

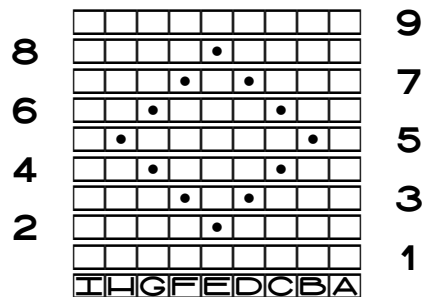
## Chapter 18

# CHANGING A MOTIF TO AN ALL-OVER PATTERN

Suppose we find on a project a single, unrepeated motif that we really like, and we want to turn it into a fabric to use in a large project like as a blanket or sweater. There are a few details we should consider.

Let's again use the small version of the purl diamond motif so the charts will be smaller as we look at various options.<sup>1</sup>

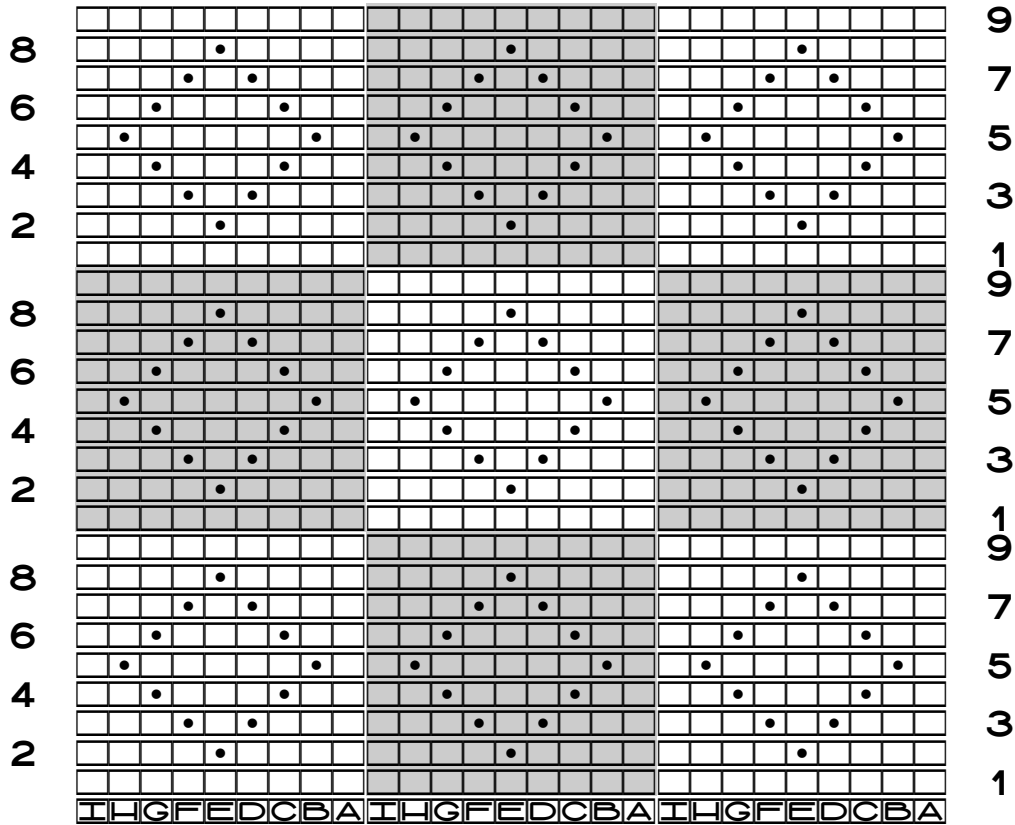
We'll make both the plus stitch and the plus row a part of the pattern repeat so that the motif itself is symmetrical.



Let's put nine of these motifs together, with shading to show each motif repeat clearly. We'll also keep these original row numbers and stitch letters for the time being.

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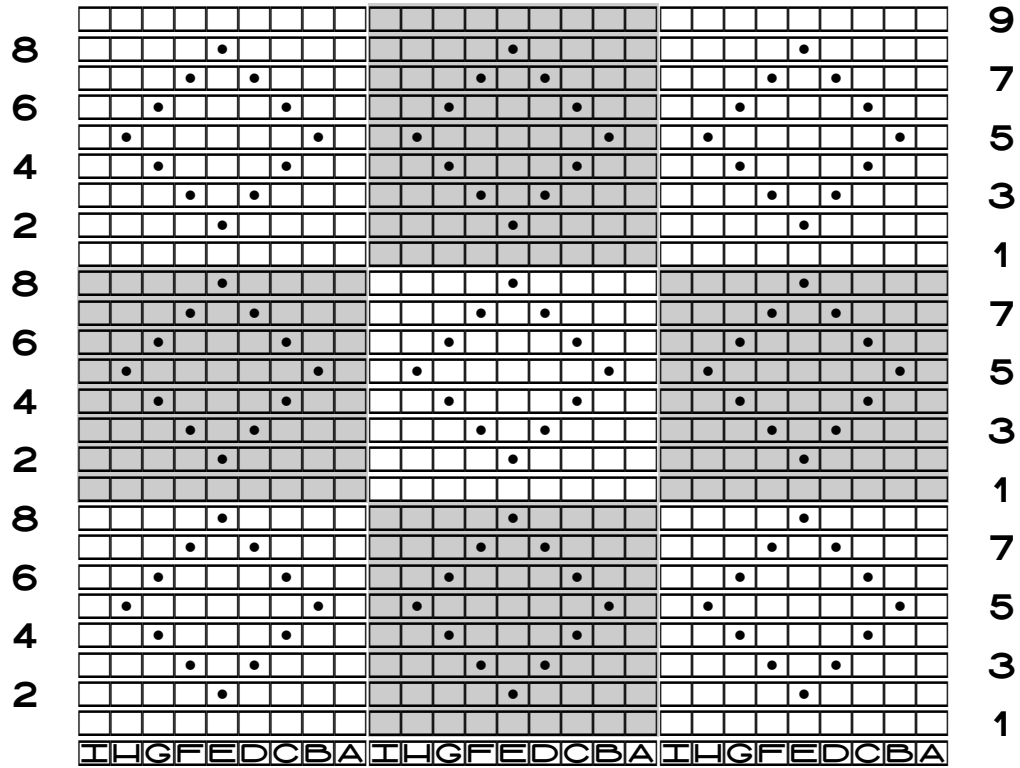
<sup>1</sup> Depending on the size of the original motif and the size of the project we're taking it to, we may want to re-size the motif first, which we already learned how to do in "Tweaking a Chart."



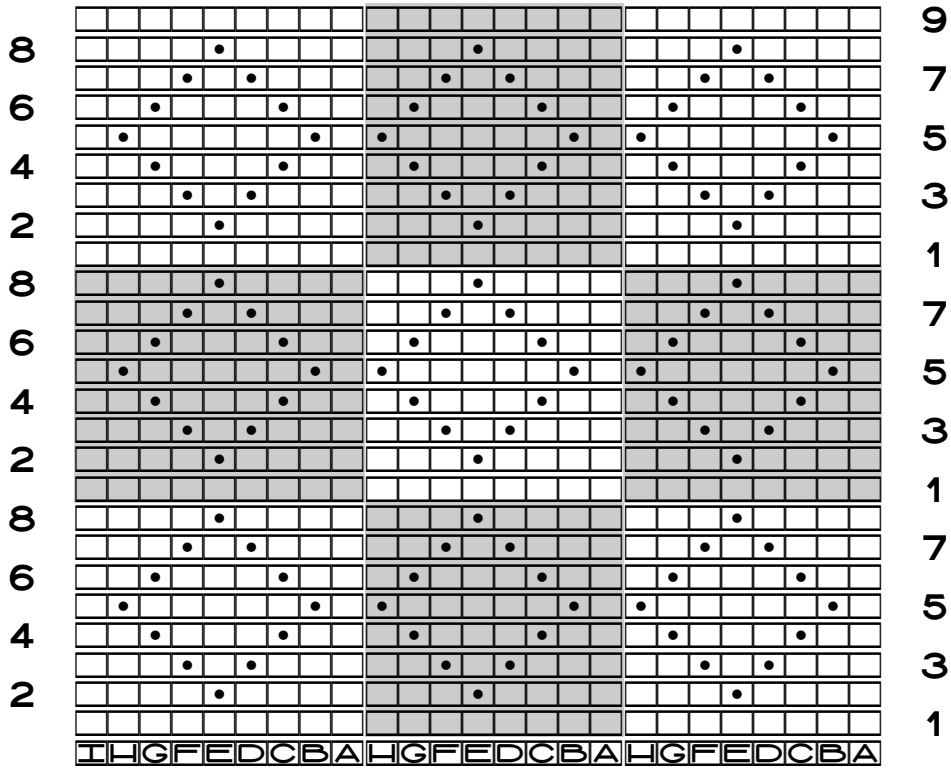
Note that we have two public-side rows next to each other in two spots, where row nine of one row of diamonds meets row one of next row of diamonds. To fix this, we could do one of two things:

1. We simply renumber the rows, leaving the motifs as they are. If that's our design decision, we're done, so we can move straight to needles and yarn.
2. We eliminate one of those two adjacent public-side rows.

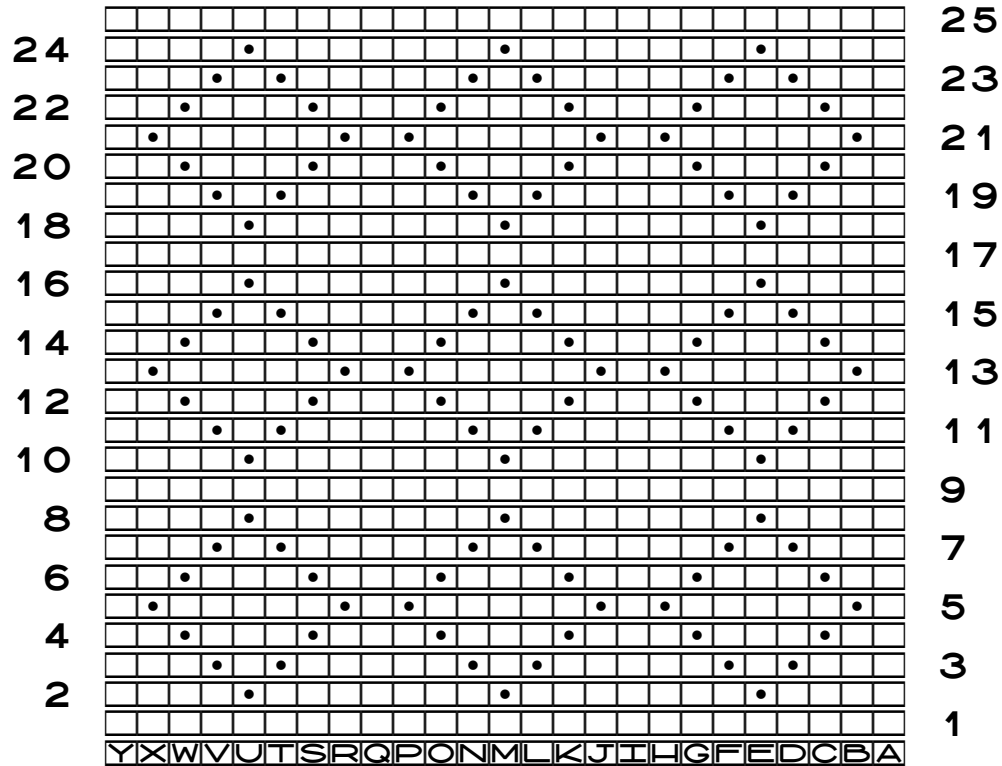
The second option would leave only a single plain row between the points of the diamonds. We'll work through it, because it will suggest other changes and require extra steps.



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, by eliminating two instances of stitch I 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 repeated motifs.

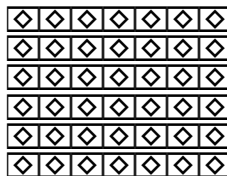


So we have nine diamonds, separated from one another by one stitch (stitches I and Q) and one row (rows nine and seventeen). We have one stitch, stitch A, before the first diamond and one stitch, stitch Y, after the last diamond. We also have plain rows, rows one and twenty-five, before the first row of diamonds and after the last row of diamonds.

At this point, we determine the stitch repeat and the row repeat, which we have already learned how to do.<sup>2</sup>

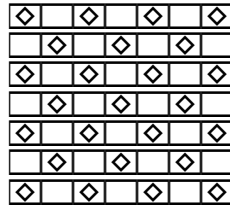
### Other Ways to Arrange Motifs

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

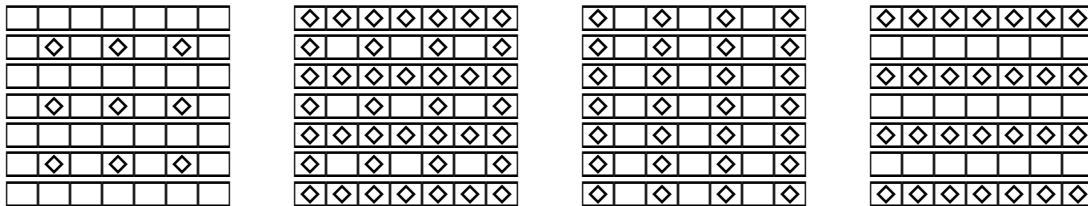


<sup>2</sup> The pattern repeat is any of the four variations in “Working a Pattern Repeat.”

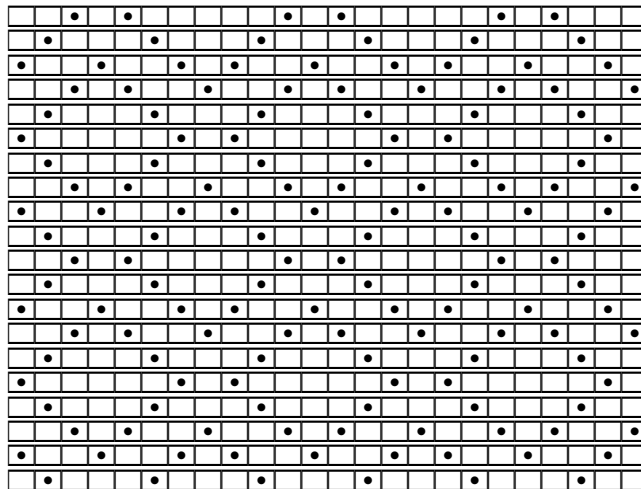
But we could have arranged them in any number of ways, like this



or any of these.<sup>3</sup>



We could also have overlapped the diamonds within the rows and/or columns, because of the motif’s shape.

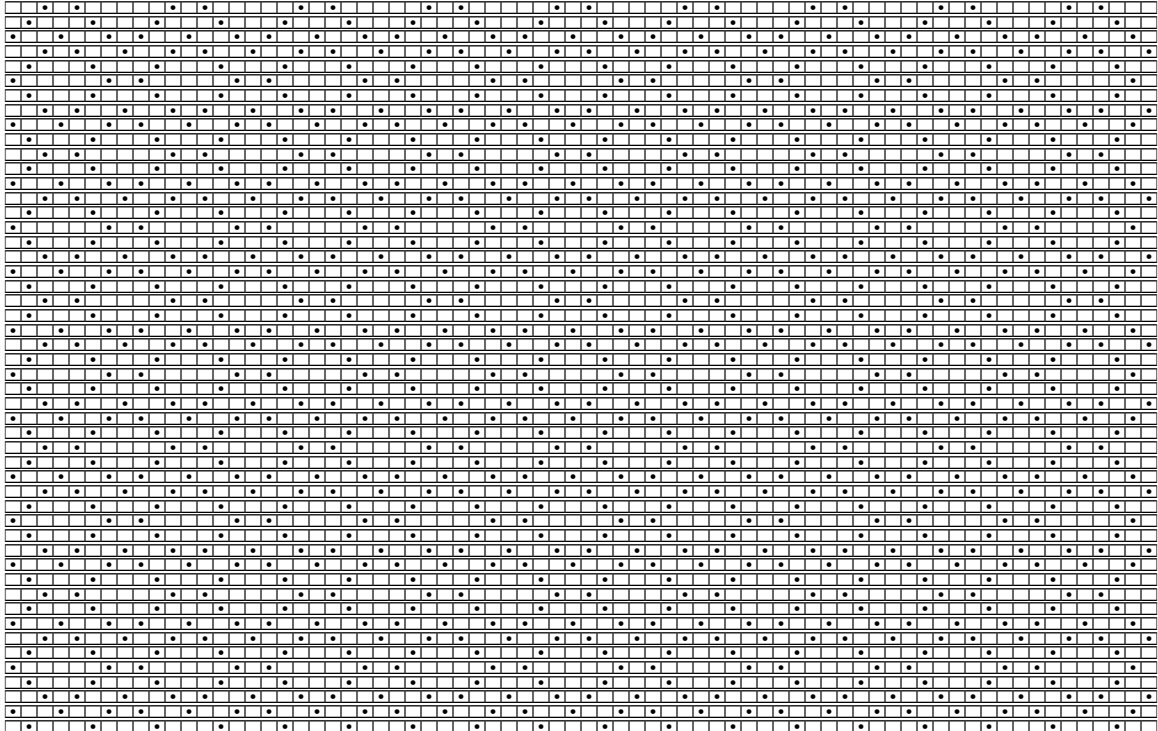


For any of these options, and any others you might dream up, determine the stitch and row repeats, figure out the number of stitches to cast on, and get going on your own designer project—designed by you!

<sup>3</sup> These mini-charts are made with a symbol in the knitting font, from the section “Geometric Shapes” in the font catalog at the end of part four.

## 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.



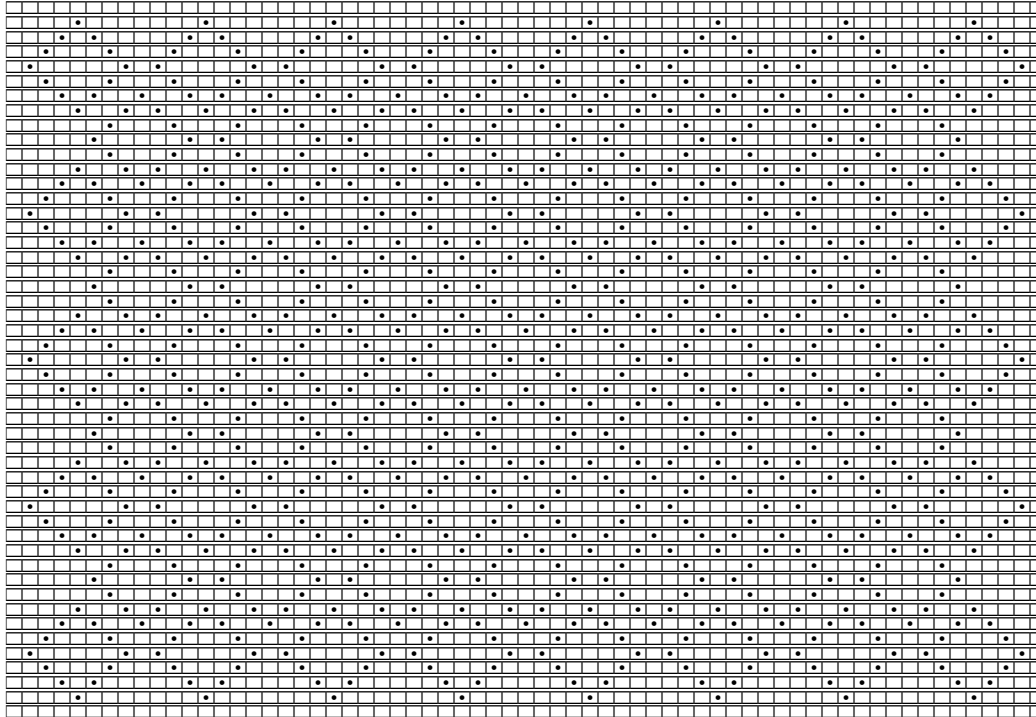
There are a couple of issues, now that we have enough repeats to get a real idea of what a blanket would look like.

1. The partial diamonds on all four edges don't look very good. (This, of course, is a matter of taste.) Even if we like them, the top and bottom edges aren't mirror-image, nor are the left and right edges.
2. There's a hiccup when we follow any of the motifs' diagonal edges.

### *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 basketweave pattern in "Tweaking a Chart." Likewise, we will need plus rows before and 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 appendix “Answers.”

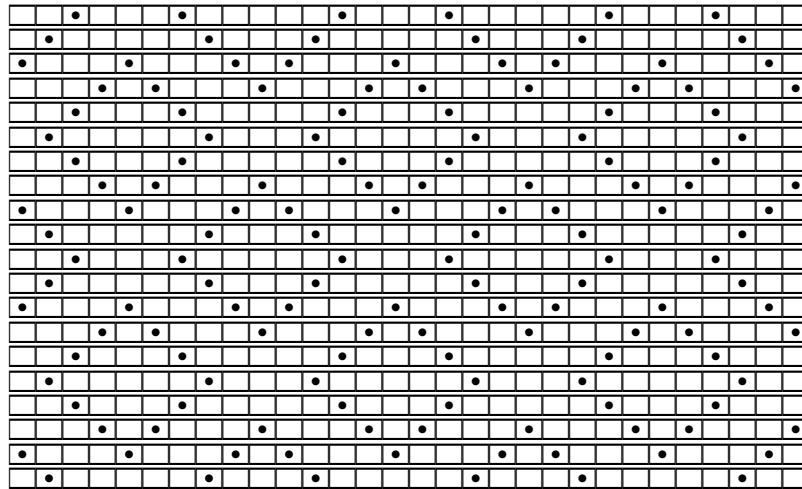
### Fixing Problem 2

We’ve fixed problem one, but the diagonal edges of the diamonds still have the hiccup.

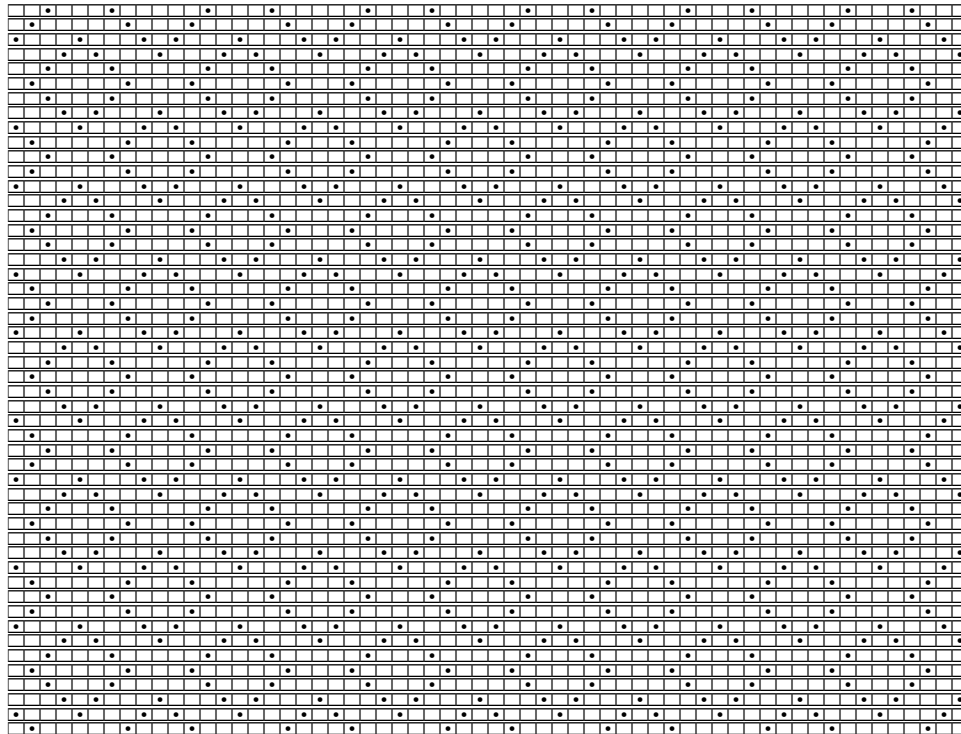
Start at the lower left corner, and follow the diamond’s upper left edge to the same edge on the diamond at its upper right. The second diamond’s edge starts **one** stitch to the right but **two** rows higher, which causes the hiccup. We can see the hiccup all the way along that line to the very top of the chart. The same hiccup occurs along all four edges of the motifs.

Compare that effect to the next version, 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 diamonds on all four sides. One possible chart is given in "Answers."