Constanze

Details

This cowl is my first lace pattern, and it has been a bit of an experiment for me. Like a lot of knitters, I am instinctively drawn to lace. I've always known I liked patterns which combined cables and lace and I wanted to make something beautiful with them in, but I am put off by the time and investment required for the huge, elaborate shawls some people make. I went through quite a process of making this – you can read about it on my blog.

The name Constanze was the name of Mozart's wife. I visited Salzburg at Christmas 2010 and the name stuck with me.

Yarn: 200m (one 50g ball) of Cygnet truly wool rich 4ply in 'Dove'.
Needle: 3.25mm
Notions: 2 markers, crochet hook, 4 buttons (if making cowl).
Gauge: the blocked cowl is 9 inches across, each pattern repeat is 1.25 inches deep and the cowl is 30 inches long.

Pattern notes (read me!)

This pattern looks a lot harder on paper than it is, but it is still a little tricky due to the use of both cables and lace stitches and the fact that there are no plain rows. The wrong side rows (even numbers) are only comprised of a combination of knit and purl stitches. The pattern is not symmetrical overall, although the central portion is. However, I found it quite easy to get into and once I had got the grip of it, it does start to make sense and become familiar.

Do make sure to read the abbreviations below – the crossovers are slightly unusual and there are two distinct types of double decrease used.

The number of stitches decreases to 68 for rows 3 and 4, then goes back up to 70 for the remaining pattern repeats.

Abbreviations

6RC = [slip 4 stitches to a cable needle and hold at back, k2, k4 from cable needle]
6LC = [slip 2 stitches to a cable needle and hold at front, k4, k2 from cable needle]
3LC = [slip 2 stitches and hold in front, p1, k2 stitches from cable needle].
3RC = [slip 1 stitch and hold in back, k2, p1 from cable needle]
4RC = [slip 2 stitches and hold at back, k2, k2 from cable needle]
4LC = [slip 2 stitches and hold at front, k2, k2 from cable needle]
sl2-k1-p2sso = slip 2 stitches as if to k2tog, k1, pass two stitches back over the knit stitch.
sl1 – k2tog – psso = slip 1 stitch, k2tog, pass slipped stitch over.

Pattern (written and charted)

Starting out

Cast on 70 stitches and work 7 rows in garter stitch. Then begin the pattern repeats – either written instructions or chart below – please read notes before beginning chart.

Written instructions

Row 1: k4, k1, yo, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, yo, p1, ssk, p1, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, k2tog, yo. 4RC, [on row 1, place marker here], yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo, k6, p2, k6, yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo [on row 1, place marker], 4LC, yo, ssk, yo, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, yo, p1, ssk, p1, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, k1, k4.

Row 2: k4, p5, k1, p1, k1, p3, k1, p18, k2, p19, k1, p1, k1, p3, k1, p4, k4.

Row 3: k4, k1, yo, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, p1, sl1-k2tog-psso, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, yo, k4 [marker], yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo, 6RC, p2, 6LC, yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo [marker] k4, yo, ssk, yo, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, p1, sl1-k2tog-psso, yo, k3, yo, k1, k4.

Row 4: k4, p7, k1, p2, k1, p9 [marker], p9, k2, p9 [marker], p12, k1, p2, k1, p4, k4.

Row 5: k4, (k1, yo) twice, ssk, p1, (k2tog) twice, yo, k5, yo, k2tog, yo, 4RC, [marker], yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo, k4, 3LC, 3RC, k4, yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo [marker] 4LC, yo, ssk, yo, k1, yo, ssk, p1, (k2tog) twice, yo, k5, yo, k1, k4.

Row 6: k4, p8 , k1, p1, k1, p10 [marker], p7, k1, p4, k1, p7 [marker], p13, k1, p1, k1, p5, k4

Row 7: k4, k1, yo, k3, yo, sl1-k2tog-psso, p1, yo, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, yo, k4 [marker], yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo, k4, p1, crossover [alternate between 4RC and 4LC on alternate pattern repeats], p1, k4, yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo, [marker] k4, yo, ssk, yo, k3, yo, sl1-k2tog-psso, p1, yo, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, yo, k1, k4.

Row 8: k4, p1, (p3, k1) twice, p12, [marker], p7, k1, p4, k1, p7 [marker], p6, (p3, k1) twice, p7, k4.

Row 9: k4, k1, yo, k5, yo, ssk, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, yo, k4 [marker], yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo, k4, 3RC, 3LC, k4, yo, sl2-k1-p2sso, yo [marker] k4, yo, ssk, yo, k5, yo, ssk, k1, ssk, p1, k2tog, k1, yo, k1, k4.

Row 10: k4, p4, k1, p2, k1, p13 [marker], p9, k2, p9 [marker], p9, k1, p2, k1, p8, k4.

Repeat rows 1 – 10 until scarf reaches desired length. For the picture, I did 20 repeats, but if you wanted to make it a scarf you could just keep going. Pattern continues after charted instructions.

Charted instructions

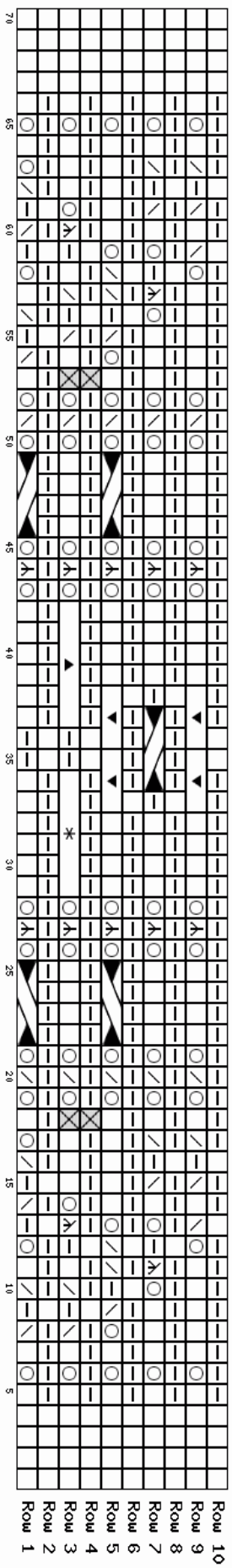Thank you to the incredible Chartgen for making this possible!

Chart notes: Read me!

1) This chart has not been test knit - please contact me if you spot an error. It is based on the written instructions for Constanze so if you are ever confused, refer to the text instructions above.

2) The right side rows (odd numbers) are knit right to left - the wrong side rows (evens) are knit left to right. The seven rows of garter stitch to start off with are not charted (see section ʻstarting outʼ above), but the garter stitch border is.

3) All stitches are shown exactly as you should work them - ie if something says "purl" on a wrong side row, you purl it.

4) Constanze has four 'weird' cables but Chartgen only allows me to create three 'special' stitches. The big 6-stitch crossovers (6RC, 6LC) are explained properly in the chart key. However, I had to use one symbol for both 3RC and 3LC. You'll see these appear on rows 5 and 9, and they are right next to each other both times:

   3LC = [slip 2 stitches and hold in front, p1, k2 stitches from cable needle].
   3RC = [slip 1 stitch and hold in back, k2, p1 from cable needle]

On row 5, when you come to this, work 3LC then 3RC. On row 9, when you come to this bit, work 3RC then 3LC. Row 9 is basically reversing the cabling in row 5 in this case. If in any doubt, check the written instructions for those rows in the original Constanze pattern.

Repeat rows 1 – 10 until scarf reaches desired length. For the picture, I did 20 repeats, but if you wanted to make it a scarf you could just keep going. Pattern continues after chart.

Legend

☐	k (knit)
│	p (purl)
○	yo (yarnover)
⊠	ns (no stitch)
╱	ssk (slip, slip knit)
╲	k2tog (knit two together)
⅄	sk2p (slip one, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over)
⅄	s2kp (slip two together, knit one, pass two slipped stitches over)
◥	cl2 (slip two stitches to cable needle and hold to front of work, knit two, knit two from cable needle)
◤	cr2 (slip two stitches to cable needle and hold to back of work, knit two, knit two from cable needle)
▶	a (6RC = [slip 4 stitches to a cable needle and hold at back, k2, k4 from cable needle])
◀	b (6LC = [slip 2 stitches to a cable needle and hold at front, k4, k2 from cable needle])
*	c (3LC OR 3RC - See notes)

Finishing

Knit a further 7 rows in garter stitch and bind off loosely. Block – the pattern really needs blocking to allow the lace to ˙bloom˒.

Using the crochet hook and spare yarn, crochet four button loops at even intervals along the cast on edge. Sew four corresponding buttons on to the cast off edge. Enjoy!