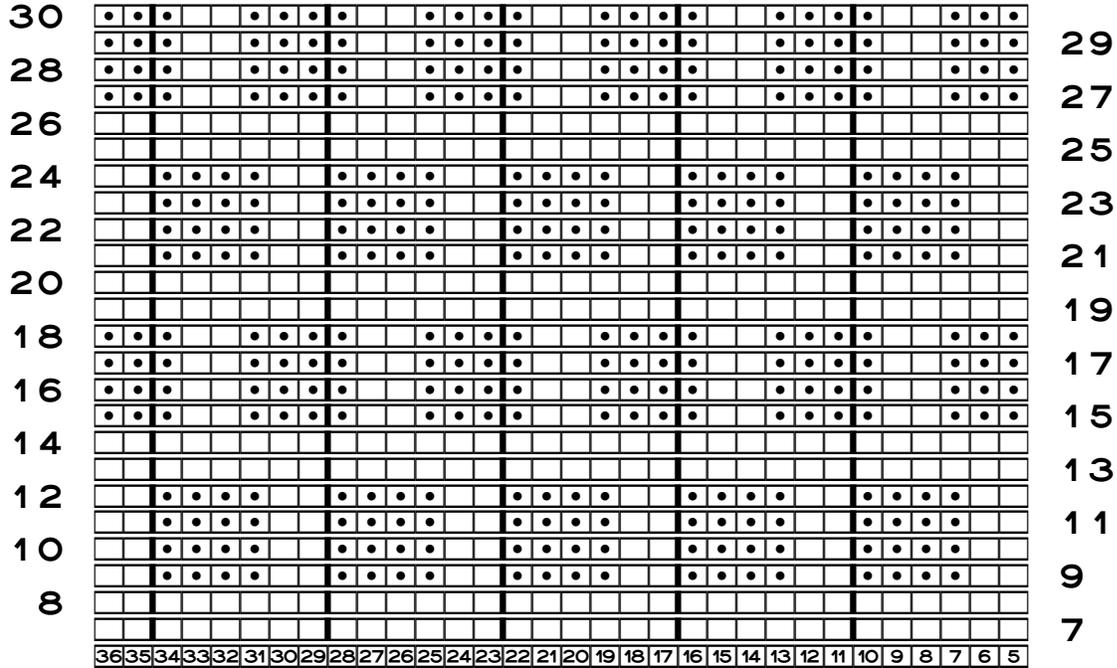
Should We Go Hiccup or Aligned?

Since we can draw the stitch repeat boundaries two ways, we need to figure out which version of the chart we want to work with.

We might prefer to use the hiccup chart because it keeps the main element of the stitch pattern the same on all rows. But if we need to use stitch markers, will we get annoyed by having to re-position them every so often?

We can choose the chart where we don’t ever re-position the stitch markers, but are we

We'll have to pretend that rows nineteen through thirty aren't copies of rows seven through eighteen so that we can walk through the steps of finding a pattern's row repeat.



Just like we looked for a “rubber stamp” group of stitches to find the stitch repeat, now we need to find a “tall rubber stamp” that will make the same group of rows over and over again from the bottom to the top.

So we start at the bottom of the chart with row seven and look for the row that duplicates it.

Technically, row eight duplicates row seven, since they're both just rows of stockinette. Let's be more specific about what row seven represents: **the first of two stockinette rows below a row of blocks.**

That clarification means we need to find another group of two rows of stockinette below a row of blocks.

Rows thirteen and fourteen seem to fit the bill. But look closer. Rows thirteen and fourteen are below the row of **offset** blocks. Rows seven and eight are below the row of **original** blocks.

The next two stockinette rows that are below a row of original blocks are actually rows nineteen and twenty.

Let's double-check by comparing what's above them. Rows seven and eight are below a

set of blocks that begin in stitch seven. Rows nineteen and twenty are also below a row of blocks that start in stitch seven.

The blocks in rows twenty-one through twenty-four duplicate the positions of the blocks in rows nine through twelve, and the blocks in rows twenty-seven through thirty duplicate the row of blocks in rows fifteen through eighteen.

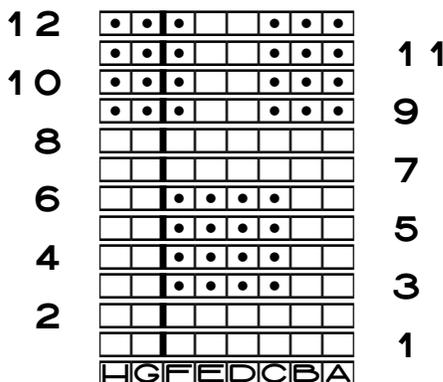
Those duplicates show us that the row repeat, which is twelve rows tall, is rows seven through eighteen inclusive.

We'll look for the row repeat again in the chapters "Tweaking a Chart" and "Changing a Motif to an All-Over Pattern," where the process we've used here will be put to a true test.

The Preliminary Pattern Repeat

Since stitches eleven through thirty-four are all identical copies of stitches five through ten, we only need to show one of the five sets. To those six stitches we add the two plus stitches currently in stitches thirty-five and thirty-six.

The first pattern chart is therefore eight stitches wide and twelve rows tall. The rows and stitches are labeled according to the unwritten assumption that we're all traditional knitters.



Are We Done Yet?

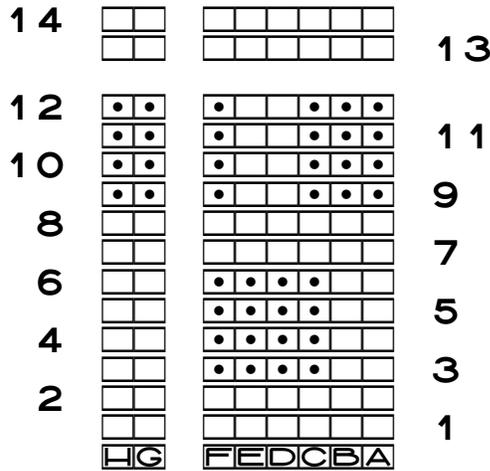
Let's remember that what we're trying to do is pull the basket-weave pattern repeat out of the hot pad instructions so we can make a basket-weave blanket. If we worked this chart repeatedly across our blanket and then worked the twelve rows over and over until the blanket was long enough, what would the top edge of the blanket look like?

More to the point, would it match the bottom edge?

Based on this chart, the answer is no. **This chart would not give us top and bottom**

An Alternate Way to Mark the Pattern Repeat

As we saw in previous chapters, we can skip a grid column on paper (or put in a blank table column in the computer) to indicate the stitch repeat boundary, and we can skip a grid row (or add a blank table row in the computer) to show the row repeat boundary.



If the pattern stitch had foundation row(s), we would put a blank row between row one and the last foundation row.

An Exercise

How else could the chart be drawn? Could the stitch and/or row repeat boundaries be put in different places but give the same results?

The short answer is, Yes. They would be similar to the four variations we saw in “Working a Pattern Repeat.”

Checking Our Work

If we’re charting in the computer, then to double-check our chart’s accuracy, we can copy the pattern repeat, then paste it several times into a table with more columns and rows. We’ll get a good idea of how a project will look, and doing so also lets us see if we’ve determined the pattern repeat correctly.⁷

In the next chart, four columns have been added between the stitch repeat and the public-side row numbers.

⁷ Checking a paper chart for accuracy is described in the review section.

3. Once we've charted the complete instructions, we start with the stitch at the lower right, which represents the first stitch of the first public-side row, and search up and to the left for where groups of stitches start to repeat themselves. We're looking for the part of the chart that could act like a rubber stamp moving horizontally across the width of the piece.

Doing a border-ectomy and/or selvedge-ectomy before we start will almost certainly make the process easier.

If the chart has foundation row(s), we can remove them too. Otherwise, we have to ignore them while we find the pattern repeat.

4. To find the row repeat, we start at the bottom with the first row above the bottom border and/or foundation row(s) and search upwards, looking for a group of rows that start to repeat the pattern over again.
5. Once we find both the stitch and row repeats, our chart should also make clear the parts of the pattern that are the plus stitch(es) and/or plus row(s). We can then restore the foundation row(s) as well.
6. Before we restore the foundation row(s), we can check our chart's accuracy by putting several copies of the trial pattern repeat next to one another.

If we're charting in the computer, we paste several copies of it into a larger table with both extra columns and extra rows (at a smaller font size, if necessary).

If we're working on paper, we need at least three more copies of our test chart, whether we draw them by hand or use a copier. We trim off any excess paper around the pattern repeat on the copies, then place the four repeats in a minimum of two rows and two columns to see if the pattern flows smoothly both horizontally and vertically.

Making a Large Project

Now that we have the pattern chart, how would we use it to make a blanket?

Gauges

We need to know our stitch and row gauges for both the basket-weave pattern stitch and whatever border stitch we're going to use.

Stitches

We have to decide on two measurements:

- ☉ the width of the blanket's central area
- ☉ the width of the blanket's left and right borders

Main Area

For the main area of the blanket, we need to multiply the width we want by our basket-weave stitch gauge.

We've decided to make the central area forty-eight inches wide, and our basket-weave stitch gauge is 4.5 stitches per inch. We multiply

$$48 \text{ in times } 4.5 \text{ sts per in} = 216 \text{ sts}$$

Now we add

$$2 \text{ plus sts}$$

for a total of 218 stitches in the main part of the blanket.

Left and Right Borders

We want a seed stitch border that's two inches wide, and our gauge in seed stitch is five stitches per inch. Two inches times five stitches per inch means we need ten stitches for the border. Since we want borders at both the left and right edges, we need to cast on

$$10 \text{ right border sts} + 218 \text{ basket-weave sts} + 10 \text{ left border sts}$$

for a total project cast-on of 238 stitches.

Rows

How many rows do we work?

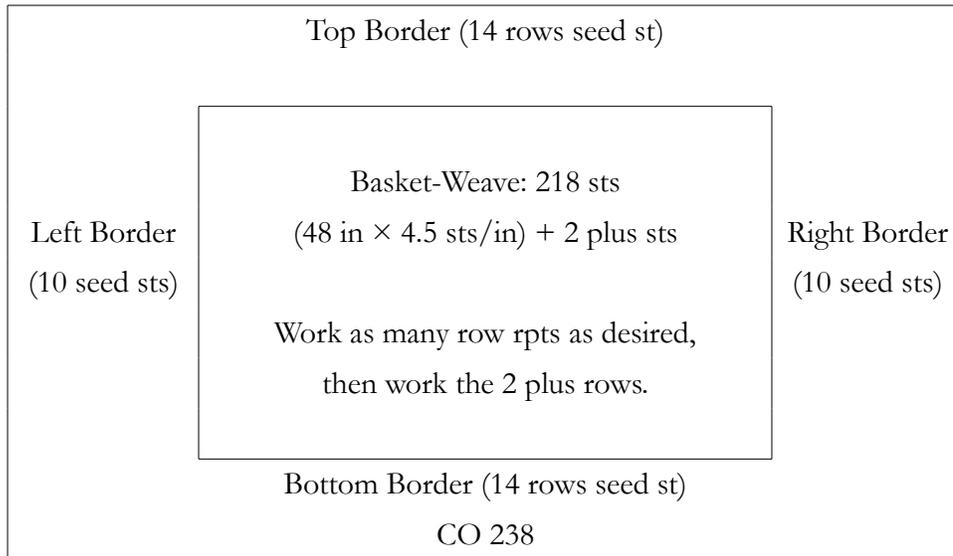
We want top and bottom borders that are two inches tall, to match the two inches we'll have at left and right. If our seed stitch row gauge is seven rows per inch, we multiply two inches times seven rows per inch, so we'll work fourteen rows of seed stitch, then switch to the basket-weave pattern chart on the center 218 stitches between the left and right borders.

We work as many row repeats of the basket-weave pattern chart as we want, then we work the pattern's two plus rows.

We finish with fourteen rows of seed stitch for the top border, then bind off.

Schematic

This rough layout, which of course is not to scale, shows all the numbers.



If We Want a Certain Number of Pattern Repeats

Instead of a measured width, we might want a specific number of pattern repeats (in this case, purl blocks). We multiply the desired number of repeats by the number of stitches per repeat, then add the plus stitches.

So if we want fifty purl blocks, we start with

50 purl blocks times 6 sts per block = 300 sts

Then we add

2 plus sts

for a total of 302 basket-weave stitches.

Nooooooooooo!!!

Please, *please, please, PLEASE* note that we do **not** determine the number of pattern stitches by multiplying the desired number of repeats by the sum of the two parts of the pattern's stitch count. For fifty repeats of the basket-weave pattern, whose stitch count is "6 + 2," we would **not** start with

50 purl blocks times 8 sts per block = 400 sts

with the "8" coming from the sum of "6 + 2"! Remember, we work the plus stitches **only once** on an entire row, not at the end of every stitch repeat.