



ANNE PEDERSDOTTER

Lusekofte

Norwegian lusekofte

This sweater was created in memory of Anne Pedersdotter, a victim of the witch hunts in Norway. Inspired by the lusekofte - a traditional Norwegian garment - the design features patterns that once offered protection in everyday life. The signature repeating motif here is a bindrune surrounded by hearts: a symbol of connection and love, of strength that endures when social protections disappear.

The flying witch, stitched onto the knitting afterward, is a reinterpretation of a historical stereotype. What once served to condemn is here reclaimed and worn proudly.

Choose from 2 sizes: S/M and L/XL. The photos show size S/M. Work in the round up to the armholes. Then divide the piece in two and knit each section separately. The flying witch and the frame of red hearts and binding runes around the witch are stitched onto the body before starting the sleeves. The sleeves are knitted onto the body from top to bottom in the round.

YARN

HOLST Supersoft
100% wool
50 g = 287 m

005 Graphite	300 g
002 Flannel Grey	250 g
001 Silver Grey	30 g
081 Venetian	50 g
080 Carmine	50 g

Holst Supersoft is a wonderfully soft 2-ply yarn. Holst Supersoft still contains a small amount of spinning oil, but this disappears after washing, making the yarn incredibly soft.

NEEDLES

Circular knitting needles 3

STITCH TENSION

31 stitches x 32 rows in stockinette stitch with needles 3 in jacquard = 10 cm after washing and blocking

SWEATER DIMENSIONS

Circumference at bottom after hem 108 (118) cm
Total length 60 (64) cm
Length to armhole 33 (37) cm
Armhole length 27 cm
Sleeve length 53 (57) cm

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY



METHOD



1

DESIGN, EDGE

Take your size 3 circular needles and choose a suitable cable length. Cast on 284 (316) stitches with Venetian yarn and close the circle. Knit in the round in rib (k2/p2) according to the chart. On the last round, increase 52 (44) stitches evenly distributed across the round. You have 336 (360) stitches. Knit the strip with hearts. For size L/XL only: on the last round, increase 8 stitches. You have 336 (368) stitches.

2

DIVIDE WORK, FRONT AND BACK

Continue knitting according to the chart. Note the color dominance: Flannel Grey is the dominant color. Divide the work into front and back pieces on row 108 (row 122) of the chart. Continue knitting each piece separately according to the chart using knit and purl needles. Knit the front bib entirely in Graphite. You will later stitch the witch, hearts, and binding runes onto this piece. For the back piece, continue knitting according to the binding rune chart.

Knit the shoulder stitches of the front and back together using the three-needle technique. For the neckline, knit 120 (140) stitches along the neckline using circular needles size 3. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the row (on a shoulder seam). Work 5 cm in rib (k1/p1) and bind off smoothly.

Embroider the flying witch and the red border with hearts and binding runes on the chest piece according to the counting diagram.



3

SLEEVES

Using a size 3 circular needle, knit 156 stitches around the armholes. This equals approximately four out of every five stitches. Start at the bottom of the armhole and place a stitch marker at the beginning of the row. Always purl the first stitch after the marker. Decrease before (slip one stitch) and after (knit two together) the purl stitch according to the chart. Follow the chart for the sleeve.

For the ribbing, on the last row of the heart pattern (Venetian), decrease 20 stitches evenly across the needle. You now have 60 stitches on your needle. Knit all stitches on the first row of the ribbing. Only on the second row, k2/p2 according to the chart.

4

FINISHING

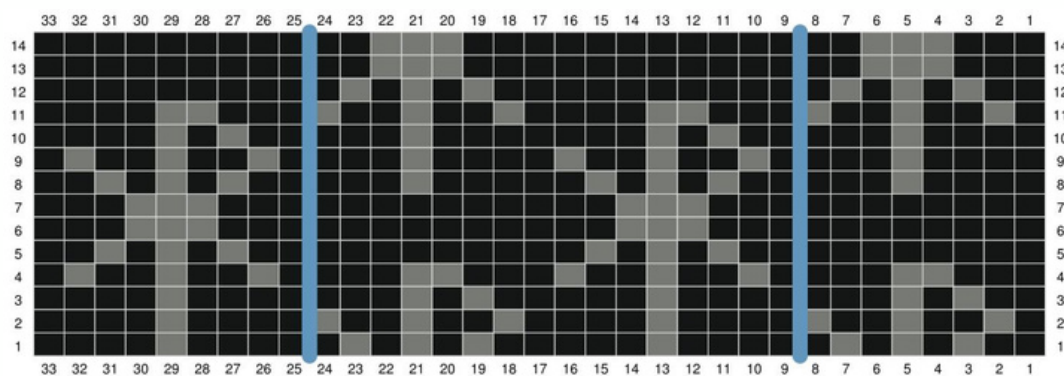
Weave in all the threads. Soak the sweater in Eucalan for half an hour. Let it dry flat.



Front chart S/M



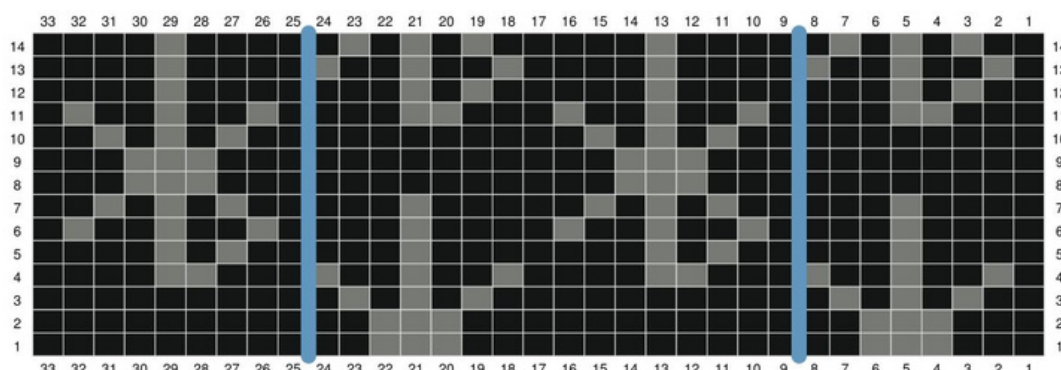
Bindrune



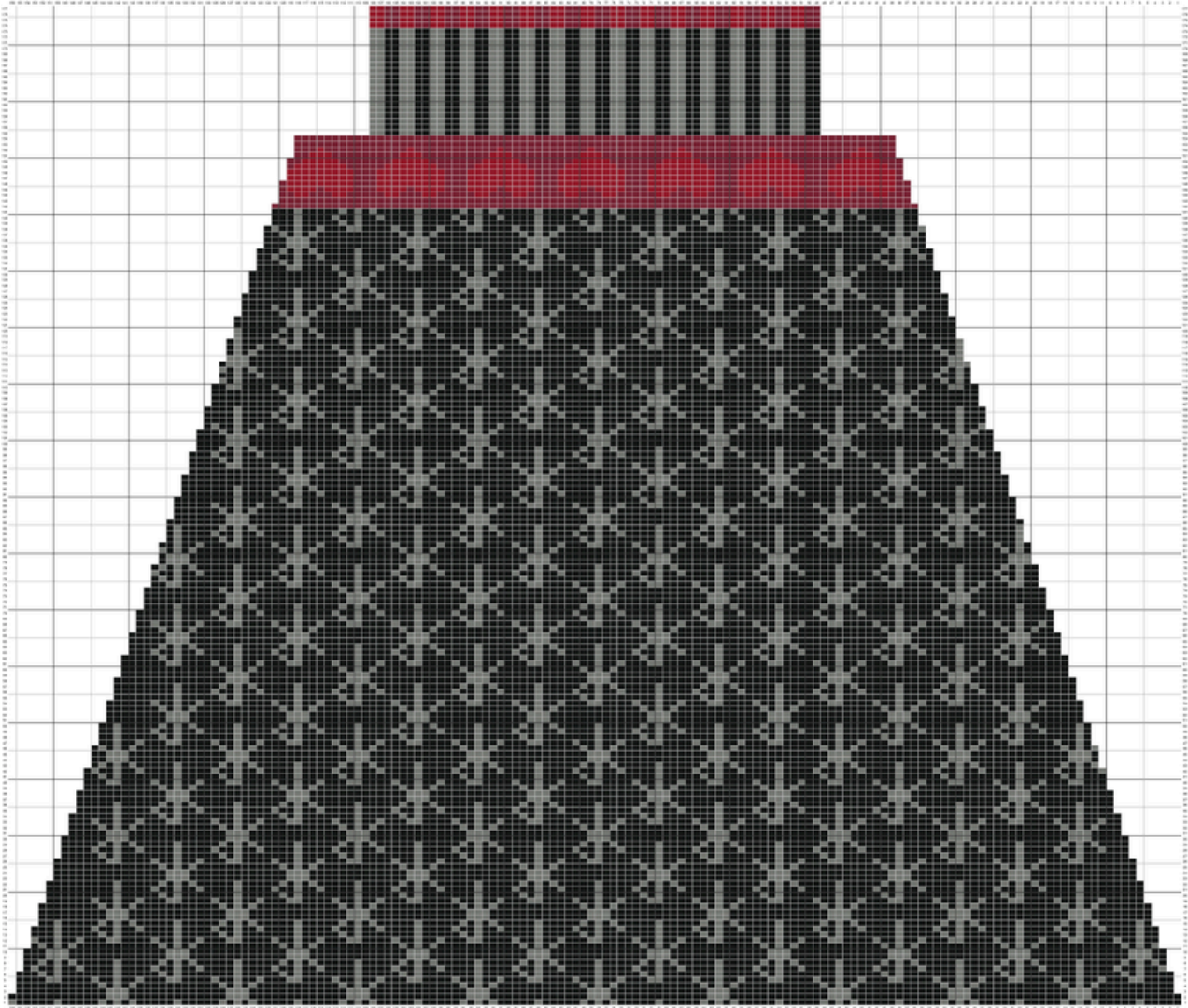
Front chart L/XL



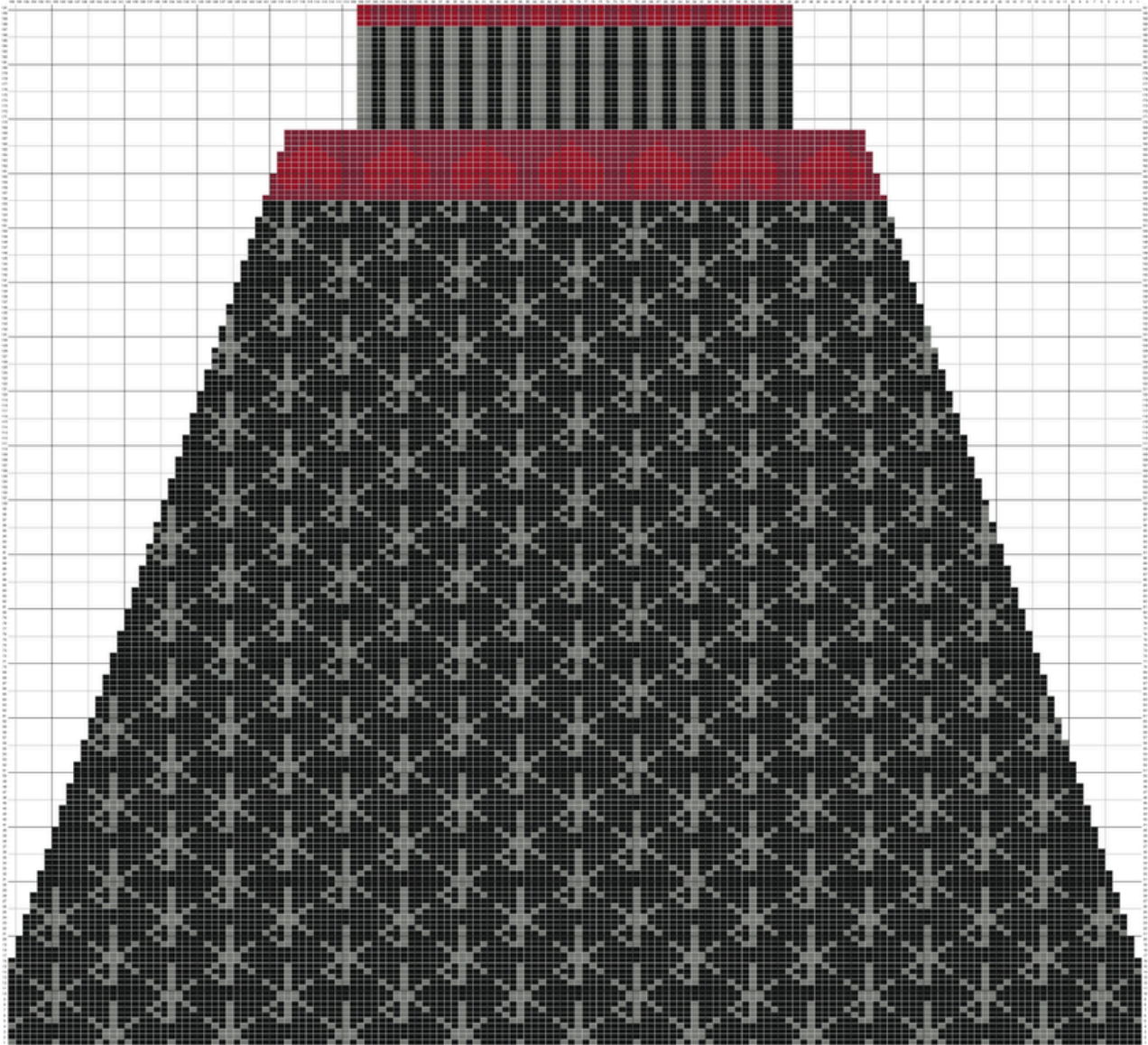
Bindrune reversed



Sleeve chart S/M



Sleeve chart L/XL



FLYING WITCH



Powerful archetype

The flying witch is deeply ingrained in our collective memory. Flying signifies freedom from gravity, from home, from social control. It is an image of autonomy, of transcending boundaries.

In mythological and psychological terms, the flying witch represents the woman who escapes her established role: she moves between worlds - between earth and air, between visible and invisible, between community and seclusion.

Historically, the motif of flight was used to demonize women: it suggested pacts, nocturnal gatherings, and the disruption of order. But symbolically, it's just the opposite: it's the image of inner freedom, of knowledge unbound by authority, of intuitive power.

White Ladies

The light gray color of the figure refers to an older tradition: that of the White Ladies (witte wieven). In old folktales, White Ladies appear as misty female figures above burial mounds, heathlands, and other ancient cult sites. They are seen as nature or ancestral spirits and may be remnants of pre-Christian female cult figures.

In memory of Anne Pedersdotter

The lusekofte is dedicated to Anne Pedersdotter, who was executed in Bergen in 1590 after a lengthy trial for witchcraft. She is considered the most famous victim of the Norwegian witch hunts.

Anne Pedersdotter was the widow of Absalon Pederssøn Beyer (1528–1575), an influential preacher, humanist, and chronicler. During his lifetime, she was part of Bergen's intellectual and religious network. After his death, she lost that protection and found herself in a vulnerable social position.

The accusations against her arose in a context of personal conflict and religious orthodoxy. In late sixteenth-century Norway (then part of the Dano-Norwegian realm), witchcraft was considered a serious crime against God and society. Anne Pedersdotter was arrested and released several times before finally being charged again. During the trial, she was tortured. The statements she made under these circumstances were used as confessions.

In 1590, she was publicly executed by burning. Her death served not only a criminal but also a deterrent purpose. The case against Anne Pedersdotter is well-documented and is often cited in historical research as an example of how social tensions, gender, power, and the judiciary intersected in the Scandinavian witch hunts.

In Bergen, in Nordnes Park, stands a memorial stone known as the Heksestein, or Witch Stone. This simple monument marks the spot where an estimated 350 people accused of witchcraft were burned during the Scandinavian witch trials between 1550 and 1700.

Tribute to thousands of 'witches'

The lusekofte for Anne is part of MICCA, a collection that honors the many victims of the witch hunt. In Europe alone, more than 100,000 suspected witches were burned at the stake. Anne was one of these many victims.

Threads of love

MICCA weaves its history into timeless creations made of thread. Each stitch is part of the chain that connects us across the generations. You can find all my designs free on my Ravelry page Micca-witchcraft or website www.micca-witchcraft.be. There you'll also find stories (In Words and Threads) and an e-book (Around the Table) in which I portray the cruel reality of the witch hunt in an original way.

Want to stay up-to-date on my work? Feel free to email me or follow me on social media.



Colophon

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Micca witchcraft



Miekemicca



Micca-witchcraft