Lace Knitting Chart Symbols - Printable Cheat Sheet

knittingchart.com/lace-knitting-chart

Yarn overs add stitches and eyelets; directional decreases slant the fabric and balance the stitch count. Always check whether wrong-side rows are shown on the chart or purled plain.

Lace Stitch-Count & Lean Quick Check:

- Single balance: 1 yarn over (yo = +1 st) + 1 single decrease (k2tog leans right / , ssk or skp leans left \ = -1 st) -> stitch count stays unchanged.
- Double balance: 2 yarn overs (+2 sts) + 1 double decrease (k3tog right, sk2p/sssk left, s2kp/CDD centered ^ = -2 sts) -> stitch count stays unchanged.

14 Essential Lace Chart Symbols (RS & WS Abbreviations + Stitch Change)

Knit (RS: k | WS: p)
0 sts
Knit on right-side rows, purl on wrong-side rows. Shown as an empty square.

Purl (RS: p | WS: k)
0 sts
Purl on right-side rows, knit on wrong-side rows.

Yarn over (RS: yo | WS: yo)
+1 st
Wrap the yarn over the needle to make a new stitch and an eyelet.

Double yarn over (RS: yo twice | WS: yo twice)
+2 sts
Wrap the yarn 2 times around the needle for a big eyelet. On the next row work the wraps as 2 stitches (knit 1, purl 1 ...).

Knit 2 together (RS: k2tog | WS: p2tog)
-1 st
Decrease that leans right: knit 2 stitches together (purl 2 together on wrong-side rows).

Slip, slip, knit (RS: ssk | WS: ssp)
-1 st
Decrease that leans left: slip 2 stitches knitwise one at a time, then knit them together through the back loops (ssp on wrong-side rows).

Purl 2 together (RS: p2tog | WS: k2tog)
-1 st
Purl 2 stitches together (knit 2 together on wrong-side rows). Leans right on the knit side.

Slip, knit, pass over (RS: skp | WS: ssp)
-1 st
Decrease that leans left: slip 1 knitwise, knit 1, pass the slipped stitch over.

Knit 3 together (RS: k3tog | WS: p3tog)
-2 sts
Double decrease that leans right: knit 3 stitches together.

Slip, slip, slip, knit (RS: sssk | WS: sssp)
-2 sts
Double decrease that leans left: slip 3 stitches knitwise one at a time, then knit them together through the back loops.

Centered double decrease (RS: s2kp / CDD | WS: s2pp)
-2 sts
Double decrease that does not lean: slip 2 together knitwise, knit 1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over. The center stitch stays on top.

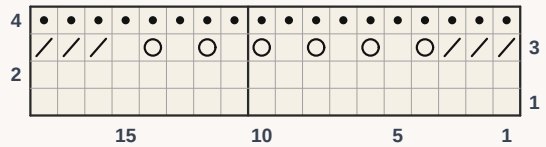
Slip 1, knit 2 together, pass over (RS: sk2p | WS: p3tog tbl)
-2 sts
Double decrease that leans left: slip 1 knitwise, knit 2 together, pass the slipped stitch over (also written sl1-k2tog-psso).

5-loop nupp (RS: nupp5 | WS: nupp5)
0 sts
Estonian nupp: work (k1, yo) loosely into the same stitch until there are 5 loops; on the next row purl all 5 loops together.

No stitch (skip square)
skip
Placeholder where a stitch does not exist yet (or any more). Skip it.

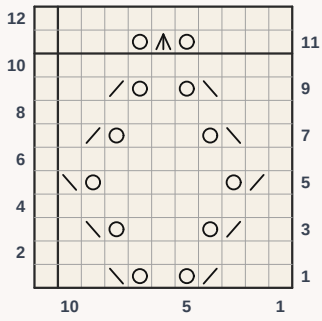
Worked Lace Examples (Every Row Verified for Stitch-Count Balance)

Feather and fan (old shale) (18 sts x 4 rows)



Row 1 (RS): k18. (18 sts)
Row 2 (WS): p18. (18 sts)
Row 3 (RS): k2tog 3 times, *yo, k1; rep from * to last 6 sts, k2tog 3 times. (18 sts)
Row 4 (WS): k18. (18 sts)

Lace diamond (11 sts x 12 rows)



Row 1 (RS): k3, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, ssk, k3. (11 sts)
Row 3 (RS): k2, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k2. (11 sts)
Row 5 (RS): k1, k2tog, yo, k5, yo, ssk, k1. (11 sts)
Row 7 (RS): k2, ssk, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k2. (11 sts)
Row 9 (RS): k3, ssk, yo, k1, yo, k2tog, k3. (11 sts)
Row 11 (RS): k4, yo, s2kp, yo, k4. (11 sts)

Even WS rows 2-12: p11.