



GERTRUD SVENSDOTTER

Folkdräkttröja

Folkdräkttröja, Dalarna in thread

For this sweater, I was inspired by the traditional folkdräkttröja from the Swedish region of Dalarna. The original garment was not knitted, but made from broadcloth and richly decorated with hand embroidery around the neck.



In my interpretation, I translate that heritage into a light, silky-soft knitted sweater. The distinctive neckline motif, just like in the original, is not knitted in but embroidered onto the knit by hand afterwards. Only the double spiral is incorporated into the knit itself. The sweater is finished with a small keyhole opening on the back, closed with a button.

Choose from 3 sizes: S, M, and L. Size S is shown in the photos. You work top-down in the round up to the armholes. Then divide the work and continue knitting the sleeves and body separately.

YARN

DROPS ALPACA

100 % alpaca

50 g = 170 m

8903 black 200 (200) 250 g

7139 mineral blue 50 (50) 50 g

7815 forest mix 50 (50) 50 g

Leftover Drops Kid-Silk powder (color 63),
black (color 02) and white (color 01)

DIFFICULTY LEVEL



NEEDLES

Circular knitting needles 3 Crochet hook 3

STITCH TENSION

24 stitches x 32 rows in stockinette stitch
with 3mm needles = 10 cm

SWEATER DIMENSIONS

Bust circumference: 90 (95, 102) cm

Total length: 51 (56, 61) cm

Length to yoke: 27 (30, 33) cm

Yoke depth: 24 (26, 28) cm

Sleeve length to yoke: 25 (27, 29) cm

Chest circumference 90 (95-102) cm Total length 51-56-61 cm Length to yoke 27-30-33 cm Length yoke 24-26-28 cm Sleeve length to yoke 25-27-29 cm

METHOD



1

CIRCULAR YOKE

Take your 3mm circular needles. Cast on 108 stitches with black Alpaca and knit back and forth: 1 ridge with black alpaca and 1 ridge with white Kid-Silk.

Knit 20 rows in stockinette stitch with black Alpaca.

- In the 3rd round, increase 17 stitches evenly distributed across the needle = 125 stitches
- In the 7th row, increase 24 stitches evenly distributed across the needle = 149 stitches
- In the 9th row, close the circle and knit in the round. Increase 1 st at the end of the row = 150 sts
- In the 11th row, increase 37 stitches evenly distributed across the needle = 187 stitches
- In the 17th row, increase 38 stitches evenly distributed across the needle = 225 stitches

Knit 1 ridge with white Kid-Silk.

Knit 10 rows in stockinette stitch with green Alpaca and follow chart 6.

Knit the double spiral motif 15 times. Increase simultaneously:

- in the 2nd round 30 sts = 255 sts
- in the 9th row 33 sts = 288 sts

Knit 1 ridge with white Kid-Silk.

Knit 18 rows in stockinette stitch with light blue Alpaca.

Knit 1 ridge with white Kid-Silk.

First, sew 7 crosses onto the black strip in pink Kid-Silk following chart 1.

Use stitch markers to determine the placement of the motifs. Leave approximately 7 stitches between each cross. Then embroider the 16 motifs onto the blue strip according to charts 2, 3, 4, and 5 with pink Kid-Silk. Each motif counts 18 stitches. Center the triple moon in the middle of the front panel.

Continue knitting with black Alpaca. You have 288 stitches. Place 4 stitch markers for the raglan: after 45 sts (half back), 55 sts (sleeve), 89 sts (front), and 55 sts (sleeve). Increase for the raglan on each side of the 4 markers in every 5th row 1 st = 8 sts increased. Increase in this way 5 (8-11) times in total = 328 (352-376) sts

Continue knitting without a raglan until a length of 24 (26-28) cm.

2

ARMHOLDS, SPLIT WORK

Knit 50 (53-56) stitches (half back). Place the next 65 (71-77) stitches onto a waste yarn for the sleeve. Cast on 10 (10-12) new stitches (armpit). Knit 99 (105-111) stitches (front). Place the next 65 (71-77) stitches onto a waste yarn for the sleeve. Cast on 10 (10-12) new stitches (armpit). Knit the remaining 49 (52-55) stitches (half back). Continue knitting the body and sleeves separately. You have 218 (230-246) stitches on the needle.

3

BODY

Continue knitting with black Alpaca in stockinette stitch until a total length of 51 (53-55) cm is reached, measured across the back. Knit 3 ridges and cast off loosely.



4

SLEEVES

Place the 65 (71-77) stitches for the sleeve onto a 3 mm circular needle + 1 stitch in each of the 10 (10-12) extra stitches = 75 (81-89) stitches. Place a stitch marker in the center of the extra stitches and begin the round there. Knit in stockinette stitch in the round with black Alpaca.

After 2 cm from the parting, decrease 2 stitches in the middle under the sleeve. Begin 3 stitches before the stitch marker, knit 2 stitches together, 2 knit (the stitch marker is in the middle of these 2 stitches), slip 1 knit stitch, 1 knit stitch, pass the slipped stitch over the knitted stitch = 2 stitches decreased. Decrease in this way every 8th row a total of 5 times = 55 (61-67) stitches.

Continue knitting until the work measures 25 (27-29) cm from the parting. Knit 3 ridges and cast off loosely.

5

FINISHING

Tuck in all loose ends. Crochet a row of slip stitches around the foundation stitches and the keyhole opening with green Alpaca. Sew on the button.



CHART 1

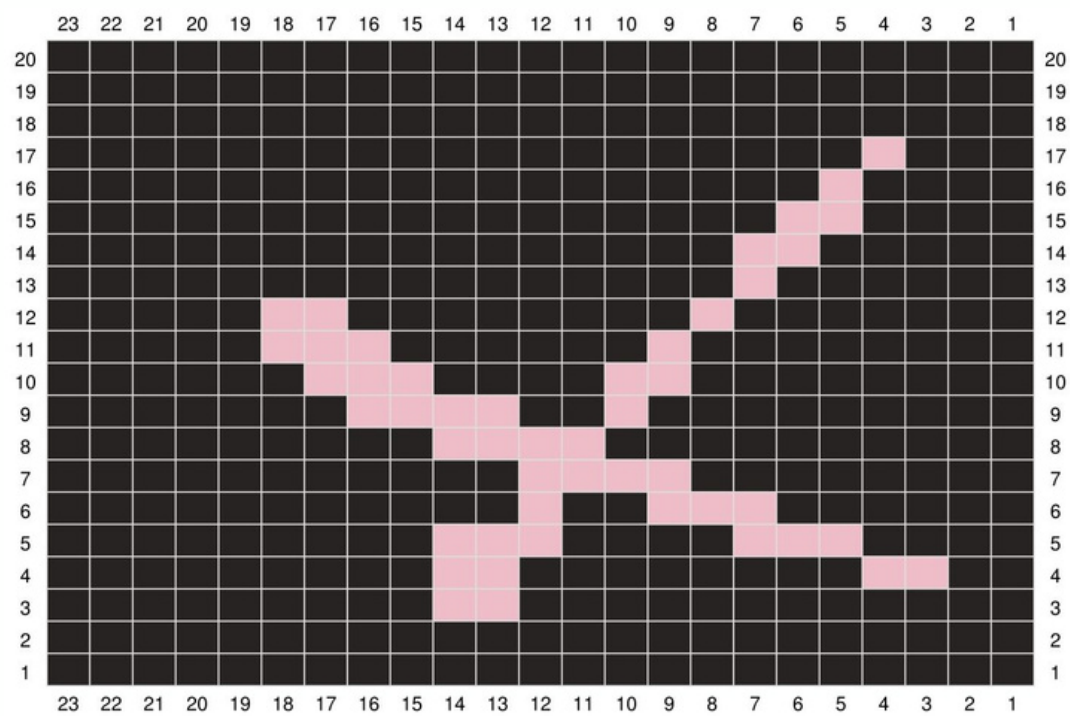


CHART 2

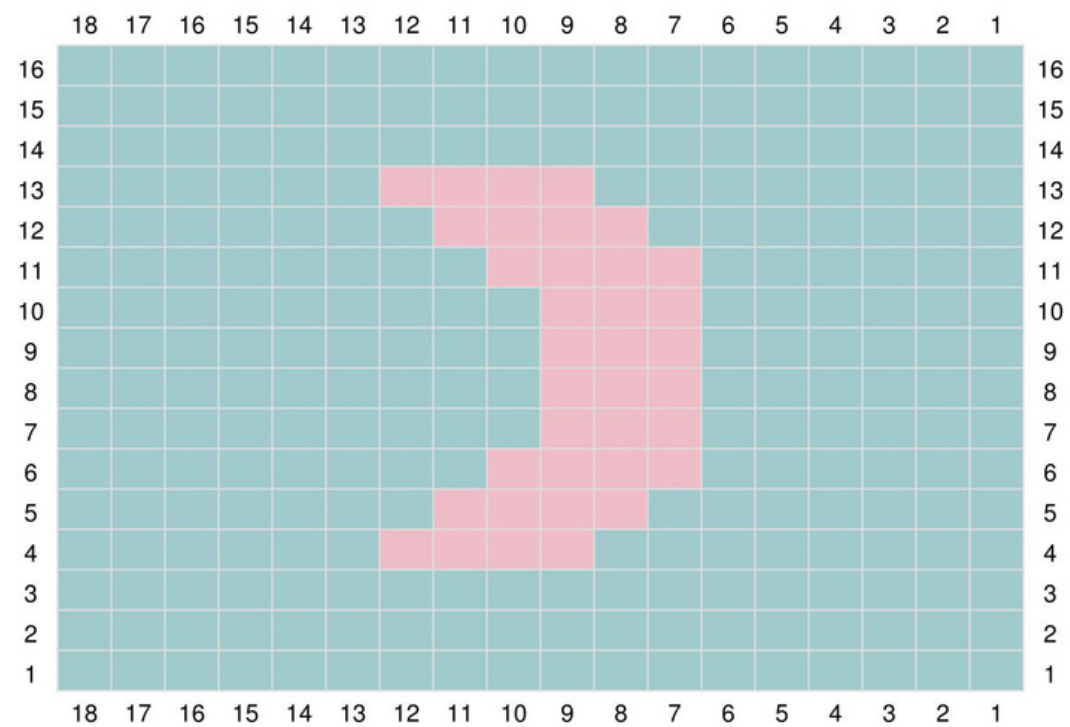


CHART 3

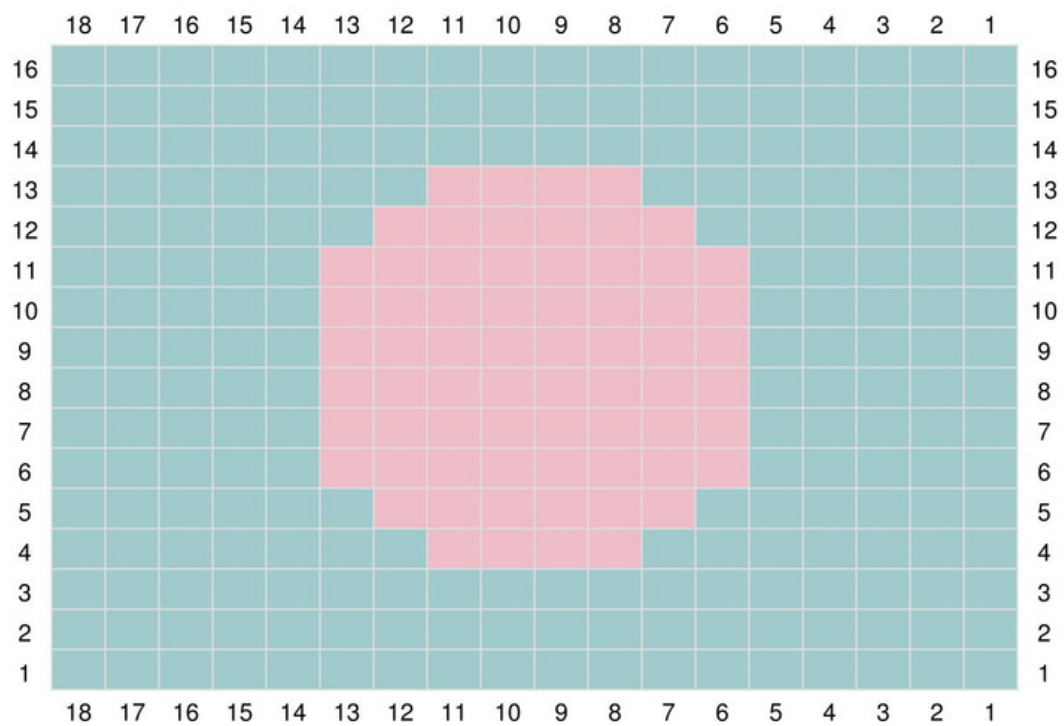


CHART 4

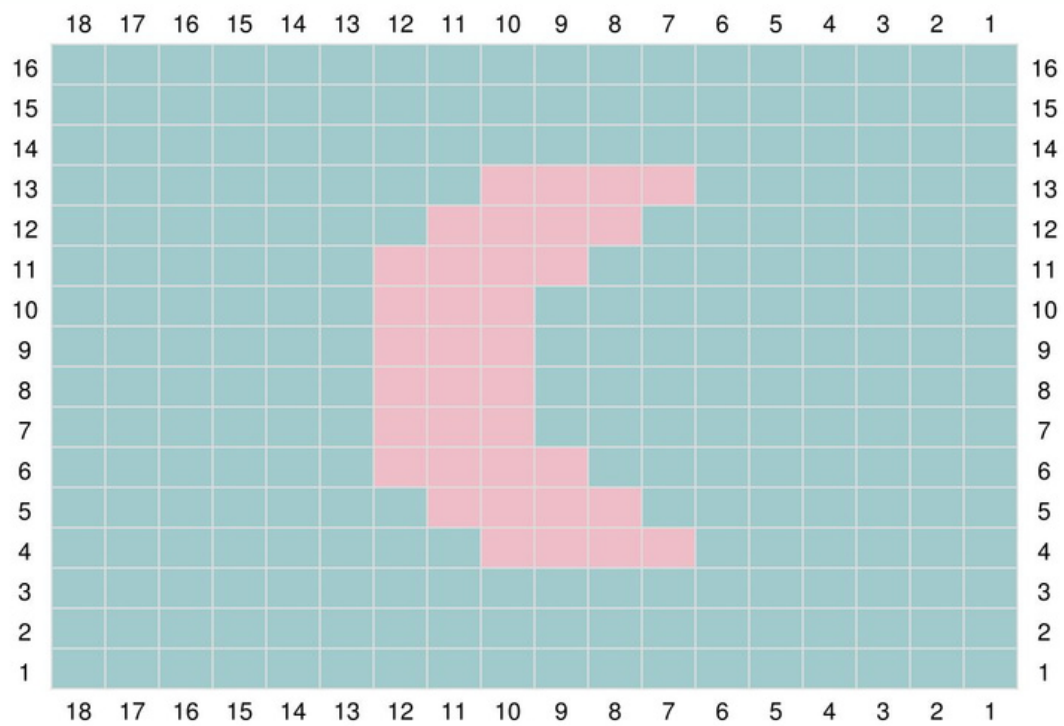


CHART 5

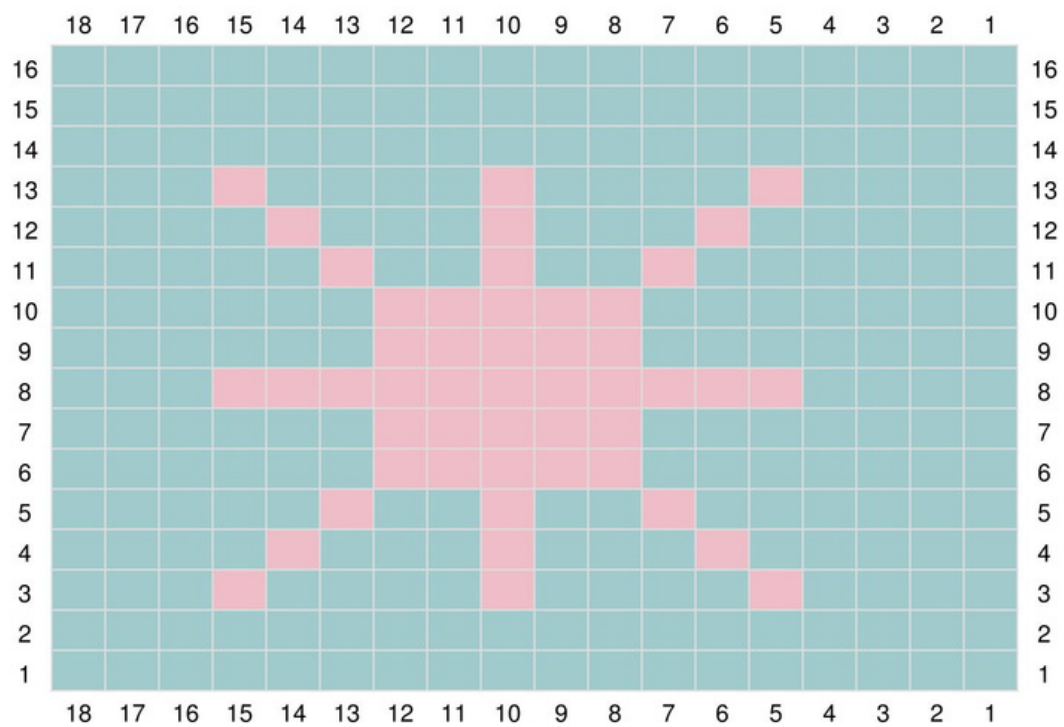
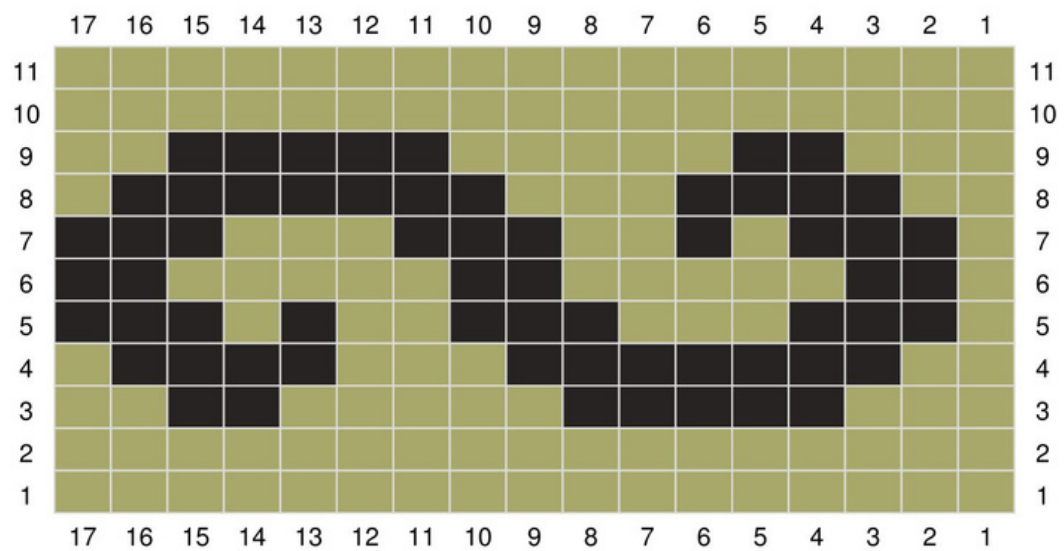


CHART 6



CROSSES



Magical crafts

The cross motifs in the upper part of the pass refer to a loaded practice from the witch trials. Many accused could not write and placed a simple cross as a sign instead of their name under testimonies, statements, or confessions that were often obtained under duress.

The border of double spirals is derived from prehistoric and Celtic ornamentation. The repetition of the form evokes cycles and movement, a silent reference to what continues to repeat itself.

The triple moon motif forms a rhythmic band around the neck. The moon phases alternate with a sun, creating a play between light and dark, between cycle and stillness.

In memory of Gertrud Svensdotter

Gertrud was a girl from Älvdalen (Dalarna) who, in 1668 at the age of twelve, became involved in the beginning of the Swedish witch trials, the period known as *Det stora oväsendet*.

Her stories about journeys to Blåkulla, the mythical place where witches gathered, were taken seriously and contributed to a chain reaction of accusations, often by and against children.

Later, Gertrud herself also came under suspicion. She was interrogated, but not executed. Her name thus remains linked to a period in which children could become both witnesses and accused, trapped in a reality they could not understand or control.

Tribute to thousands of 'witches'

The sweater for Gertrud Svensdotter is part of MICCA, a collection that pays tribute to the many victims of the witch persecution. In Europe alone, more than 100,000 alleged witches died at the stake.

Threads of love

MICCA weaves their history into timeless creations made of thread. Every stitch is part of the chain that connects us across generations. You can find my designs on my Ravelry page Micca-witchcraft or website www.micca-witchcraft.be. There you will also find my e-book, in which I portray the cruel reality of the witch persecution in an original way.



Colophon

Design, photos and text are by Mieke Van Damme, vandammemieke@proximus.be. All patterns remain the property of Mieke Van Damme and are intended with much love for personal, non-commercial use. This pattern is free. Reselling is not permitted, but feel free to share it with others. A reference is always greatly appreciated. Have fun making!

website	www.micca-witchcraft.be
instagram	miekemicca
facebook	miccawitchcraft
ravelry	micca-witchcraft