



AGNESSE

Shawl

Shawl with a history

The Agnesse shawl features big diamonds in garter stitch and a broad decorative band in double knitting. It is worked from the bottom up in one continuous piece.

The shawl appears intentionally worn-out, featuring rough stitches at the color transitions, loose threads, gaps, and occasional mistakes. It seems to belong to a bygone era, much like Agnesse, who died in 1610 after being accused of witchcraft. Of course, you can also knit the shawl without such imperfections.

The double knitting at the top gives the shawl structure, helping it sit nicely on your shoulders. The elongated garland motif is eye-catching and creates a bold contrast with the diamonds. The shawl can be worn on both sides for added convenience.

Working back and forth on the circular needle is necessary due to the high number of stitches on the needle.



Methods and skills

Intarsia

Double knitting with two colors

Garner Stitch

TIP

If you have never double knitted before, start by watching several videos on YouTube.

There are numerous stitches on your needle (520!!), making it challenging to correct any mistakes.



YARN

ROWAN Felted Tweed

50% wool - 25% alpaca - 25% viscose

50 grams equals 175 meters.

154 Ginger	100 g
181 Mineral	50 g
157 Camel	50 g
150 Rage	50 g
152 Watery	50 g
213 Lime	50 g
211 Black	50 g

Felted Tweed combines merino wool, alpaca, and viscose to create a tweed effect with a rustic color palette. The yarn is soft, light, and warm - the shawl weighs only 220 g.

NEEDLES

3.5 mm circular needles, various cable lengths

GAUGE

20 stitches x 40 rows in garter stitch (20 ridges) with 3.5 mm needles = 10 cm

MEASUREMENTS

Top width 147 cm

Total height 73 cm

Height of band in double knitting 7 cm

DIFFICULTY



GARLAND PATTERN

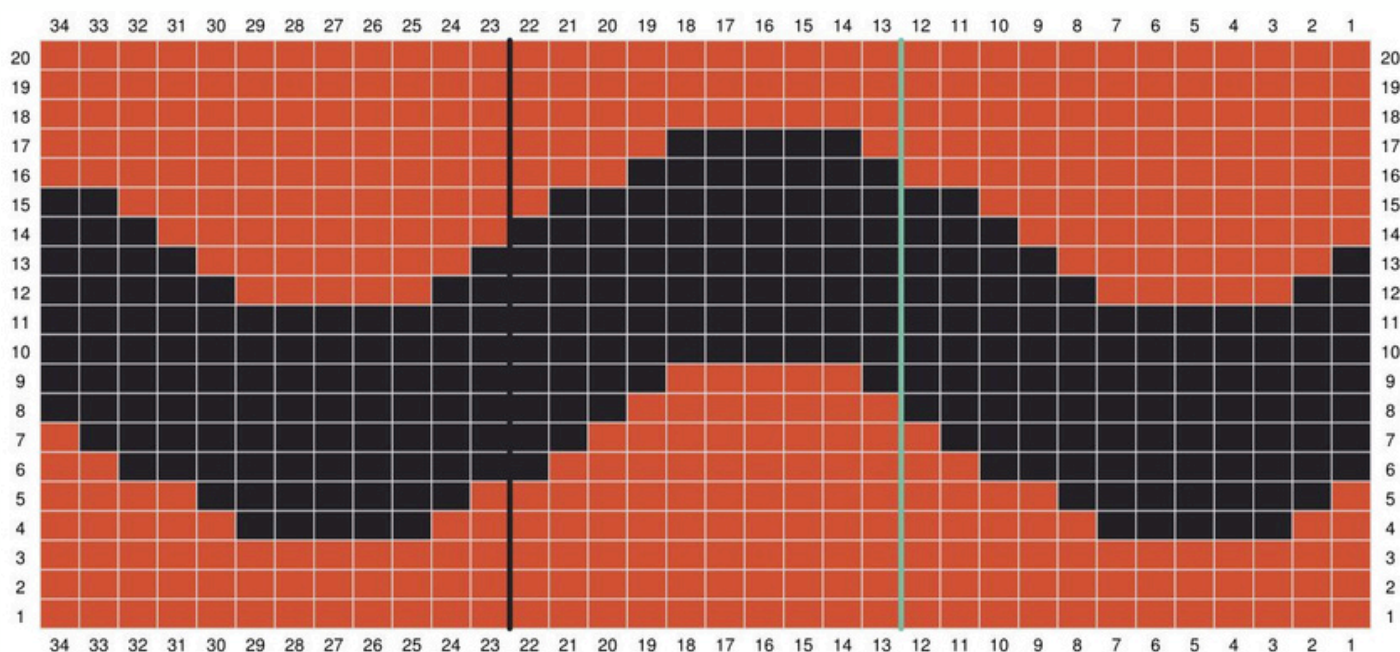
The chart shows the motif on one side. Repeat the 22-stitch motif (up to the black line) 23 times. After the final repeat, continue following the chart through motif stitch 34.

Work the second row from left to right and repeat the 22-stitch motif (up to the green line). After the final repeat, continue following the chart through motif stitch 1. Begin row 3 again from right to left.

The chart does not include the edge stitches.

TIP

Print this page and align it with a ruler. Position the ruler right above the row you are about to knit. This will provide you with a clear view of your previous knitting work.



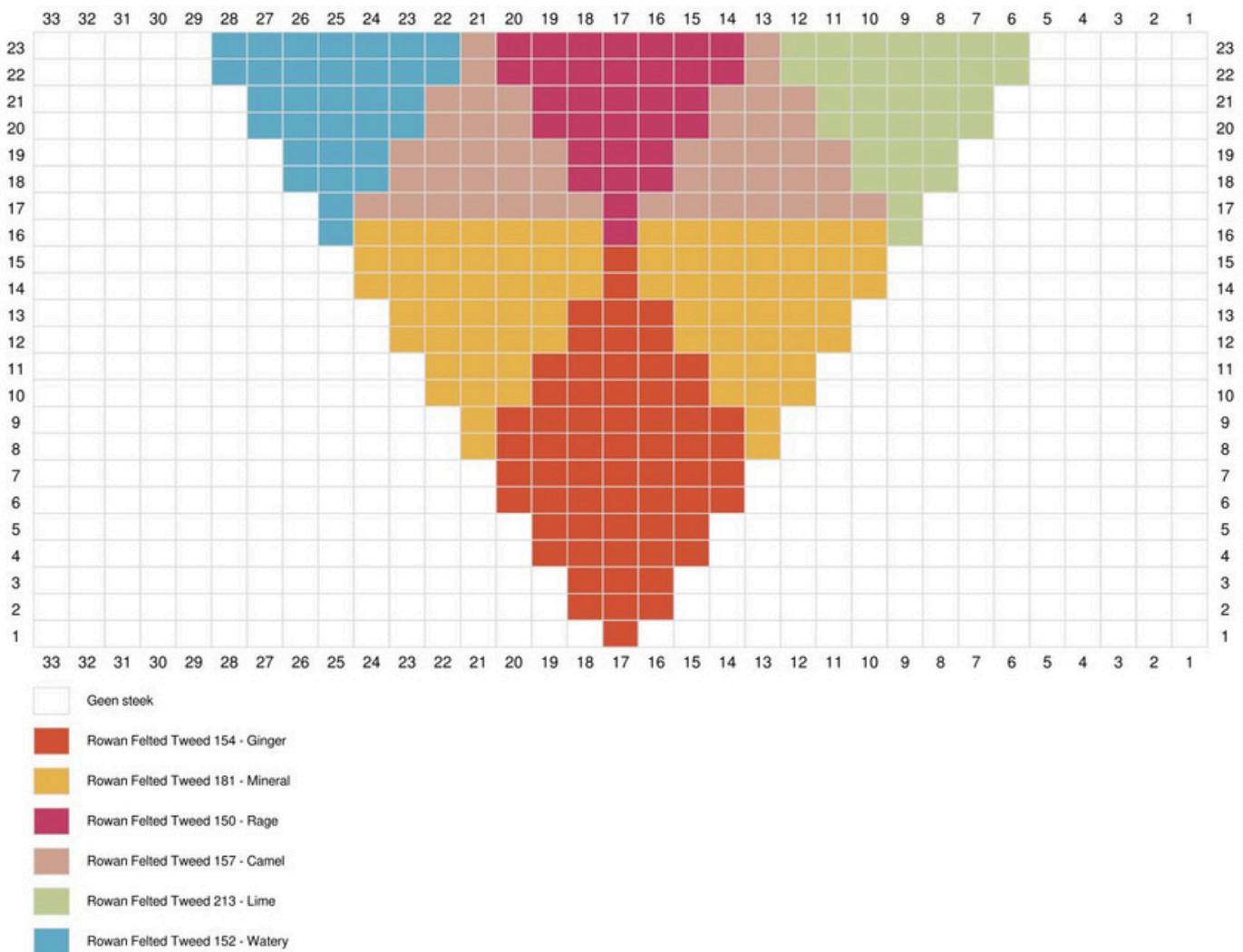
DIAMOND PATTERN

Knit the diamonds using the intarsia technique. On right-side rows, increase 1 stitch at each side. You can select your colors or use the suggested color scheme for the diamonds. Each diamond consists of 87 stitches at its widest point. The diagram simplifies the stitch count, but the increasing principle remains consistent:

- increase until you have 87 stitches
- work 87 stitches on the return row
- on the next row, increase at both sides in the new color

TIP

Position a stitch marker on the right side of your knitting. That's how you know you need to increase in that row.



DOUBLE KNITTING with two colors

Double knitting involves creating two layers simultaneously: the front and back of the work, resulting in twice the number of stitches on the needle.

Keep in mind the necessity to double knit the chart!

Each square symbolizes two stitches or a stitch pair: one knit stitch from the front and one purl stitch from the back. Both colors are incorporated for every stitch pair. This method involves knitting the knit stitch in one color and the purl stitch in the other color, alternating to create the motif.

TIP

Place stitch markers on either side of the garland motif (see photo) and move them along as you work. This will help you keep track of the pattern.



IRREGULARITIES (option)

Holes with loose threads

Here and there, openings are created in the work by casting off a number of stitches. These openings are bridged with yarn overs. The cast-off stitches are then cast on again. The openings can be made as wide and as high as desired. An example is provided below of 3 cast-off stitches over 4 rows high.

Opening of 3 stitches

Row 1: bind off 3 stitches and work to the end of the row.

Row 2: work to the opening, wrap the yarn twice around the right needle, knit the next stitch through the back loop and work to the end of the row.

Row 3: work to the opening, drop the 2 yarn overs from the needle, make 2 new yarn overs, knit the next stitch through the back loop and work to the end of the row.

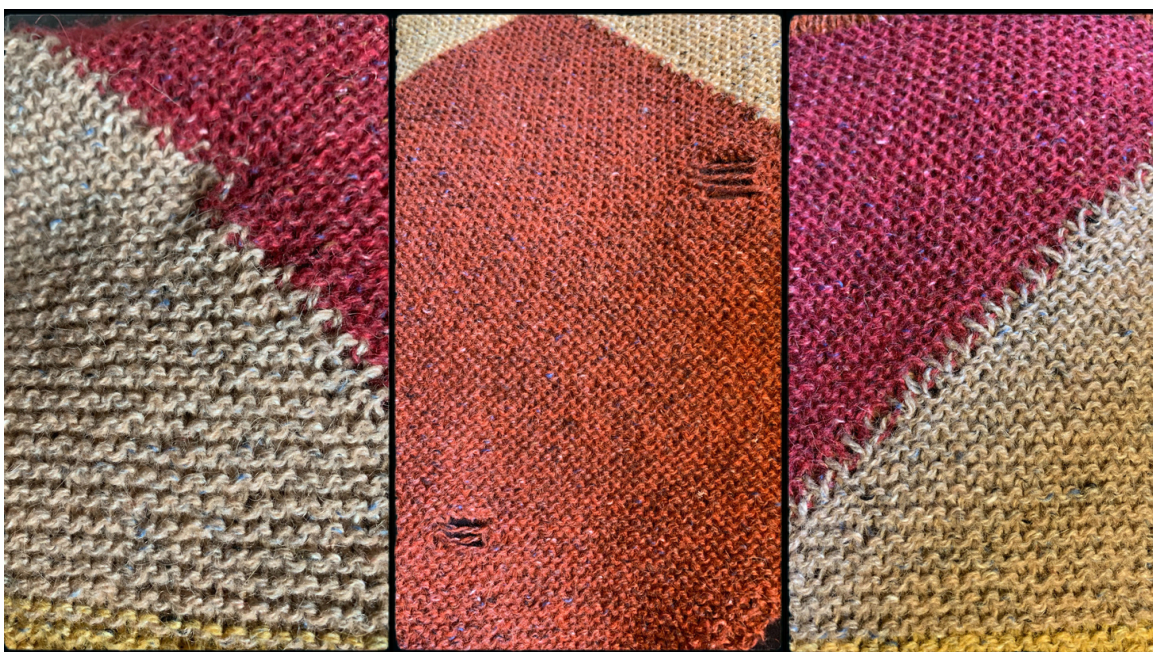
Row 4: work to the opening, drop the 2 yarn overs from the needle and cast on 3 stitches as you work.

Inaccurate color transitions

Twisting the threads loosely around each other during the color change (intarsia) will result in a messy effect, resembling diamonds sewn together with a coarse stitch.

Mistakes

Mistakes were made here and there with the color change - a very enjoyable activity. There is a superstition that making at least one mistake is necessary to avoid creating a spiritual trap where your soul can be captured.



METHOD



1

CAST ON

Select size 3.5 circular knitting needles. Opt for a short cable length initially. Adjust the cable length as more stitches are added to the needle. For the initial section, I selected Ginger, a rusty orange color. The shawl is worked in garter stitch.

Row 1: cast on 3 stitches

Row 2 (return row): knit all stitches

Row 3 (right-side row): knit 2 stitches in the first and last stitch (2 stitches added)

Repeat rows 2 and 3 until your diamond counts 87 stitches.

2

KNITTING DIAMONDS

Continue knitting using the intarsia method. Begin 2 additional diamonds in Mineral on either side of the initial diamond. Achieve this by making increases in the new color. Keep knitting until these diamonds also consist of 87 stitches. Continue in the same way, working all the diamonds according to the color scheme.



3

DOUBLE KNITTING, DECORATIVE BAND

There are 261 stitches on the needle and 3 half diamonds.

Begin the double knitting with a return row.

Knitting the first stitch with both colors together: the edge stitch.

From the given stitches, knit 2 stitches with 2 colors: the front stitch knit in Black, the back stitch purled through the back loop in Ginger.

Knitting the final stitch with both colors together: the edge stitch.

There are now 520 stitches on the needle: 2 edge stitches and 518 stitches forming 259 stitch pairs.

4

GARLAND DESIGN, EDGE STITCHES

Follow the counting pattern. Remember that each square is knitted twice: once on the right side and once on the wrong side.

When knitting, always work the initial stitch with both colors on the right. Remember to slip the final stitch purlwise without knitting.



5

BIND OFF

Complete the final row of the counting pattern. Trim the threads (keeping a tail for later tucking). Slide all stitches to the other end of the circular needle. Bind off the stitches without knitting:

Slip the front knit stitch as if to knit without knitting. Slip the back purl stitch purlwise without knitting. Pass the first over the second stitch. Continue in this manner until all stitches have been cast off. The outcome is a lovely two-tone border.

Secure the tail by pulling it through the final stitch and fastening it. Weave in all the ends.



THE DIAMOND



The diamond, a feminine symbol

The diamond is an ancient motif that has carried symbolic meanings across different periods and cultures. It has been associated with protection, femininity, fertility and new life. Its shape evokes the womb and can also be found in symbols associated with women and birth.

In the shawl for Agnesse, the diamond appears again and again. The large areas of color form the body of the shawl and are bordered at the top by the flowing motif worked in double knitting.

For me, the diamond became a protective symbol for Agnesse de le Plache. A protection she was not given during her lifetime, but one that I want to offer her symbolically through this design.



A tribute to the victims

MICCA is a collection of textile designs created in remembrance of the victims of the historical witch persecutions. Each design bears the name of a woman or man who was accused of witchcraft. In Europe alone, an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 people were executed for witchcraft.

Threads of love

MICCA weaves their history into timeless creations made from yarn. Every stitch is part of the chain that connects us across generations.

You can find my designs on Ravelry under Micca-witchcraft or on my website www.micca-witchcraft.be. There you can also discover the stories behind the designs and download my e-book, in which I present the cruel reality of the witch persecutions in an original way.



Colophon

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