



Modifying Lace Stitches

by André de Castro



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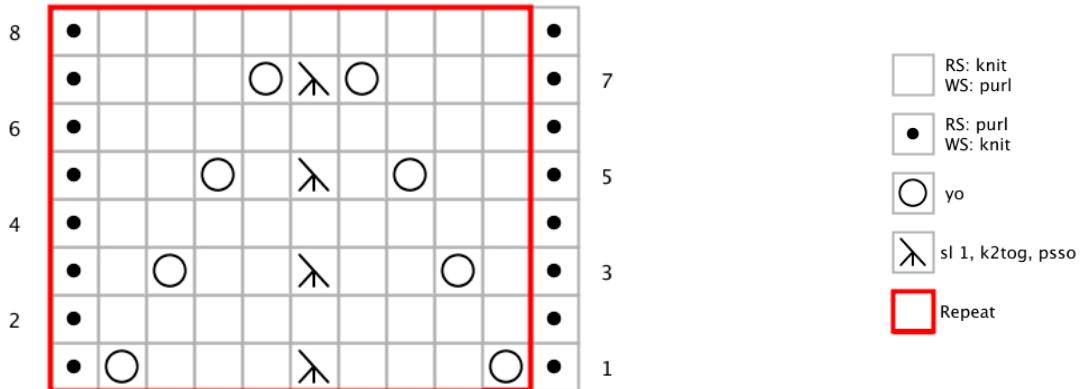
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Basic Pattern

Horseshoe Chart



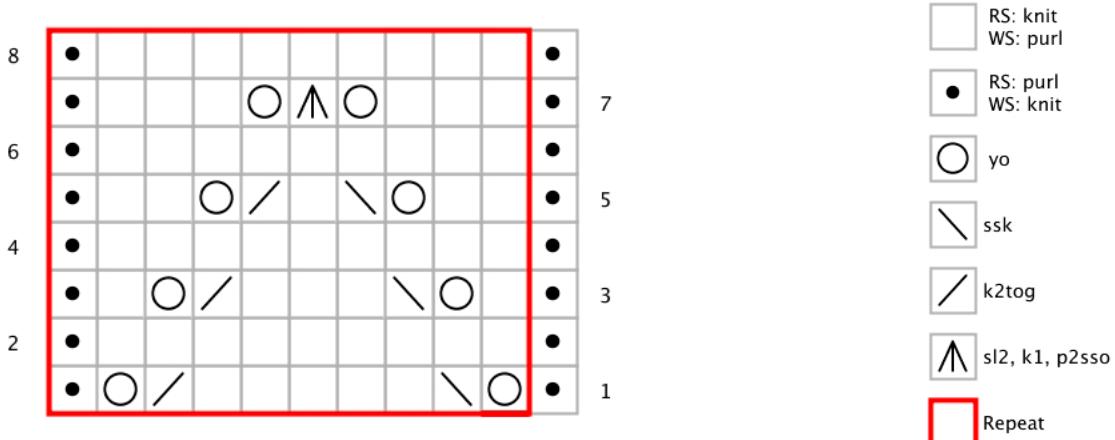
When you are new to lace stitch modifications it's advisable to start with small stitch repeats and simple ones. The less "lacy" the stitch, the more you can play with!

1. Changing placement and type of decreases

One of the simplest ways to change a pattern is by changing the type of decreases you have and place them in a different place.

Below it's an example where I change the middle left slanting double decrease for ssk and k2tog next to the yo...

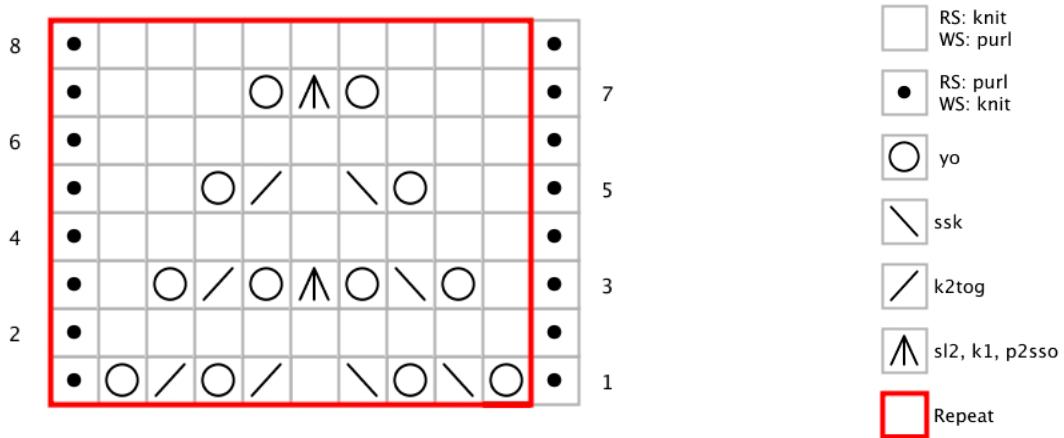
Note that I placed the decreases "inside" the main pattern next to the yo, to maintain the shape of the stitch.



2. Adding increases and decreases “inside” the main pattern

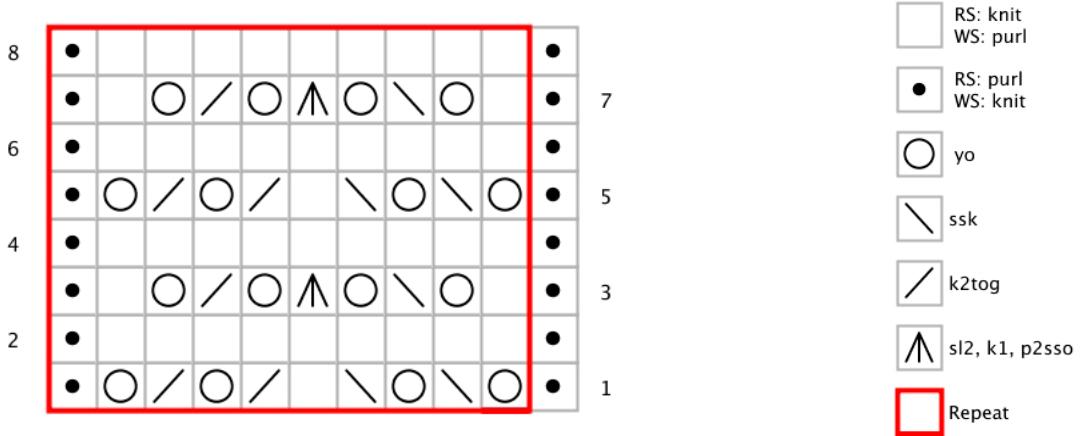
Here I continue to work “inside” the main pattern and to turn it more “lacy” I placed more yo and decreases.

You have to be careful when do it... a small mistake can make your stitch count off. Also, you can change the directions of the decreases. Here I chose to maintain it constant to archive the same wave effect.



3. Adding increases and decreases “outside” the main pattern

In this example, I kept adding yo and decreases but this time “outside” the pattern... Once more, I maintain the direction of the decreases to achieve the wave effect but you will end up with an all over lace pattern.



4. Mirroring and enlarging the pattern

One more complex change you can do with your stitch pattern is mirror the pattern up or down (if it's a symmetrical stitch) or also sideways if it is a non-symmetrical pattern. Of course, you will end up with a stitch with 2 times more rows than before...

Here I took the 2nd variation above and mirrored it up.

After I changed the direction of the decreases to achieve a "diamond" shape. To add more interest to the stitch pattern in the empty "knit" area I add some seed stitch to give it a little more textured effect.

