

die Pfeilraupe

versatile and variable



Please do not expect the following descriptions to be a perfect guide! By popular demand, I'm simply trying to explain how I knitted my Arrow Caterpillar.

I used 538 m yarn; unfortunately I cannot be exact as the yarn was handspun. For the first half to the tip, I used almost 40% of the yarn, for the second half used slightly over 60%. I knitted with 3.5mm needles at a relatively firm gauge, because I do not like when the garter ribs are so loose that they fall apart.

Please read through all the instructions first, because several steps are made in parallel. For simplicity's sake I have described each step individually. It sounds more complicated than it is.

Following the instructions are charts showing the whole project as well as enlarged details for a better understanding.

In addition to a circular needle at least 80 cm long, you will need a lot of stitch markers, namely 25! :-)))

The project is knitted in garter stitch, meaning that 2 knitted rows = 1 garter ridge.

All techniques used here are explained in detail in my knitting book "[Strickbuch](#)".

Abbreviations

r right

l left

st(s) stitch(es)

SS selvage stitch (slip the last stitch of every row with yarn in front, turn. The first stitch of every row may be either knit or knit through the back loop, as you prefer)

SM stitch marker

kfb knit into front and back of the stitch (one stitch increased)

Setup

Start with a crochet cast on (see knitting book "[aufhäkeln](#)"). Please make the first cast-on stitch as shown [here](#). Cast on 12 sts, place a SM, *cast on 11 more sts, place another SM*, repeat from * to * until you have used all 25 SM. Then cast on 12 more sts for a total of 288 sts on the needle.

Lower Long Bevelled Edge

The lower long edge is formed by a series of short rows. I have not worked the classic German short rows with a double stitch here, but simply turned the work, slipped first stitch with the yarn in front and well tightened the yarn, so that the stitches are neat and firm. This gives a nicer edge than double stitches.

The lengthening of the rows takes place by alternating series of 5-stitch and 6-stitch short rows where the SM will serve as reference points.

The first short row is 5 stitches long plus the SS. The second short row goes to the first SM. The third is 5 sts past the SM. The fourth goes again to the next SM. Repeat the alternating rhythm described for the third and fourth short rows to the tip.

The first two SMs are slipped and left in place, they serve as markers for the slits, see diagram.

Remove the other SMs as you work the return row, after you slipped the SM in the lengthened row and knitted 5 more sts.

The stitch markers help to stay perfectly in rhythm because you know that when you just slipped the next SM, 5 sts must be knitted. In the next ridge you knit again to the next SM and have so a perfect 6 sts step without counting. ;-)

Short Bevelled Edge

At the same time, on the right selvage edge of the work, on each fourth ridge on the back row, the last sts before the selvage stitch is doubled (kfb) and thus makes the inclination of the short edge.

Slits

The first slit is made in the 17th ridge (= 14th ridge counted from the edge of 4th step). On the chart at the end you can see exactly how this is meant. We cast off in the right

side row. To get a neat transition, I formed a loop out of the last knitted stitch (the one on the right needle). This loop is used to cast off the first stitch (attention, the loop does not count!), then cast off 11 sts. Take care to tighten the first couple of sts after the cast off.

The 11 sts will be crochet cast on again In the wrong side row. For this, insert the needle into the last stitch on the left needle, turn the needle clockwise to the front as to twist the right stitch; this is the first loop for the crochet cast on and helps avoiding a too elongated stitch and an untidy slit foundation.

The first loop is the first sts after the slit, i.e. the next sts will simply be slipped over, tighten well.

Please take note of the illustrated instructions "[Knitting decorative slits](#)" in *Alpis Strickbuch*". Start by dropping 11 stitches in the right side row. It's not tragic if the transition does not look perfectly neat, one won't see it when worn anyway ;).

Shawl Tip

On the 7th ridge after the third slit, you get to the tip: after knitting the turning stitch knit only 6 sts, the last one being the selvage stitch which simply remains unknitted. To work the tip more accentuated, the short rows are slightly offset, i.e. after the double stitch knit only 4 sts, place SM = next turning point, knit to the end of the row.

Upper Long Bevelled Edge

From here on, you work back again with short rows. Use a SM to make your life easier. At this point, you work [double stitches](#) (classical German short row technique) as turning stitches!

You should now have at least 60% of yarn remaining!

Knitting the second half is actually the same as the first one but in reverse, the rows getting shorter instead of longer. This means the next ridge is worked to the SM, remove it, turn work, work a double stitch, knit 10 sts, place SM knit to end of row.

In the next ridge knit to SM, slip SM, knit 6 more sts, turn work, work double stitch, knit to end of row.

On the following ridge knit to SM, remove SM, turn work, work double stitch, knit 10 sts, place SM, knit to end of row.

Repeat these two rows until there are no more stitches left.

!!! Don't forget to continue the increases at the short edge as before and also don't forget the slits !!!

Finishing

Cast off all stitches knitwise until you reach the first stitch. This stitch is sewn together with the yarn tail for a neat tip. Weave in ends, soak, lay out to dry or block gently as desired and look forward to your dry *Pfeilraupe*.

Have fun trying how many ways the shawl *Pfeilraupe* can be worn.

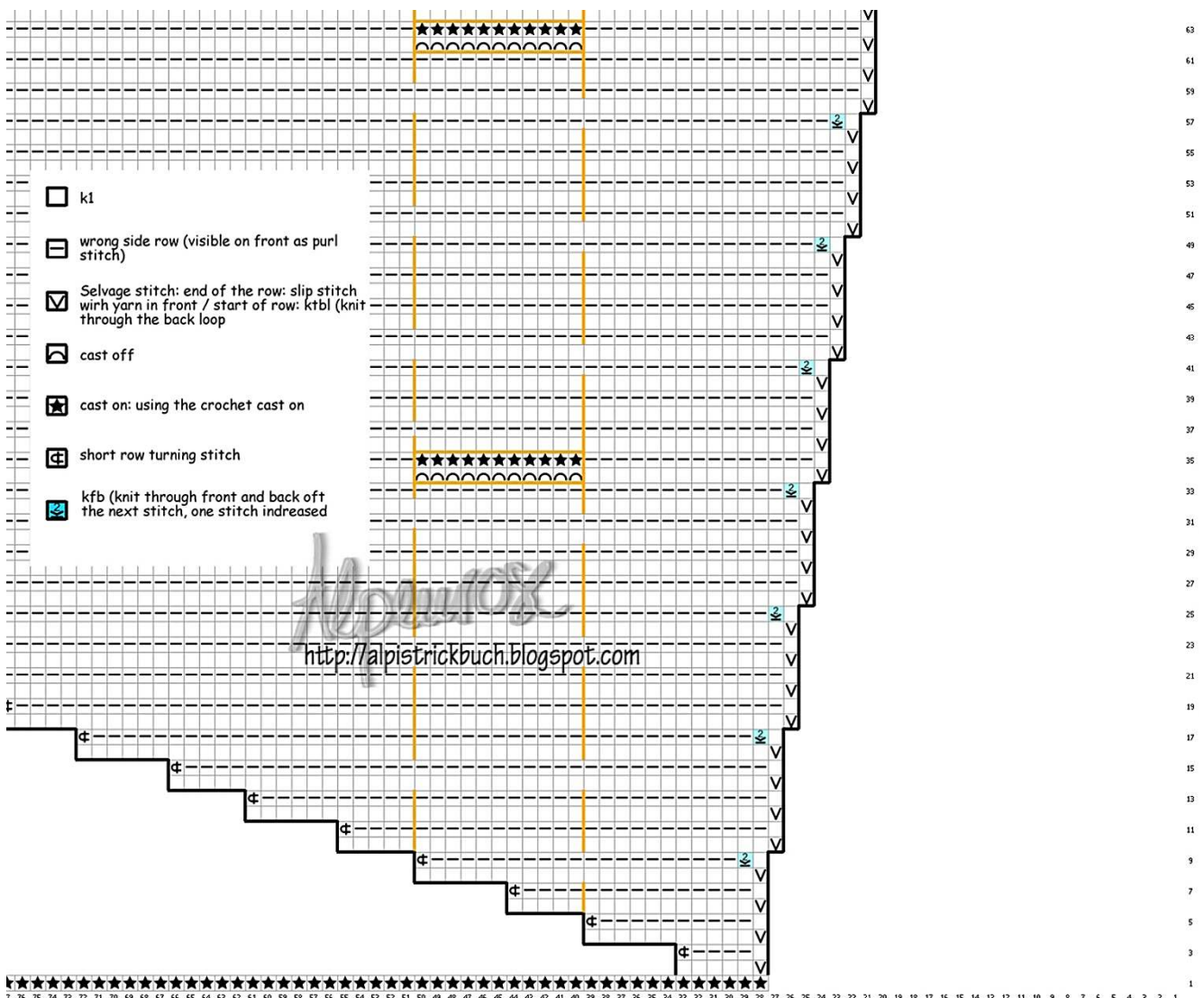
Variations

You may work shorter steps, then the triangle will be a bit rounded and the shawl shorter. The slits could also be done in a standard buttonhole technique. However I decided against it because the bound off stitches are in most time very tight. My feeling is that for such a long a distance they will be too tight, which would show badly after washing: the knitted garter fabric relaxes much more than the tight bound off stitches, which will cause a visible puckering.

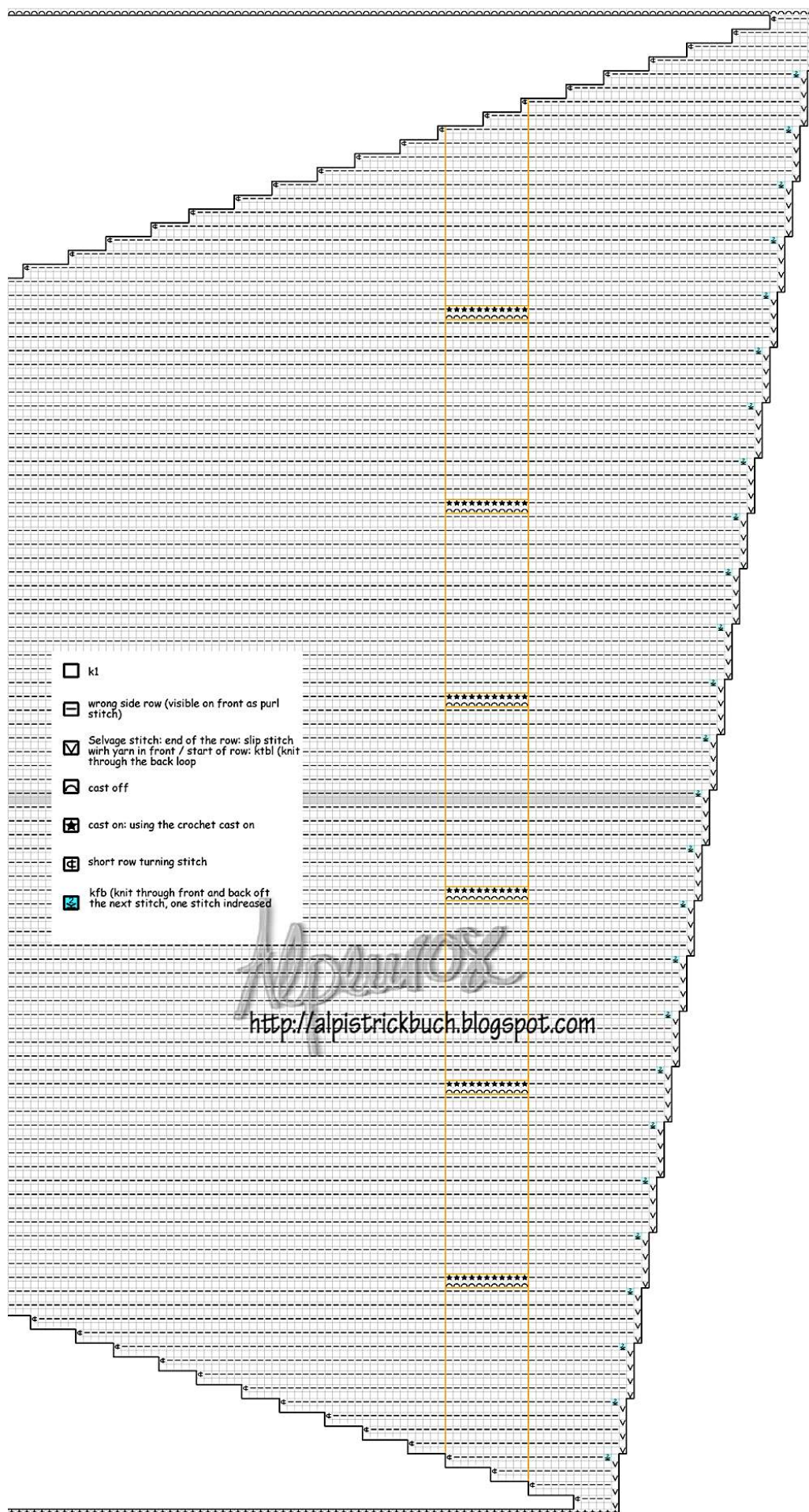
Many thanks to Cloclo for the translation! ♥

The following charts are for a better understanding of the written instructions. I have placed these at the end, so that if you prefer not to print them, you can simply omit these pages.

Start corner with first two slits



Detail short edge



Entire chart of shawl

