

Desert Waves Sleeveless Top



Thank you for your interest in my pattern! This is my first pattern, and I would love any comments/questions/recommendations/constructive criticism. Contact me at:

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Happy Knitting!

By Kendra Kallevig

Yarn

Weight: Sport

Yarn A (MC): 462 (564) yds; 422 (516) m

Yarn B (CC): 295 (361) yds; 270 (330) m

Sample shown using the following yarns:

- * Earthstar Cormo Sport in Smoky Topaz
- * Making Tracks Lite in Zinnia
- * Mountain Meadow Cody in Crabapple
- * Mountain Meadow Cody in Brooke

Needles

3.25mm or size needed to obtain gauge

Notions

Stitch markers, tapestry needle

Gauge

24 stitches and 46 rows = 4" / 10 cm square in garter stitch, blocked. Gauge swatch should be washed and dried flat.

Even though the top is knitted sideways, measure your gauge swatch as normal with stitches running left to right and rows running top to bottom.

Note: Because this is knit side-to-side in garter stitch, blocking will result in more growth width-wise than length wise. This also allows you to more easily adjust the final fit to your preferred dimensions when blocking.

Pattern Description

This top might look complicated, but if you can knit basic garter stitch with German short rows, it will probably be easier than you think.

The top is knitted flat in two identical front and back pieces, which are then seamed together along the sides and across the shoulder straps. Each piece is knit from side to side alternating sets of knit rows that create the stripe-like features (“topo lines”), with the colored “shape” features created using German short rows, as shown in the “Pattern Diagram” included on page 4. Slipped stitches are used at the beginning and end of each wrong side row to create a finished edge.

In the pattern instructions, each “shape” is described in text with an accompanying chart,¹ depending on your preference. Knit using two or more colors, this project is also a great way to use scrap yarn. A coloring template is provided at the end of this pattern so you can visualize different combinations.

Follow the pattern step-by-step and read both the narrative and the charts! I promise by the time you’ve knit the first couple shapes, you will have the hang of it!

Abbreviations

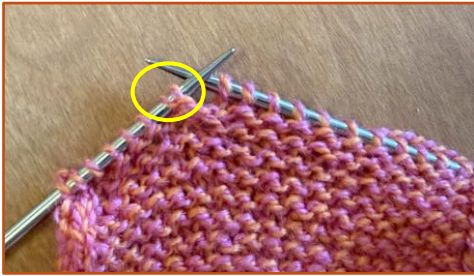
CC	Contrast Color (topo lines)
K	Knit
K2tog	Knit 2 Together
KLL	Knit Left Loop Increase
MC	Main Color (main shapes)
RS	Right Side
SM	Slip Marker
SR	German Short Row
WS	Wrong Side
WYIF	With Yarn in Front

¹ Chart format is adapted from the method shown in *Short-Row Colorwork Knitting* by Woolly Wormhead, © 2024 published by Sixth&Spring Books

Techniques

German short rows: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6dd2-nalPQ>

A double stitch is created when you knit a German short row stitch. When you knit past that stitch in a subsequent row, you need to resolve the stitch by knitting through both legs.



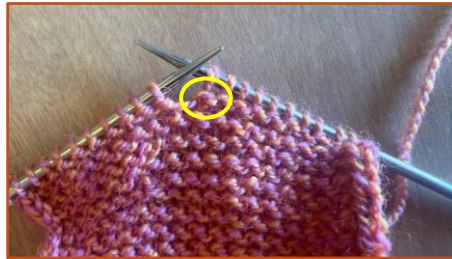
Double stitch shown on left needle.



Knitting through both legs of the double stitch.

Knit Left Loop Increase: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XOfBsZavQ>

The KLL increase is done by using the left needle to pick up the second stitch below the active stitch on the right needle, and then knitting it through the back loop.



In this pattern the stitch picked up for the increase will be the first “bump” stitch below the active stitch.

Mattress Stitch: Video demonstrating mattress stitch on vertical garter stitch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jleOUVEkNqY>

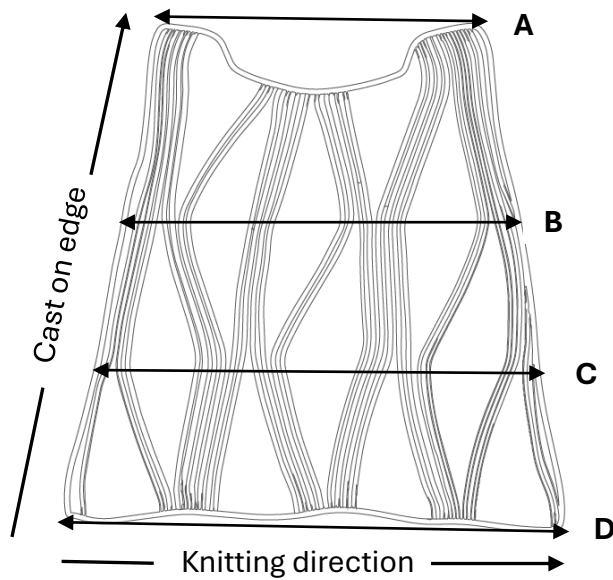
Carrying along 2nd color: Knitting this in two colors, you will always be carrying one color along the bottom edge. Bring the working yarn under this yarn at the beginning of every right side row to carry it along the bottom edge where it will be hidden behind the slipped stitches. This is especially important when knitting SHAPE 1, where you will be carrying the second yarn across the entire shape before using it again. If you are using multiple colors, I recommend carrying along no more than 2-3 yarns at a time to prevent the bottom edge from becoming bulky. Weave in ends that you don’t carry along.



Wrong side view of the gray yarn being carried along the edge, and the pink yarn passed under it before the next row.

Sizing and Measurements

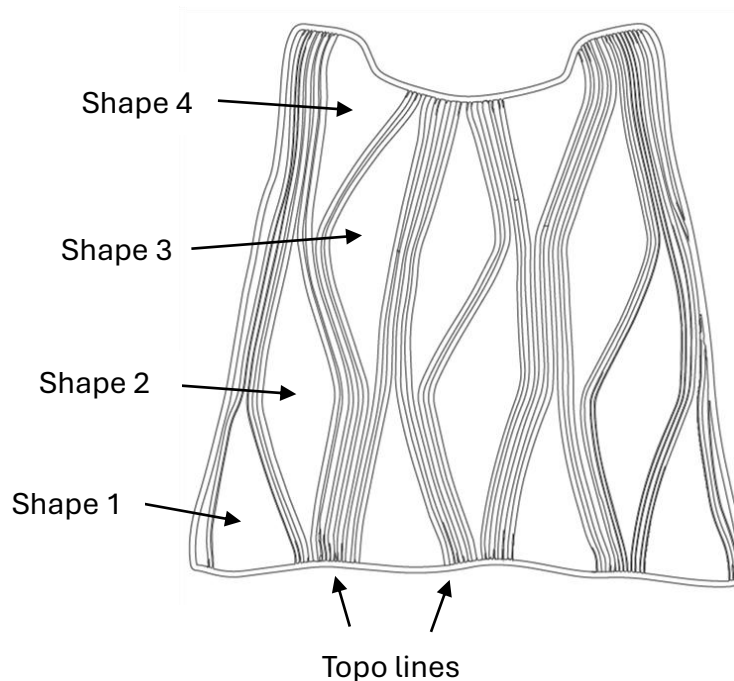
This pattern is written in two sizes - **size 1** and **size 2**, with finished measurements shown below. Recommended sizing is 0" to 4" negative ease across the bust (measurement B, meaning the top will stretch over the bust area), and 2" to 8" positive ease at the waist (measurement c)



Finished Measurements (circumference)

A	26 (27)" / 66 (68.5)cm
B	34.5 (38.5)" / 87.6 (97.5)cm
C	37 (42)" / 94 (107)cm
D	41.5 (47)" / 105.5 (119)cm
Length	20.5 (23.5)" / 52 (59.5)cm

Pattern Diagram



Instructions

The top is comprised of **4 main shapes created using German short rows, alternating with full rows which create “topo lines.”** The pattern lists the order of shapes in the pattern (**page 6**), noting where increases and decreases are placed for the neckline. The instructions for each shape are included on **pages 7 and 8**, with charts for each shape included as **pages 10 – 17**.

Cast-on and first set of Topo Lines

Cast on 124 (142) stitches

If you would like to make the top longer, cast-on an additional 6 stitches/inch, with these stitches added before marker 1 and treated in the same way as the other stitches before marker 1.

Row 1 (RS): With CC, knit 1 row, placing stitch markers after 7 (7), 41 (47), 75 (87), 109 (127) stitches

Row 2 (WS): With CC, slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

Row 3 (RS): With MC, knit 1 row

Row 4 (WS): With MC, slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

Row 5 (RS): With CC, knit 1 row

Row 6 (WS): With CC, slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

*This set of 6 rows will be abbreviated in this pattern to “**topo lines**,” with a set added after each shape.*

Knit the sections in the order listed on the following page.

Alternate CC and MC as described above when knitting the “topo line” sections. Use your MC for the SHAPES.

Finishing

With right sides facing outward, mattress stitch each side from the bottom up approximately 14” or to your preferred armhole measurement. Mattress stitch shoulder straps together approximately 2.5” starting from the outside. Weave in ends and wet block to finished measurements.

Knit the sections in the following order:

- Cast on and knit first set of topo lines (*as detailed on previous page*)
- SHAPE 1
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 2
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 4
 - Decreases are added while knitting SHAPE 4 to create the neckline
 - Decreases for all sizes will occur in rows 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 of SHAPE 4.
 - Decrease rows 3 & 5: Knit to marker 4, SM, K5, (K2tog, K1) 2 times, K2tog, knit to end
 - Decrease row 7: Knit to marker 4, SM, K1, (K2tog) 3 times, knit to end
 - Decrease row 9: Knit to marker 4, SM, (K2tog) 2 times, knit to end
 - Decrease row 11: Knit to marker 4, SM, K2tog, knit to end

12 Decreases done; 3 stitches remain after marker 4.

- Topo lines
- SHAPE 3
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 1
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 3
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 2
- Topo lines

- SHAPE 4
 - Increases are added while knitting SHAPE 4 to create the neckline
 - Increases for all sizes will occur in rows 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35 of SHAPE 4.
 - Increase row 27: Knit to marker 4, SM, K1, KLL, knit to end
 - Increase row 29: Knit to marker 4, SM, (KLL, K1) 2 times, knit to end
 - Increase row 31: Knit to marker 4, SM, K2, (KLL, K1) 2 times, KLL, knit to end
 - Increase row 33: Knit to marker 4, SM, K5, (KLL, K1) 2 times, KLL, knit to end
 - Increase row 35: Knit to marker 4, SM, K8, (KLL, K1) 2 times, KLL, knit to end

12 increases done; 15 stitches remain after marker 4.

- Topo lines
- SHAPE 1
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 3
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 2
- Topo lines
- SHAPE 1
- Topo lines
- Cast off all stitches

Knit the second side of the top identically to the first and refer to finishing instructions on page 5.

SHAPE Instructions

Each shape is knit over 34(40) stitches using the markers as reference points for placement of the SRs. S

SHAPE 1

Row 1 (all sizes) RS: knit

Row 2 (all sizes) WR: slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

Row 3 (all sizes) RS: knit to 2 stitches before marker 2, SR

Row 4 (all sizes) WS: knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

Rows 5 (5) – 36 (42):

(RS: knit to 2 stitches before SR from previous row, SR

WS: knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif) 16 (19) times for 32 (38) rows total

Your last RS SR will be immediately after marker 1, in the direction you are knitting.

SHAPE 2

Row 1 (all sizes) RS: knit to marker 2, SM, SR

Row 2 (all sizes) WS: knit to 1 stitch before marker 1, SR

Rows 3 (3) – 34 (40):

[RS: knit to 2 stitches past SR from previous row (35 (41) stitches knit)*, SR

WS: knit to 2 stitches before SR from previous row, SR (33 (39) stitches knit)]

16 (19) times for 32 (38) rows total

Row 35 (41) RS: knit

Row 36 (42) WS: slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

Your last RS SR will be 2 stitches before marker 3; your last WS SR will be 2 stitches past marker 2, in the direction you are knitting.

** Knitting the SR stitch from the previous row counts as 1 of the 2 stitches. Remember to knit both legs of the SR stitch.*

SHAPE 3

Row 1 (all sizes) RS: knit to marker 3, SM, SR

Row 2 (all sizes) WS: knit to 1 stitch before marker 2, SR

Rows 3 (3) – 34 (40):

[RS: knit to 2 stitches past SR from previous row (35 (41) stitches knit)*; SR

WS: knit to 2 stitches before SR from previous row, SR (33 (39) stitches knit)]

16 (19) times for 32 (38) rows total

Row 35 (41) RS: knit

Row 36 (42) WS: slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

Your last RS SR will be 2 stitches before marker 4; your last WS SR will be 2 stitches past marker 3, in the direction you are knitting.

** Knitting the SR stitch from the previous row counts as 1 of the 2 stitches. Remember to knit both legs of the SR stitch.*

SHAPE 4

Row 1 (all sizes) RS: knit

Row 2 (**size 1 ONLY**) WS: slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to 1 stitch before marker 3, SR

Row 2 (**size 2 ONLY**) WS: slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to 7 stitches before marker 3, SR

Rows 3 – 34 (all sizes):

(RS: knit

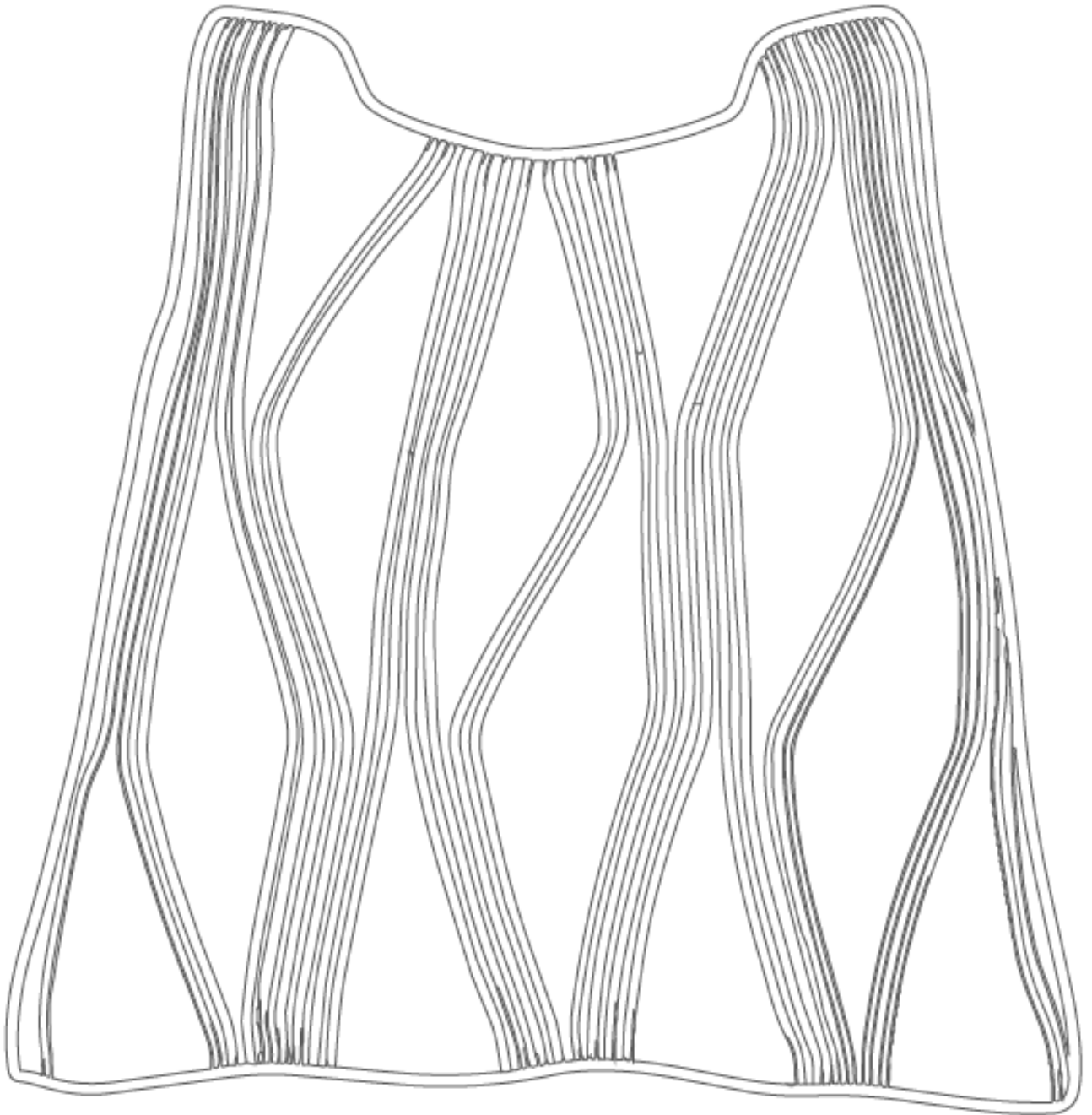
WS: slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to 2 stitches before SR from previous row, SR) 16 times for 32 rows total

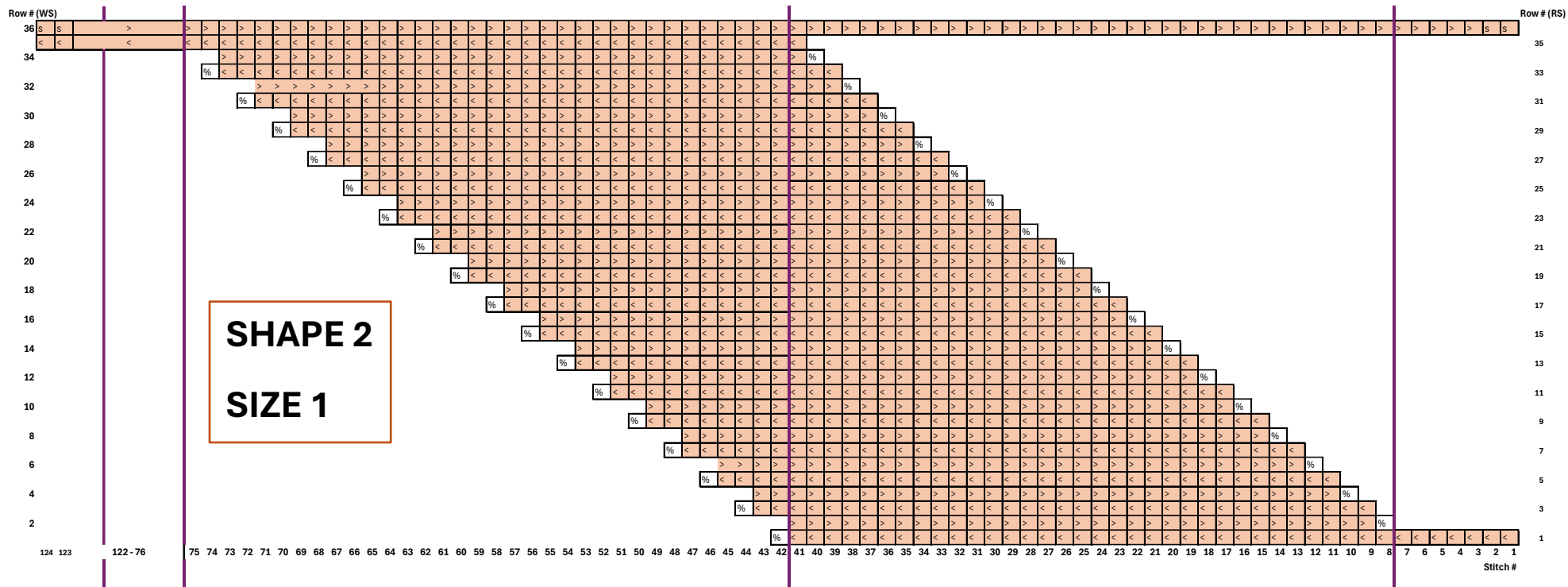
Row 35 (all sizes): knit

Row 36 (all sizes) WS: slip 2 purlwise wyif, knit to last 2 stitches, slip 2 purlwise wyif

Your last WS SR will be 2 stitches past marker 4, in the direction you are knitting.

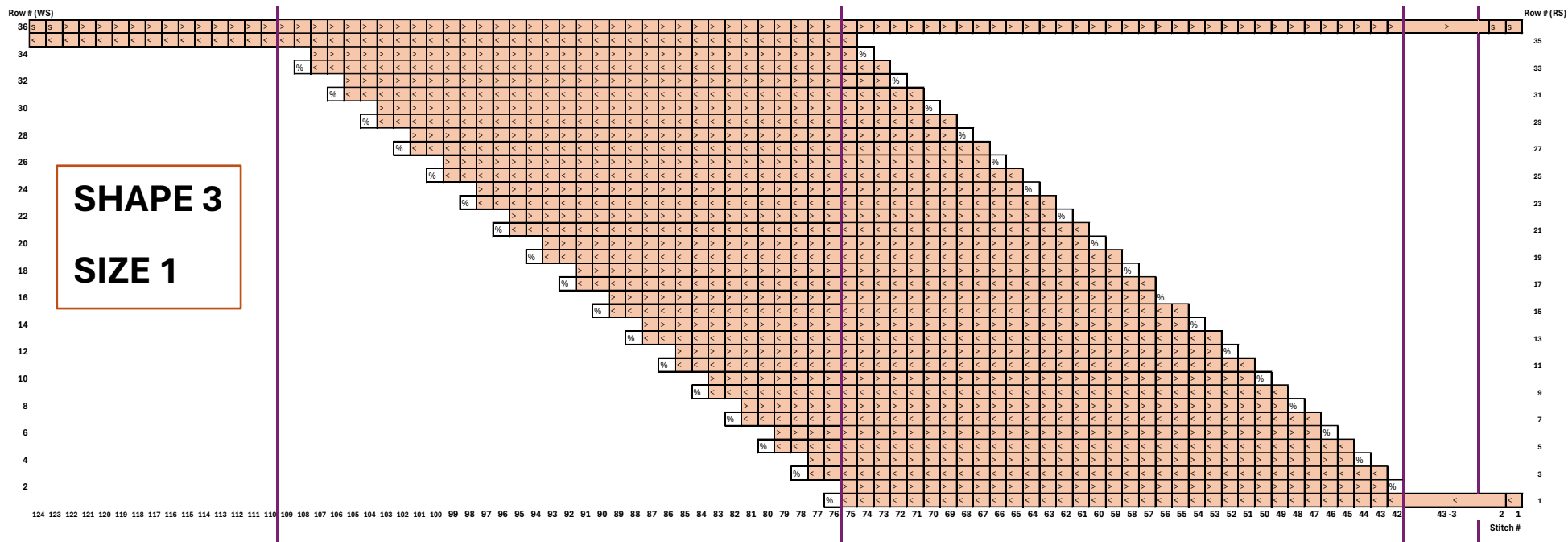
Coloring Template





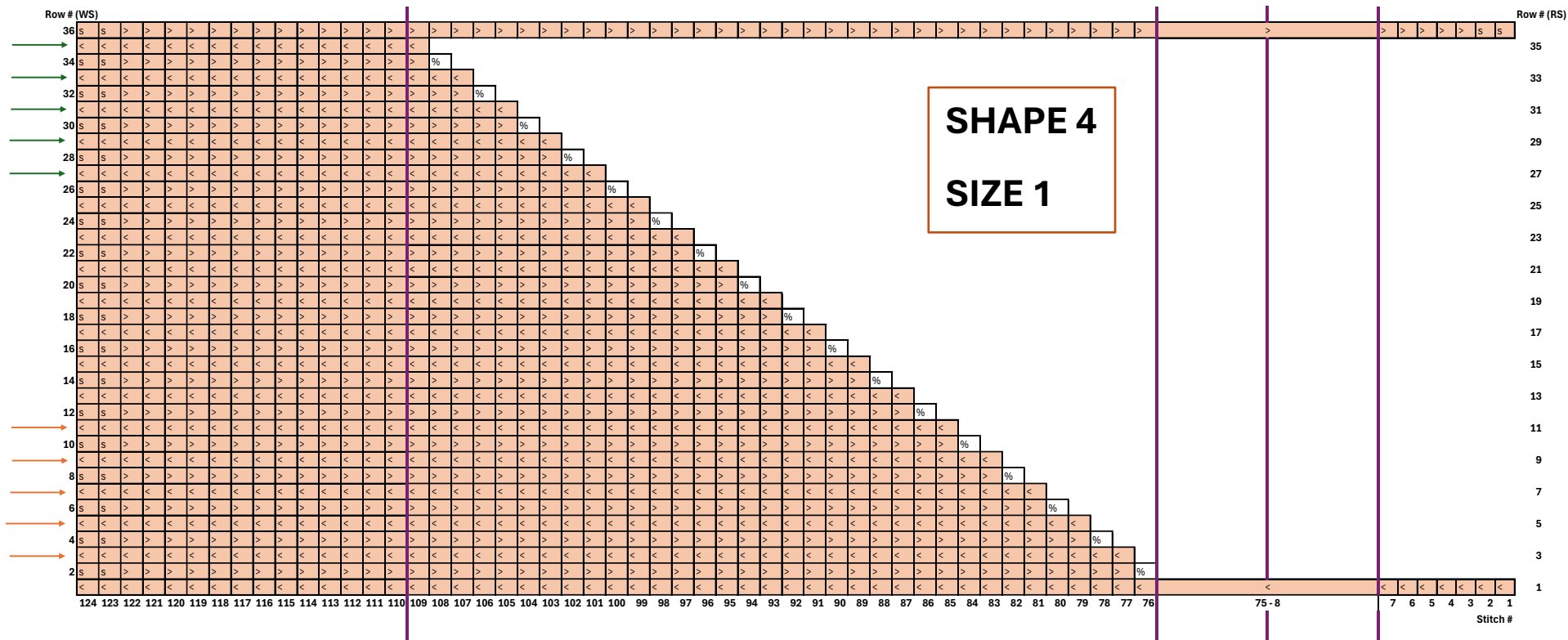
Key

- < RS knit stitch
- > WS knit stitch
- % German short row
- s Slip stitch WYIF
- | Stitch marker location



Key

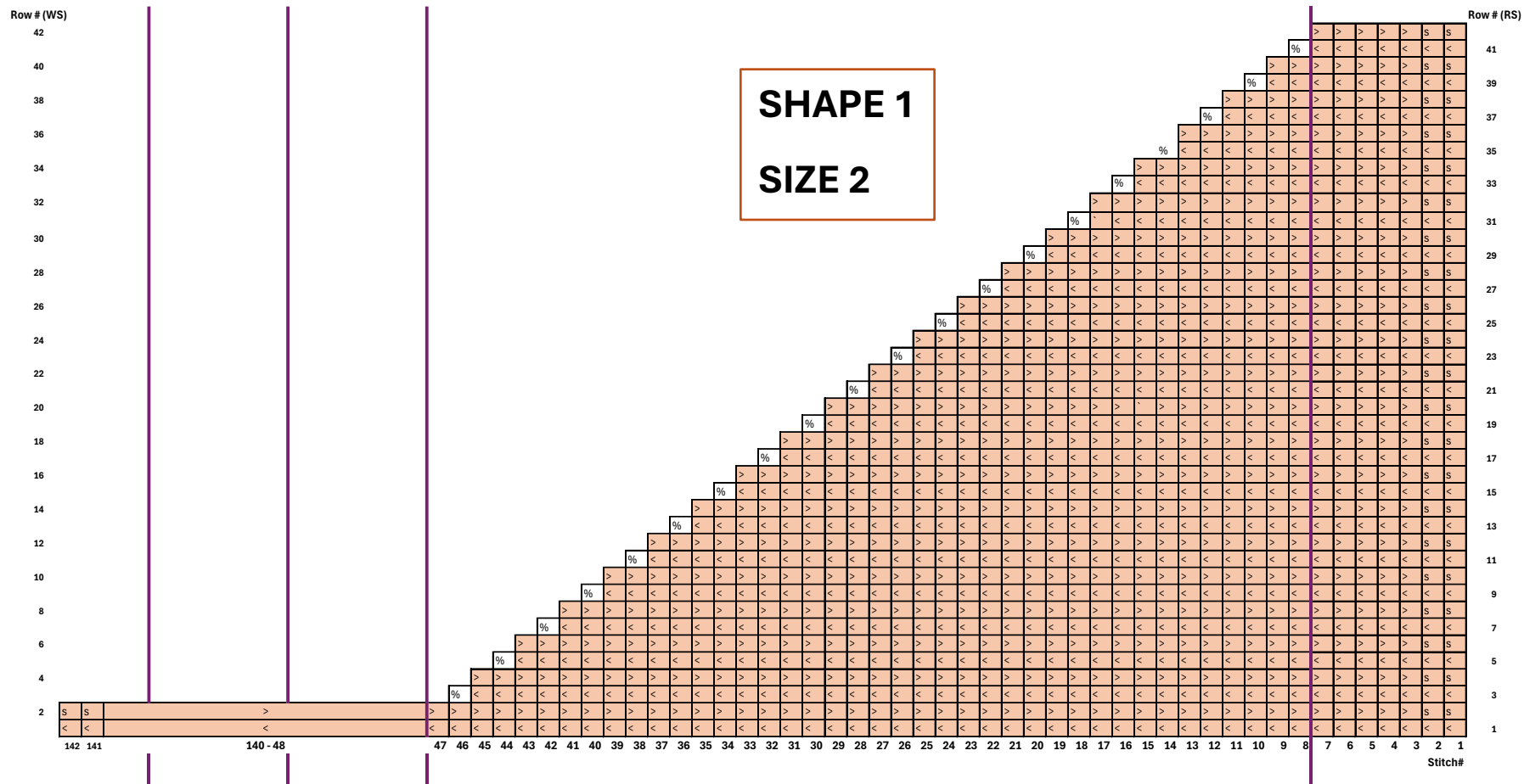
- < RS knit stitch
- > WS knit stitch
- % German short row
- s Slip stitch WYIF
- | Stitch marker location



Key

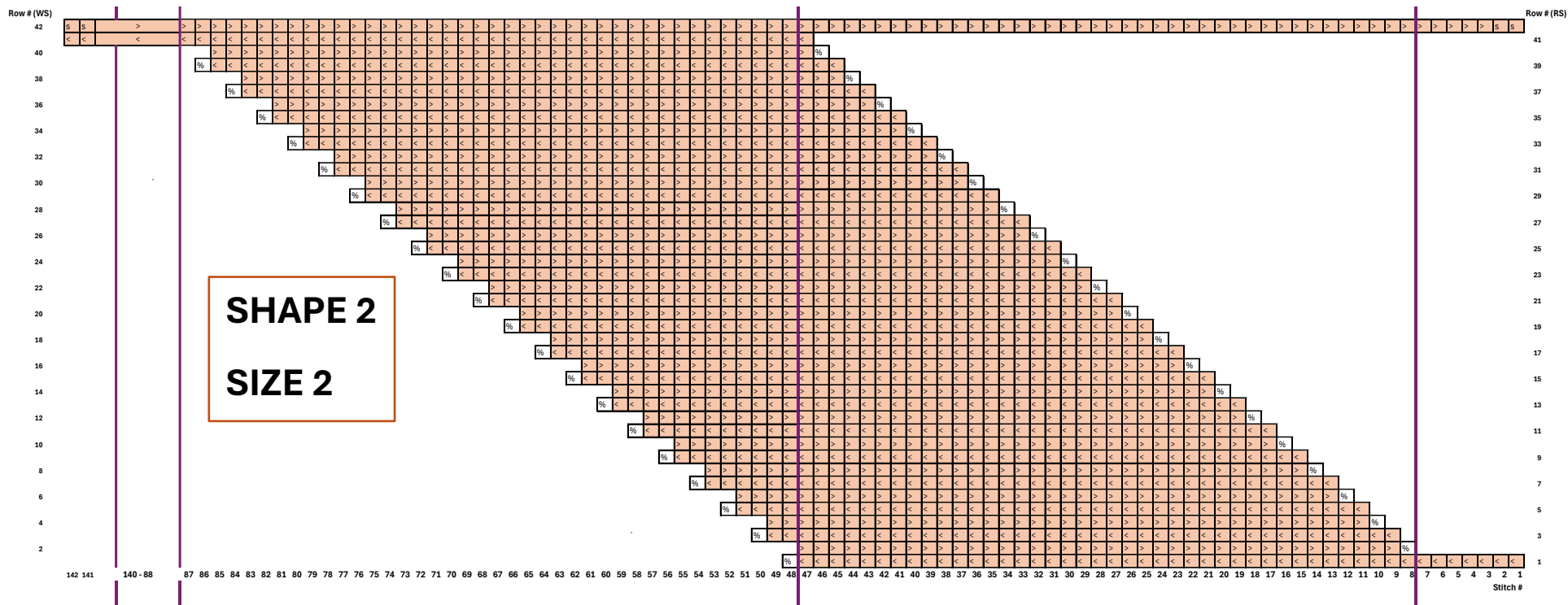
- < RS knit stitch
- > WS knit stitch
- % German short row
- s Slip stitch WYIF
- | Stitch marker location
- Decrease Row*
- Increase Row*

***Arrows denote rows where increases/decreases occur.**
Increases/decreases are *not* shown in the charts and are described in the pattern narrative. Number of stitches after marker 4 will change based on status of increases/decreases.



Key

- < RS knit stitch
- > WS knit stitch
- % German short row
- s Slip stitch WYIF
- | Stitch marker location



Key

<

RS knit stitch

>

WS knit stitch

%

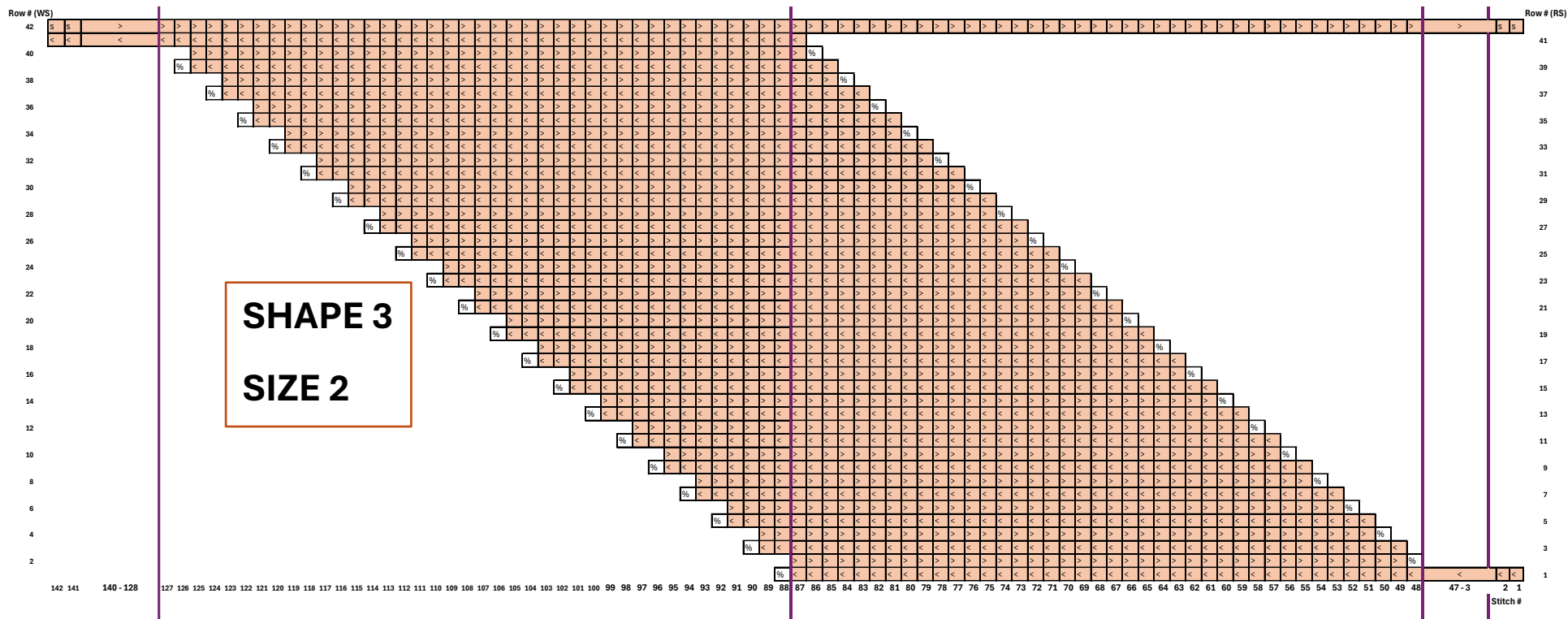
German short row

S

Slip stitch WYIF

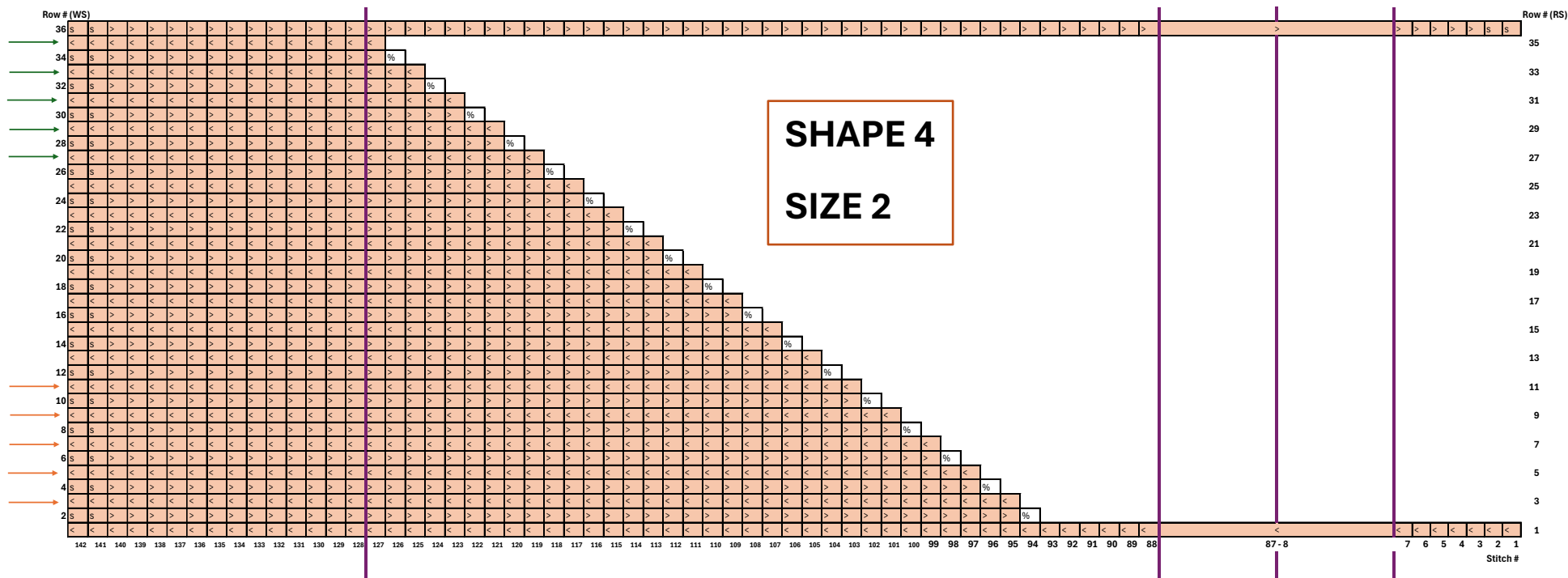
|

Stitch marker location



Key

- < RS knit stitch
- > WS knit stitch
- % German short row
- s Slip stitch WYIF
- | Stitch marker location



Key

- < RS knit stitch
- > WS knit stitch
- % German short row
- s Slip stitch WYIF
- | Stitch marker location
- Decrease Row*
- Increase Row*

*Arrows denote rows where increases/decreases occur. Increases/decreases *are not* shown in the charts and are described in the pattern narrative. Number of stitches after marker 4 will change based on status of increases/decreases.