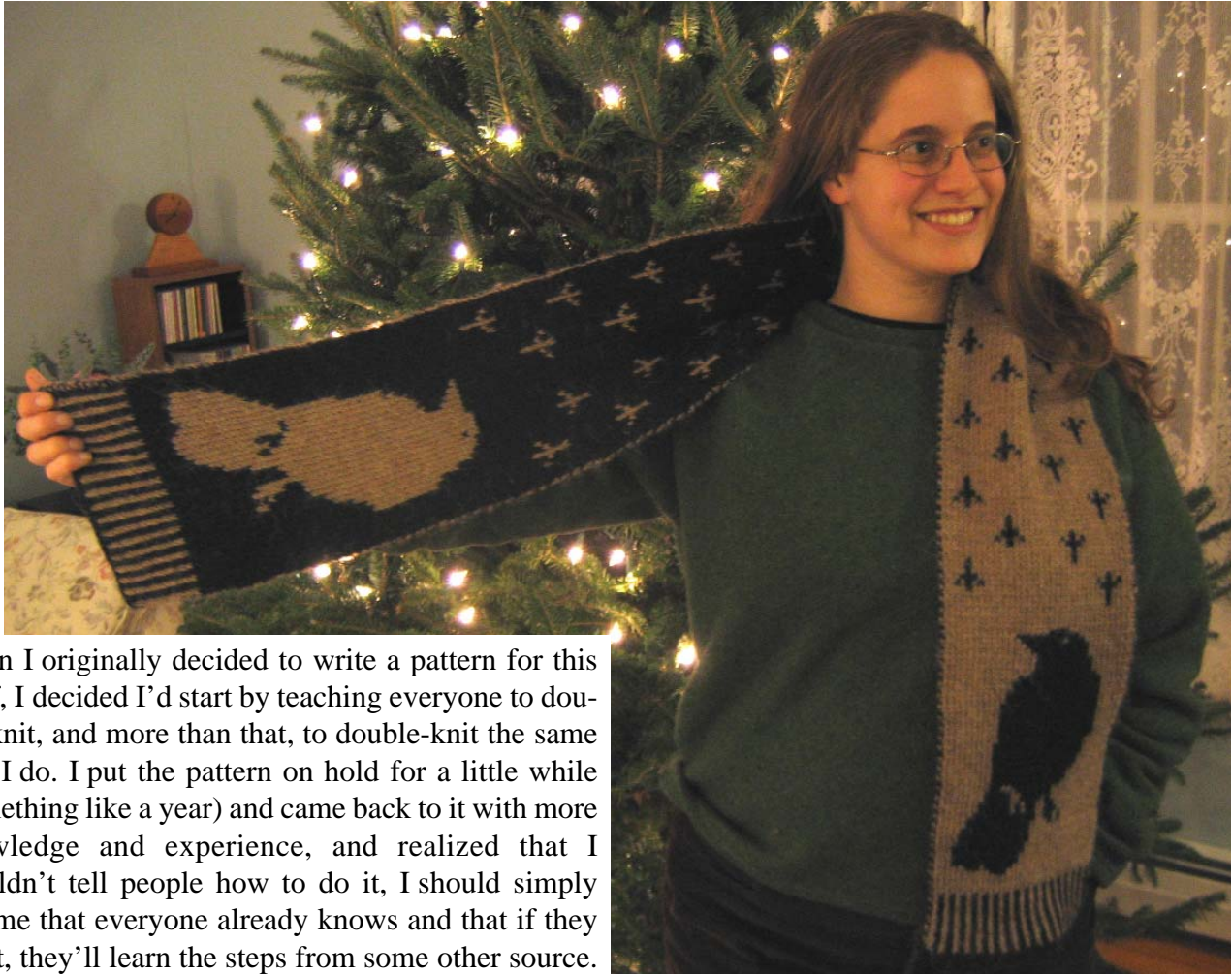


The Crow Scarf

*an adventure in double knitting
by Alasdair Post-Quinn.
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When I originally decided to write a pattern for this scarf, I decided I'd start by teaching everyone to double-knit, and more than that, to double-knit the same way I do. I put the pattern on hold for a little while (something like a year) and came back to it with more knowledge and experience, and realized that I shouldn't tell people how to do it, I should simply assume that everyone already knows and that if they don't, they'll learn the steps from some other source. Thus, this pattern is written assuming you already know how to double-knit. Mostly what I am doing is providing you with the charts I have worked out and telling a bit of backstory in between.

Also, because some of the best learning happens when you are encouraged to make changes to an existing design, I highly encourage you to take my patterns and run with them. Incorporate the crow into a stranded/fair-isle vest or sweater, put something other than crows' feet on the body of the scarf, do whatever you like.

All I ask is that you don't sell the pattern, and if you feel moved to do so, you donate some small amount to my paypal account. I'd also appreciate photos of any finished objects you knit with my pattern. More on this and contact info as well at the bottom of the pattern.

Ingredients:

- 2 contrasting colors of DK-weight yarn or thereabouts. I used Lion Brand Alpaka for the first one and Cashsoft DK for the second (pictured later in the pattern). I recommend 3 50g balls of each color.
- Needles (DPs, straights or circular depending on your double-knitting style)

Directions:

Cast on, using your preferred method. **Work Chart A**. You can go longer with the corrugated rib if you like. **Work 3 rows** of double stockinette. **Work Chart B**, bottom to top. **Work 3 rows** of double stockinette. **Work Chart C1 or C2** depending on your preference, as long as you deem necessary. **Work 3 rows** of double stockinette. **Work Chart B**, top to bottom. **Work 3 rows** of double stockinette. **Work Chart A** in the same length you used for the first Chart A. **Cast off**, using your preferred method.

Chart A: Corrugated Rib. I think 14 repeats of the basic row looks fine, but you can extend it however long you like. This is actually 34 sts wide; knock off 4 if you are using Chart C1 for the feet.

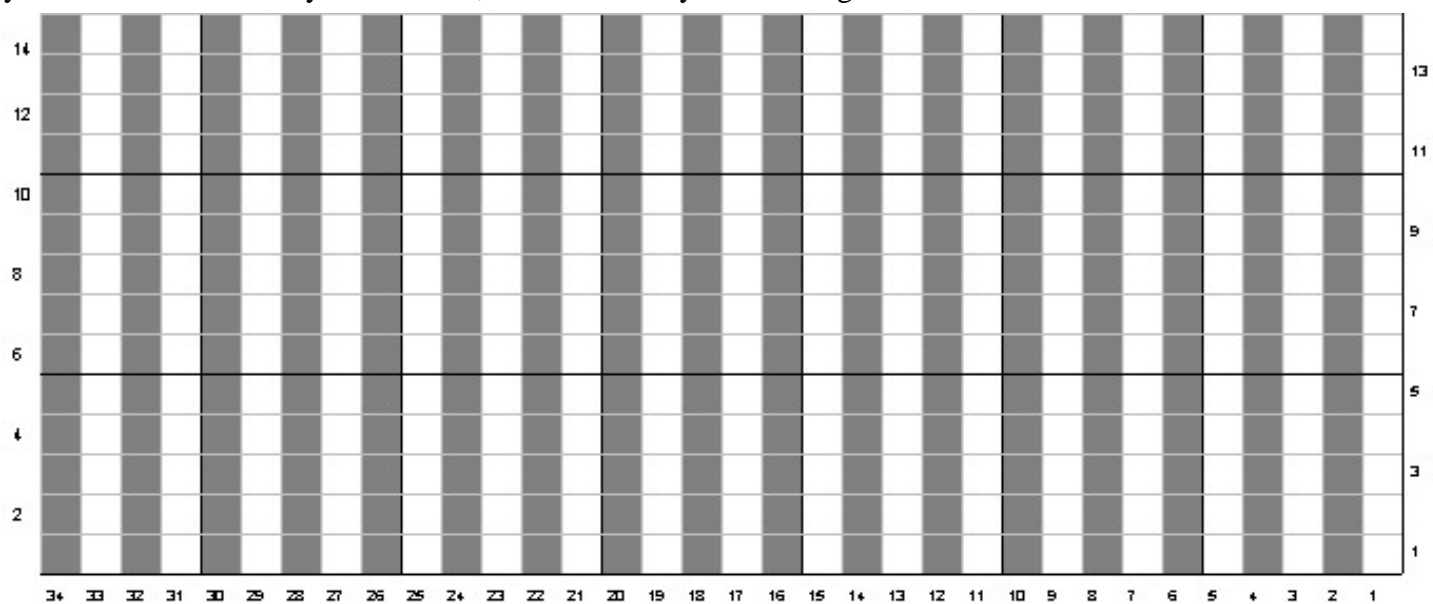


Chart C1: Feet. This pattern has the feet spaced more widely, but makes the scarf more narrow. You can see what this looks like on the scarf photo at the end of the pattern.

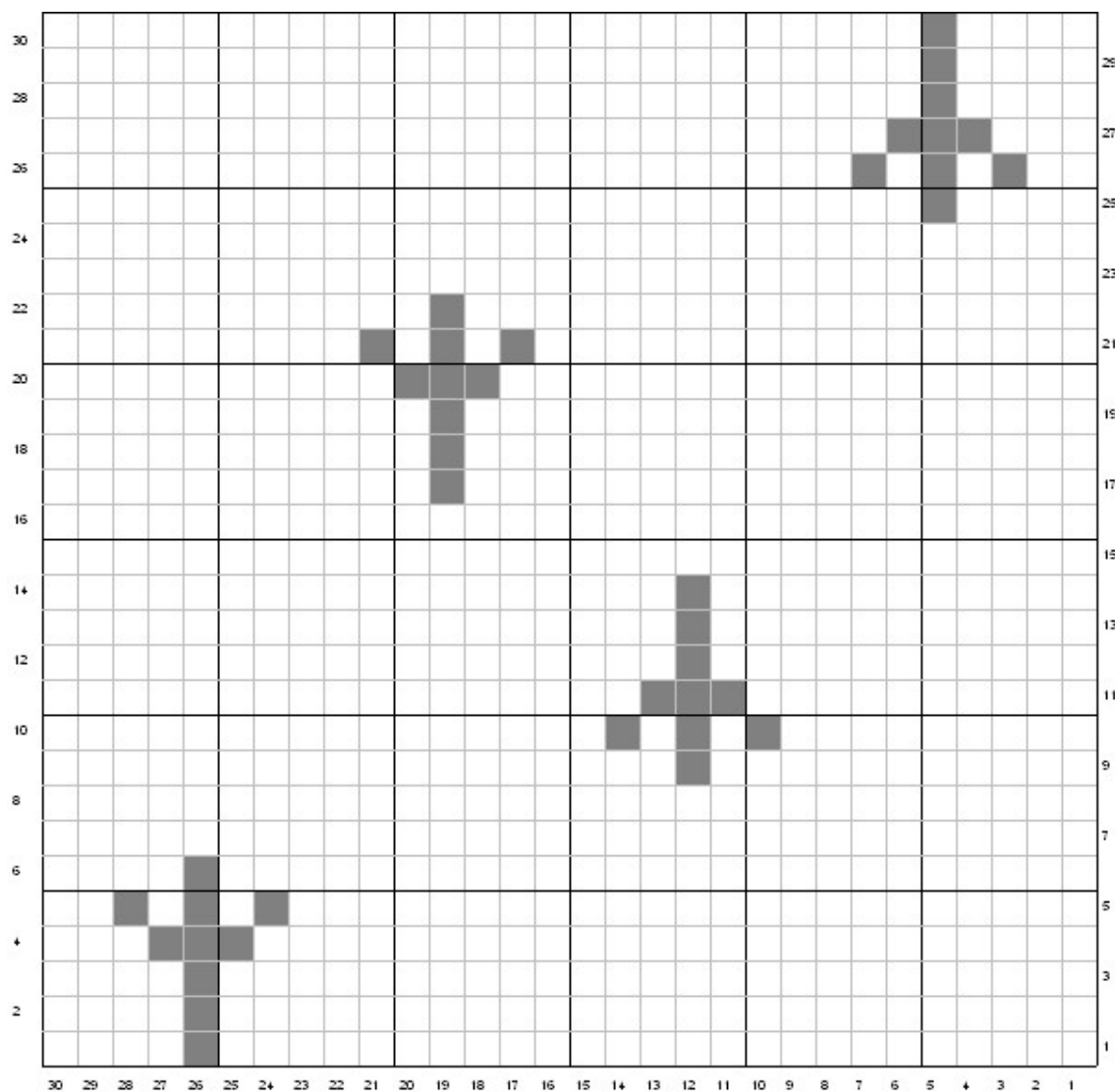
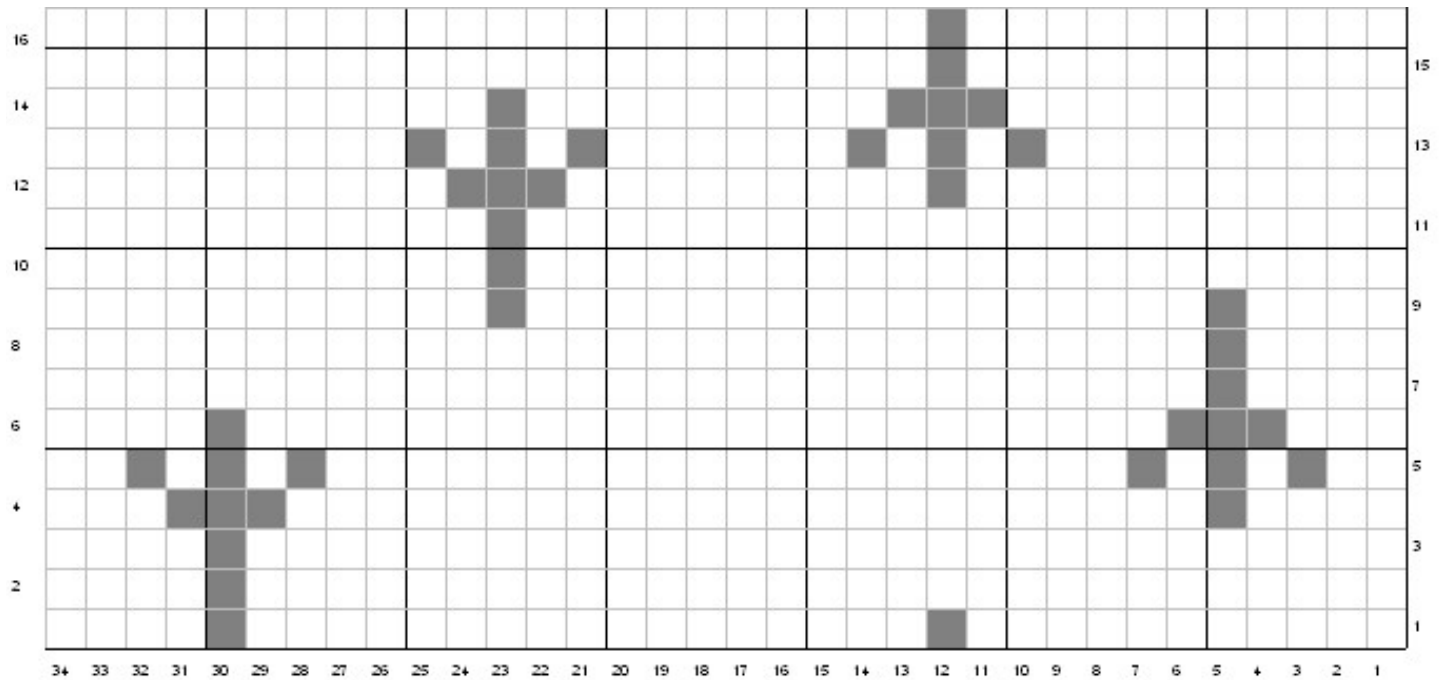


Chart C2: More Feet. This spaces the feet closer together but you have to omit that single pixel at column 12 for the first row of the pattern, and add it again at the last row of the pattern. Also keep in mind that this has 4 more stitches than the Crow, so add 2 stitches to either side of the Crow (Chart B) if you're using this chart.



The Backstory:

So the Crow Scarf I (pictured at the beginning of this pattern) is officially the first double-knitting project I undertook. Once I understood the concept, I realized that any two-color motif could be done this way. I found a sketch of a crow on a branch on the web, overlaid it with a grid in Photoshop, and plotted out the crow chart. The feet and ribbing were an afterthought -- though they do help hold the whole thing together -- both in design and in fact, since color-changes lock the two sides together. After doing the first one for my sister, an amateur ornithologist with a thing for *corvus corax*, I swore I'd never do another one again. But a friend who goes by the moniker "DJ Krow" asked me to do another one, so I made the Crow Scarf II -- this time on commission. Now I will officially never do another Crow Scarf. Anyone who wants one can damn well knit it themselves, using this pattern.



Amusing Crow Scarf banter at a knitting group:

Knitter A: So how long do you have before you get to the crow on the other end?
 Alasdair: Oh ... maybe 10 or 12 more feet.
 Knitter A:!

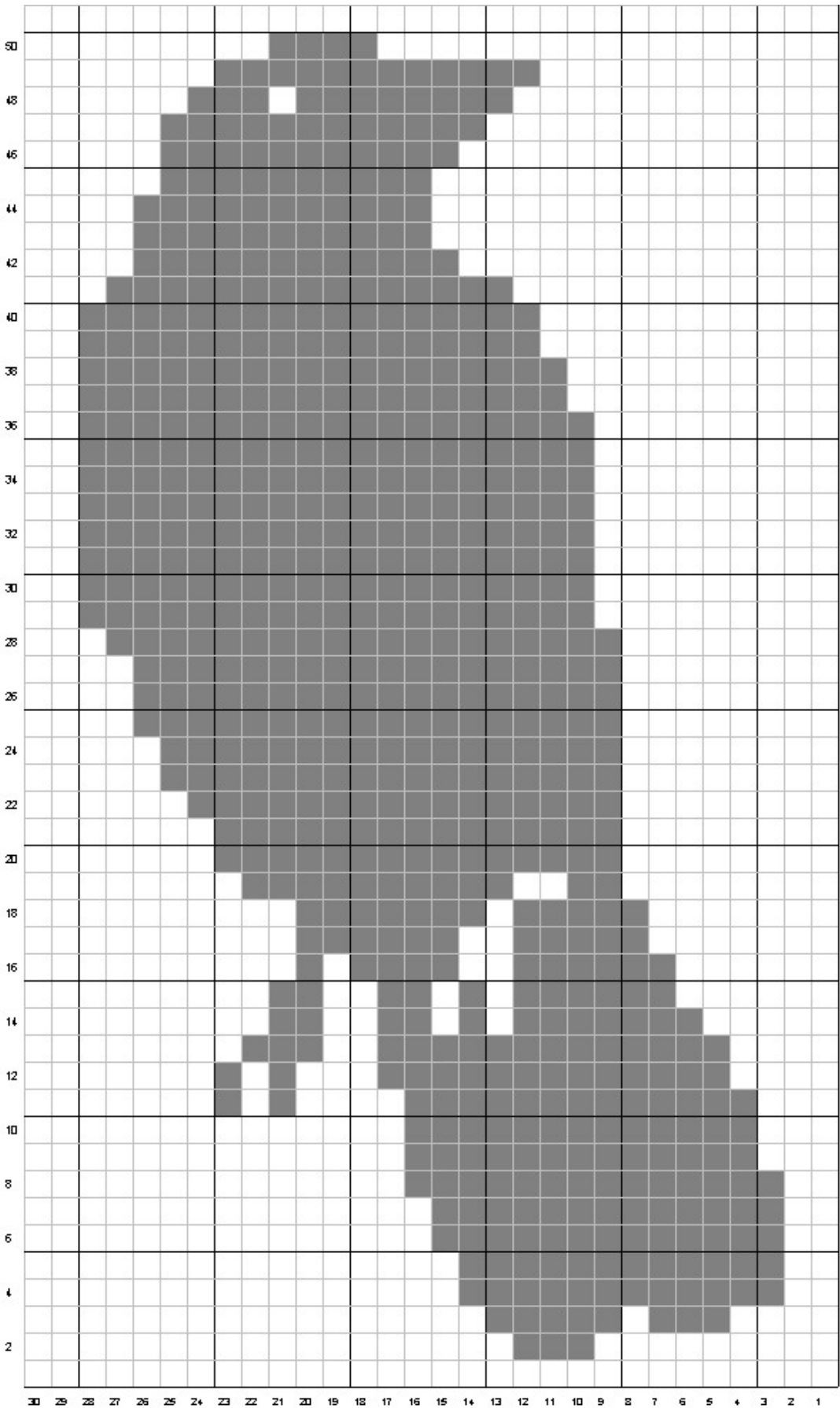


Chart B: The Crow.

You can add extra stitches to the edges if making a wider scarf (especially if using Chart C2). Remember: when working this chart for the second time, work it in mirror image if you want the crows to face each other.

About the Author:



Alasdair is a computer repair technician living and working in Waltham, MA. He has been obsessed with double knitting for a couple of years now and has taught a number of classes at Circles in JP. He's hoping to write a book on double knitting techniques but needs a publisher and perhaps an artist.

Respect is due ...

Thanks to my sister and my friend DJ Krow for posing for the photos; Thanks to Quark, Adobe and Knitting Software Inc for various software used in producing this pattern.

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