

# Nutcracker Socks



**City sidewalks, busy sidewalks,  
dressed in holiday style  
In the air there's a feeling of  
Christmas  
Children laughing, people passing,  
meeting smile after smile  
And on every street corner you  
hear**

**Silver bells, silver bells  
It's Christmas time in the city  
Ring a ling, hear them ring  
Soon it will be Christmas Day**

**Silver bells, silver bells  
It's Christmas time in the city  
Ring a ling, hear them ring  
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## YARN

Three colours of fingering weight yarn in shades that contrast well with each other.

The pattern sample is knitted using Malabrigo Ultimate Sock in the following shades :-

611 Ravelry Red (Colour 1)

737 Patrick (Colour 2)

035 Frank Ochre (Colour 3)

This yarn is 420 yds (385 m) to 100g.

## NOTIONS

2.5 mm (US size 1.5) 32 inch (80 cm) circular knitting needle for knitting the magic loop method (you can use double pointed needles if that is your preferred method). Adjust your needle size to obtain gauge if necessary.

**Note** - I used a 2.5 mm so that the videos would be easier to see. Feel free to use the size you normally knit socks with.

Tapestry needle and 2 stitch markers.

## GAUGE

34 stitches and 44 rows = 4 inches/10 cm.  
Washed and blocked measurement, in stocking stitch.

## SIZE

**Small** - 8 inch (20 cm) foot circumference.

**Medium** - 9 inch (23 cm) foot circumference.

**Large** - 10/11 inch (25/27 cm) foot circumference.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**k** - knit.

**p** - purl.

**s** - slip (purl-wise unless stated differently).

**yo** - yarn over.

**tbl** - through the back loop.

**ssk** - slip a stitch knit-wise and then slip a second stitch knit-wise. Now insert the tip of the left-hand needle into the fronts of both slipped stitches, and knit them together from this position, through their back loops.

**p2tog** - purl 2 stitches together.

**k2tog** - knit 2 stitches together.

**RT (right twist)** - knit the second stitch on left needle, now knit the first stitch on left needle and then remove both stitches from left needle.

**LT (left twist)** - knit the second stitch on left needle through the back loop, now knit the first stitch on left needle in the normal manner and then remove both stitches from left needle.

**skp** - slip a stitch knit-wise, knit the next stitch and then pass the slipped stitch over.

**fairy** - p3tog but do not remove stitches from left needle. Next, yarn over going over the top of your needle, moving the yarn from the front of your work to the back and then to the front again. Now p3tog again and remove the 3 stitches from your left needle.

**C** - colour.

## NOTE ON FOOT LENGTH

**You can adjust the length of your foot within the striped sections, knitting longer or shorter as required.**

**If you work the pattern exactly as written, it will fit a UK size 6 (at my gauge). My finished socks were 9.25 inches long.**





## DAY ONE - THE OVERTURE

Using your C1 yarn, cast on 56 (64,72) stitches and join for knitting in the round. I cast on using the long tail method. The front needle as you look at your work will be needle 1 and the back needle will be needle 2.

**You can follow either the written, or charted instructions throughout the whole of the pattern. Charts can be found on the final pages of the pattern.**

**Round 1** - (k2, p2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 2** - (k2, p2, RT, p2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 3** - as round 1.

**Round 4** - (k2, p2, LT, p2) repeat to end of round.

Repeat these 4 rounds a further 4 times (20 rounds total), or your preferred cuff length. If you knit to a different length, ensure you end with a round 4.

Cut your yarn, leaving a tail to weave in.

## DAY TWO (LEG) - THE DECORATION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Using your C2 yarn, work the following:-

SIZE SMALL - 56 sts

**Rounds 1 and 2** - knit all stitches.

**Round 3** - (k5, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k5) repeat to end of round.

**Round 4** - (k6, k1tbl, k7) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 5 and 6** - knit all stitches.

**Round 7** - (k3, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Round 8** - (k4, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k5) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 9 and 10** - knit all stitches.

**Round 11** - (k1, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k1) repeat to end of round.

**Round 12** - (k2, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 13 and 14** - knit to end of round.

Work these 14 rounds, once (14 rounds total).





SIZE MEDIUM - 64 sts

**Rounds 1 and 2** - knit all stitches.

**Round 3** - (k6, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k6) repeat to end of round.

**Round 4** - (k7, k1tbl, k8) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 5 and 6** - knit all stitches.

**Round 7** - (k4, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k4) repeat to end of round.

**Round 8** - (k5, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k6) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 9 and 10** - knit all stitches.

**Round 11** - (k2, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 12** - (k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k4) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 13 and 14** - knit to end of round.

**Round 15** - (k2tog, yo x 2, skp) repeat to end of round.

**Round 16** - (k1, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 17 and 18** - knit all stitches.

Work these 18 rounds, once (18 rounds total).

SIZE LARGE - 72 sts

**Rounds 1 and 2** - knit all stitches.

**Round 3** - (k7, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k7) repeat to end of round.

**Round 4** - (k8, k1tbl, k9) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 5 and 6** - knit all stitches.

**Round 7** - (k5, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k5) repeat to end of round.

**Round 8** - (k6, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k7) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 9 and 10** - knit all stitches.

**Round 11** - (k3, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k2tog, yo x 2, skp, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Round 12** - (k4, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k5) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 13 and 14** - knit to end of round.

**Round 15** - [k1, (k2tog, yo x 2, skp) x 4, k1] repeat to end of round.

**Round 16** - (k2, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3, k1tbl, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Rounds 17 and 18** - knit all stitches.

Work these 18 rounds, once (18 rounds total).





## **DAY THREE (LEG) - ARRIVAL OF DROSSELMAYER**

This section is worked in 2 round stripes, using your C2 and C3. You will carry your yarns up the inside of your leg as you work the stripes.

**Round 1 (C3)** - knit all stitches.

**Round 2** - as round 1.

**Round 3 (C2)** - knit all stitches.

**Round 4** - as round 3.

Repeat rounds 1 to 4 a further 3 times (16 rounds total).  
Cut your C2 yarn, leaving a tail to weave in.

## **DAY FOUR (LEG) - BATTLE WITH THE MOUSE KING**

Using your C3 yarn knit one round and then work the following:-

**Round 1** - (k4, p1, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Round 2** - (k3, p1, k1, p1, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 3** - (k2, p1, k3, p1, k1) repeat to end of round.

**Round 4** - (k1, p1, k5, p1) repeat to end of round.

**Round 5** - (p1, k7) repeat to end of round.

**Round 6** - as round 4.

**Round 7** - as round 3.

**Round 8** - as round 2.

Repeat rounds 1 to 8 once more, and then work round 1 one more time (17 rounds total).

## **DAY FIVE (LEG) - KINGDOM OF SWEETS**

This section is worked in 2 round stripes, using your C1 and C3. You will carry your yarns up the inside of your leg as you work the stripes.

**Round 1 (C1)** - knit all stitches.

**Round 2** - as round 1.

**Round 3 (C3)** - knit all stitches.

**Round 4** - as round 3.

Repeat rounds 1 to 4 a further 3 times (16 rounds total).  
Cut your C3 yarn, leaving a tail to weave in.





## DAY SIX - INTERMISSION - HEEL FLAP AND TURN

### The heel is knitted with your C1 yarn

You will now begin the heel flap which is worked back and forth over half of your total stitches, and is knitted on needle 2 (this is the back of your work as you look at it).

**Row 1(WS)** - s1 (purl-wise), purl to end of row. Turn your work.

**Row 2** - [s1 (purl-wise), k1] repeat to end of row. Turn your work.

**Today's video shows a little tweak I make to row 2 to neaten up the edges. You can work it as it's written above, or make the adjustment you see in the video.**

Repeat the above 2 rows for a total of 14 (16,18) repeats. You will have completed 28 (32,36) rows.

## SQUARE HEEL TURN

**Row 1(WS)** - s1, p17 (20, 23) p2tog, turn your work.

**Row 2** - s1, k8 (10, 12) ssk, turn your work.

**Row 3** - s1, p8 (10, 12) p2tog, turn your work.

**Row 4** - s1, k8 (10, 12) ssk, turn your work.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until you have used up all your stitches that are on either side of the centre heel stitches. You will be left with 10 (12, 14) stitches on your needle.

Now cut your C1 yarn, leaving a tail to weave in.





**Now it's time for a little intermission treat!!**

**This recipe is my own creation, inspired by my family's love of Welsh Cakes. I hope you love them!**

## **NUTCRACKER CAKES (Makes 12)**

### **Ingredients**

225g plain white flour ( I use white spelt flour)

85g dark muscovado sugar

100g butter (room temperature)

1 egg, beaten

1 teaspoon of ground ginger

1/2 teaspoon mixed spice (or cinnamon if you prefer)

A drizzle of vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Golden caster sugar to finish (you don't use much, it's just used for coating the cakes)

Non stick frying pan (used dry - no oil or butter needed)

Biscuit/cookie cutter of your choice ( I used a heart shaped one)

### **Method**

Place the flour, sugar, baking powder and spices into a bowl. Mix these together by rubbing through your fingertips, this will break up the sugar as it tends to clump a little.

Add the butter and rub in until it resembles breadcrumbs.

Add a drizzle of vanilla extract ( I like the paste) into the beaten egg and then mix this in to form a soft dough, the consistency of shortcrust pastry. If it's a little dry you can add a spot of milk.

Heat up your frying pan while you roll and cut out. You want the pan to be medium hot, take care not to use too high of a heat. No oil or butter is needed.

Roll out your dough to a thickness of just under a centimetre (about the thickness of your little finger).

Cut out 12 cakes, re rolling the dough when necessary.

If you have a little left over then you can just flatten this into a tiny round and use as your heat testing cake.

Cook the cakes for 3 minutes each side, they will be nicely golden and slightly risen. They will feel slightly firm with a little bounce.

Whilst your cakes are cooking, spread some of the golden caster sugar on a plate.

As soon as you remove them from the pan, pop the cakes onto the sugar and then also sprinkle some on top and around the sides. Move to a wire rack to cool completely.

Dan loves to eat these accompanied by a flat white coffee, but I prefer a big mug of strong english tea. They will keep well for a few days in an airtight container - if they last that long!





## DAY SEVEN - WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS (GUSSET PICK UP AND DECREASES)

**Using your C2 yarn** and the same needle that is now holding your heel stitches, pick up and knit 14 (16,18) stitches along the side of the heel flap. You will be picking up in each of the slipped stitches along the edge. Pick up 1 extra stitch in the gap to avoid any holes. **Place a marker at this point.**

You will now knit across needle 1. When you reach the halfway point of this round you need to push those stitches onto needle 2. You now have just 14 (16,18) stitches on needle 1, which should be knitted.

**Place a second stitch marker** before picking up 1 stitch to close the gap as previously, and then pick up 14 (16,18) stitches along the other side of the heel flap. Now using the same needle, knit 5 (6,7) stitches from the heel turn.

The start of your round is now at the centre of the heel.

### GUSSET DECREASE SET UP ROUND

When working this first round, knit the picked up gusset stitches through the back loop. Knit the 1 extra gap closing stitch in the usual manner.

Knit to first marker, slip marker and work in the Waltz Of The Flowers pattern to second marker. Slip marker and knit to end of round.

You are now ready to begin the gusset decreases.

## GUSSET DECREASES

**Round 1** - Knit to 3 stitches before the first marker, k2tog, k1. Slip marker and then knit in the Waltz Of The Flowers pattern to the second marker, slip marker, k1, ssk, knit to end of round.

**Round 2** - Knit to first marker, slip marker and then knit in Waltz Of The Flowers pattern to the second marker, slip marker and knit to end of round.

**Repeat these 2 rounds until you are back to your original cast on number.**

You can now complete this section, working the Waltz Of The Flowers pattern on the instep and knitting all stitches on the bottom of the foot. You need to work 3 repeats of the pattern for this section. This will be 18 rounds total (plus the extra round we did picking up the gusset stitches).





## Waltz Of The Flowers Pattern

This is worked on the top of the foot only, between the 2 markers.

SIZE SMALL (56 sts)

**Round 1** - (k2, k2tog, yo, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Round 2** - (k2, yo, k2, k2tog, k1) repeat to end of round.

**Round 3** - (k4, k2tog, yo, k1) repeat to end of round.

**Round 4** - (k3, yo, k2tog, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 5** - (k3, yo, skp, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 6** - (k3, yo, k2tog, k2) repeat to end of round.

Work the above 6 rounds a further two times (18 rounds total, plus the gusset pick up round to give you 19 rounds for this section.

SIZE MEDIUM (64 sts)

**Round 1** - (k2, k2tog, yo, k4) repeat to end of round.

**Round 2** - (k2, yo, k2, k2tog, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 3** - (k4, k2tog, yo, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 4** - (k3, yo, k2tog, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Round 5** - (k3, yo, skp, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Round 6** - (k3, yo, k2tog, k3) repeat to end of round.

Work the above 6 rounds a further two times (18 rounds total, plus the gusset pick up round to give you 19 rounds for this section.

SIZE LARGE (72 sts)

**Round 1** - (k1, k2tog, yo, k3) repeat to end of round.

**Round 2** - (k1, yo, k2, k2tog, k1) repeat to end of round.

**Round 3** - (k3, k2tog, yo, k1) repeat to end of round.

**Round 4** - (k2, yo, k2tog, k2) repeat to end of round.

**Round 5** - (k2, yo, skp, k2) repeat to end of round.

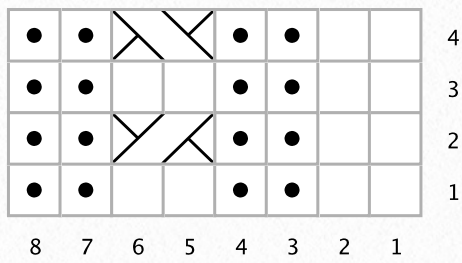
**Round 6** - (k2, yo, k2tog, k2) repeat to end of round.

Work the above 6 rounds a further two times (18 rounds total, plus the gusset pick up round to give you 19 rounds for this section.

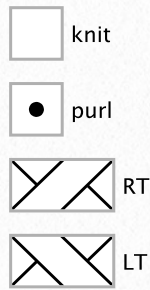




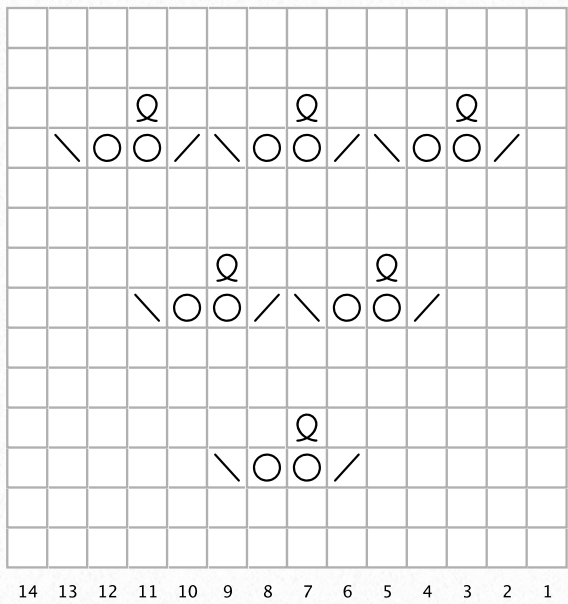
THE OVERTURE



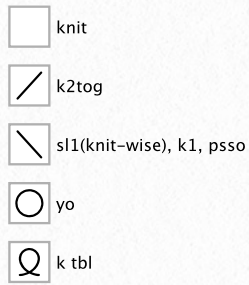
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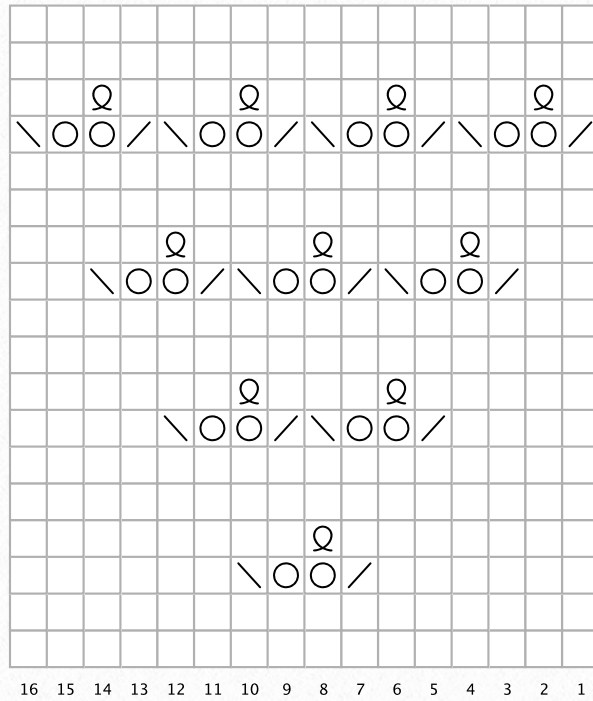
THE DECORATION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE - SIZE SMALL (56 sts)



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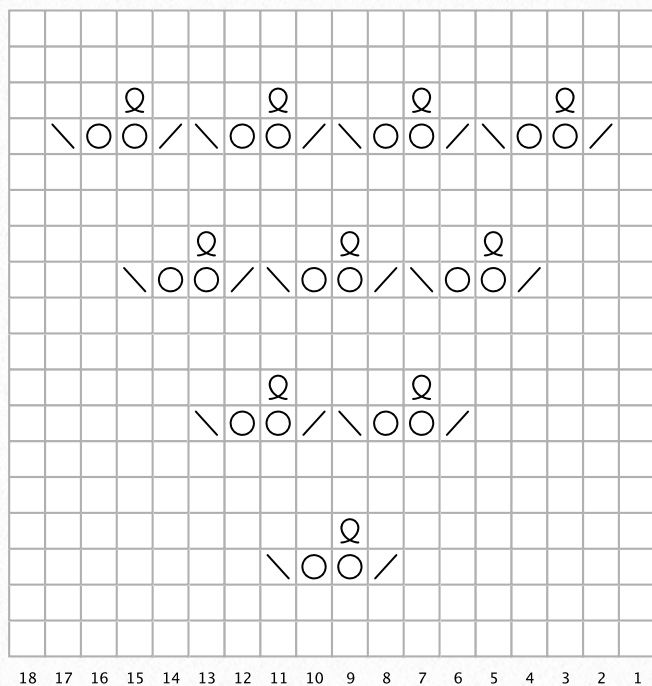
THE DECORATION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE - SIZE MEDIUM (64 sts)



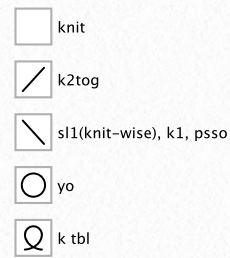
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THE DECORATION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE - SIZE LARGE (72sts)

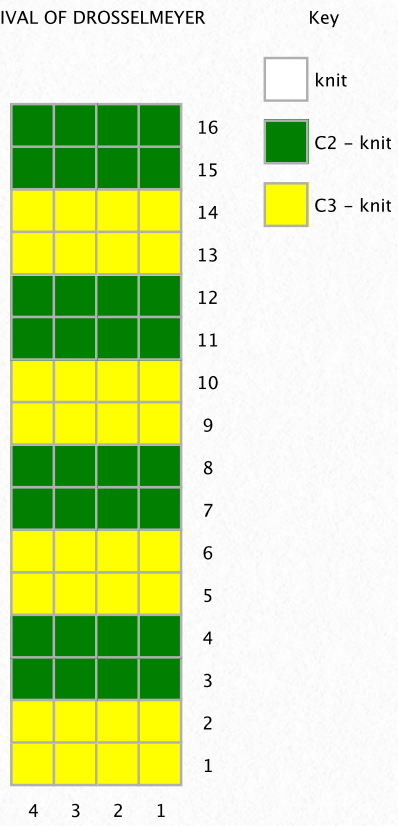


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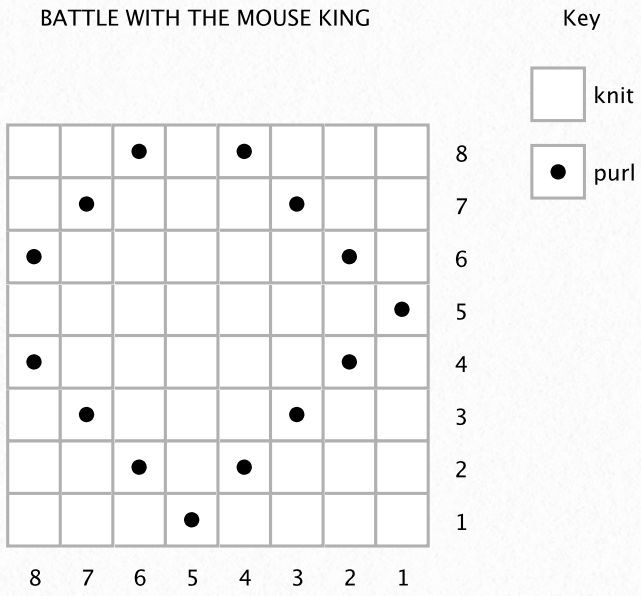




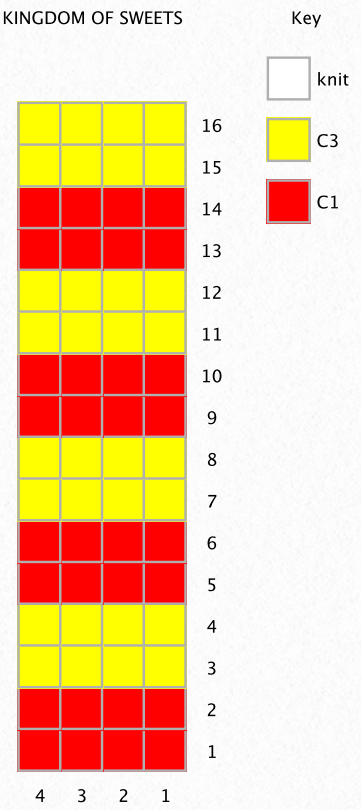
ARRIVAL OF DROSSELMEYER



BATTLE WITH THE MOUSE KING

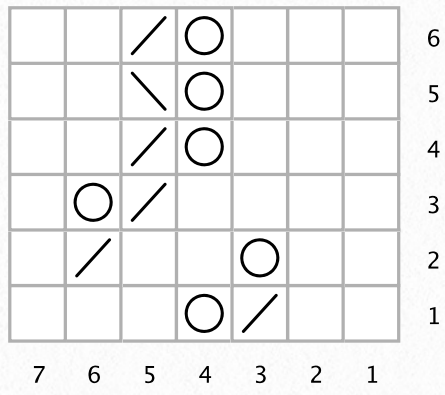


KINGDOM OF SWEETS

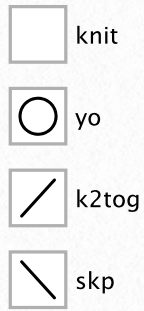




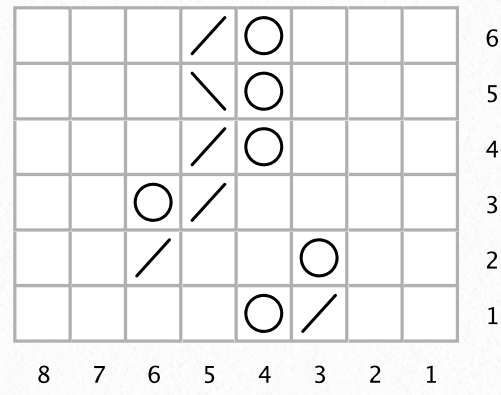
WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS (SIZE SMALL - 56 sts)



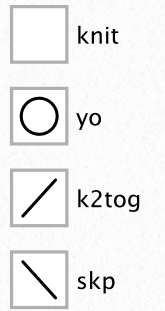
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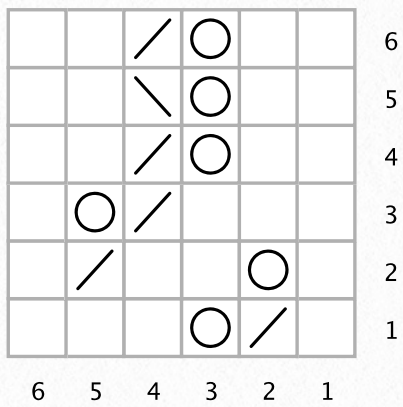
WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS (SIZE MEDIUM - 64 sts)



Key



WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS (SIZE LARGE - 72 sts)



Key

