

NOT JUST A DOVE SWEATER

by CLARA EGGERS



MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE **act:onaid**

NOT JUST A DOVE SWEATER

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Size: A (B) C (D) E (F)

Circumference (measured under the armhole):

100 (110) 120 (130) 140 (150) cm

Length (mid back excl. neckband):

53 (56) 58 (61) 64 (66) cm

Gauge (stockinette stitch knit flat as well as in the round):

After wash/blocking: 12 sts x 17 rows on 9 mm needles = 10 x 10 cm

Suggested needles:

9 mm (US13; 40 and 80/100 cm) circular needles,

8 mm (US11; 40 and 80/100 cm) circular needles,

7 mm (≈ US10.5; 40 cm) circular needles,

9 mm auxiliary needle for three-needle bind-off



*Note ♥ I knit **very** tightly (xo my poor hands), so if you're more of a "loose" knitter, you'll most likely have to adjust needle sizes quite a bit, e.g. using 8, 7 and 6 mm needles or the like, to meet the gauge.*

You'll also need:

2 stitch markers

2 stitch holders (or some scrap yarn to hold the resting sts)

Optionally 12 (14) 16 (18) 20 (22) open stitch markers for Japanese short rows

1 embroidery needle

Suggested materials:

The Petite Wool from We Are Knitters (100 g = 140 m):

Color A (base color): 500 (500) 600 (700) 700 (800) g

Color B (dove motif): approx. 10 (10) 10 (10) 15 (15) g

Embroidery (the dove's silhouette, eye and olive branch):

Whatever scrap yarn you can find

About the design

The *Not just a dove sweater* is an oversized drop shoulder sweater with a peace dove motif worked in intarsia. The body of the sweater is worked bottom-up and the sleeves are worked top-down. To begin with, the front and back piece are worked separately; the front piece with an intarsia segment and the back piece with short rows to shape the slope of the shoulder. The shoulders are then joined using the three-needle bind-off technique, and the sides of the front and back piece (minus sleeve openings) are joined using mattress stitch; the sides are joined right above the ribbing, so the sweater gets a slit on both sides with the back piece being a little longer than the front piece. Along the neckline, stitches are picked up for the folded neckband, and lastly, stitches are picked up in each armhole and the sleeves worked top-down. The sleeves are finished with a long ribbed edge. When the sweater has been washed and blocked, the final details can be embroidered, namely the dove's silhouette and eye as well as an olive branch in its beak.

Before you start

The sweater is designed to have a positive ease of approx. 20-35 cm for sizes A-D and 15-20 cm for sizes E-F, meaning that the circumference of the finished garment (*after* wash and blocking) should be 20-35 cm (A-D) or 15-20 cm (E-F) wider than your widest upper body measurement. For example, if you measure 90 cm, you should knit either a size B or a size C, depending on your personal preference. The circumference of a size B sweater is 110 cm, which would then give you 20 cm of positive ease, while a size C is 120 cm, giving you 30 cm of positive ease. Note that the measurements specified above are **only** achieved if the correct gauge is kept. Therefore, make sure to make (and wash and block) a gauge swatch to ensure that you're using the right needle size(s); if your swatch doesn't match the gauge, you have to adjust needle size. If you, for example, have 11 sts per 10 cm, you need to go *down* a needle size (so the stitches become *smaller* = more stitches per 10 cm). Vice versa, if you have 13 sts per 10 cm, you need to go *up* a needle size (so the stitches become *bigger* = fewer stitches per 10 cm). Swatching is fun, yay.

TIP

Remember to measure and write down the gauge of your swatch before washing and blocking it. If you for example have 18 rows of stockinette stitch per 10 cm *before* (but hit the correct gauge *after*) blocking, knowing this will make it easier for you to decide on the right length for your sweater's body and sleeves. The vertical measurements specified in the pattern are based on a gauge that, vertically, stays more or less the same pre- and post-blocking (= 17 rows of stockinette stitch per 10 cm), only affected slightly by the natural weight of the yarn.

Important! If you adjust needle size to match the gauge, you must also adjust the needle size of the other needles in the pattern. If you, for example, go down to 8 mm needles to meet the gauge in stockinette stitch, you must also go down to 7 mm needles when working the ribbing on body and sleeves and 6 mm needles when working the neckband.

Terminology

st/s	stitch/es
rnd	round
stm	stitch marker
RS	right side
WS	wrong side
k	knit
p	purl
sl1 wyif	slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front
k1tbl	knit 1 through the back loop (twisted knit stitch)
p1tbl	purl 1 through the back loop (twisted purl stitch)
m1R	make 1 right (right-leaning increase)
m1L	make 1 left (left-leaning increase)
k2tog	knit 2 together (right-leaning decrease)
p2tog	purl 2 together (right-leaning decrease)
ssk	slip slip knit (left-leaning decrease worked on the RS)

Edge stitches

On the part of the sweater that is worked flat in stockinette stitch, edge stitches are worked on *all* rows by knitting (k1) the first and the last stitch.

About intarsia knitting

If this is your first encounter with intarsia knitting (or you just need to refresh your memory), there are many good video tutorials online, for example [this one](#) by VeryPink Knits. In the peace dove chart in this pattern, you'll need a maximum of five bobbins (/small balls of yarn).

How to read an intarsia knitting chart: When you begin working an intarsia knitting chart, you start at the bottom and work your way upwards. When working flat, your RS (knit) rows will have an odd number and should be read from right to left, while your WS (purl) rows will have an even number and should be read from left to right. Note that the chart in this pattern is slightly "skewed", so there is room for you to embroider an olive branch in the beak of the dove afterwards.

Increases

m1R
[make 1 right] With your left-hand needle, pick up the strand between the stitch you just worked and the one you're about to work by bringing the needle from back to front. Knit the lifted strand, and slide the stitch off your left-hand needle.

m1L
[make 1 left] With your left-hand needle, pick up the strand between the stitch you just worked and the one you're about to work by bringing the needle from front to back. Knit into the back loop of the lifted strand, and slide the stitch off your left-hand needle.

Decreases

k2tog Knit two stitches together

p2tog Purl two stitches together

ssk
[slip slip knit] One by one, slip two stitches knitwise from the left- to the right-hand needle, and then slip them back again. Knit the two stitches together through the back loops.

INSTRUCTIONS

Front piece

Cast on 60 (68) 72 (80) 84 (92) sts with color A on 8 mm circular needles (80/100 cm). I personally prefer using the long tail cast-on (slingshot method) for this.

Now, work 2 x 2 rib stitch knit flat as follows:

Row 1 (WS): sl1 wyif, * p2, k2; repeat * until 3 sts left, p2, k1.

Row 2 (RS): sl1 wyif, * k2, p2; repeat * until 3 sts left, k3.

Repeat these two rows until the rib measures 8 (8) 9 (9) 10 (10) cm (corresponding to approx. 14 (14) 16 (16) 18 (18) rows in total). End with a row from the RS.

Change to 9 mm circular needles (80/100 cm), and work a final row 1 (above).

Now you'll begin the stockinette part of the front piece; remember to work the edge stitches by knitting the first and last stitch on every row.

Size A (-) C (-) E (-) only

Work the next row (RS) in the following way:

k1 (edge st), **m1R**, knit 1 st left, **m1L**, k1 (edge st).

All sizes

You now have 62 (68) 74 (80) 86 (92) sts on the front piece.

Work stockinette stitch flat (i.e., knit on the right side and purl on the wrong side) until the front piece measures 19 (20) 22 (23) 21 (21) cm (including the ribbing). End with a row from the WS.

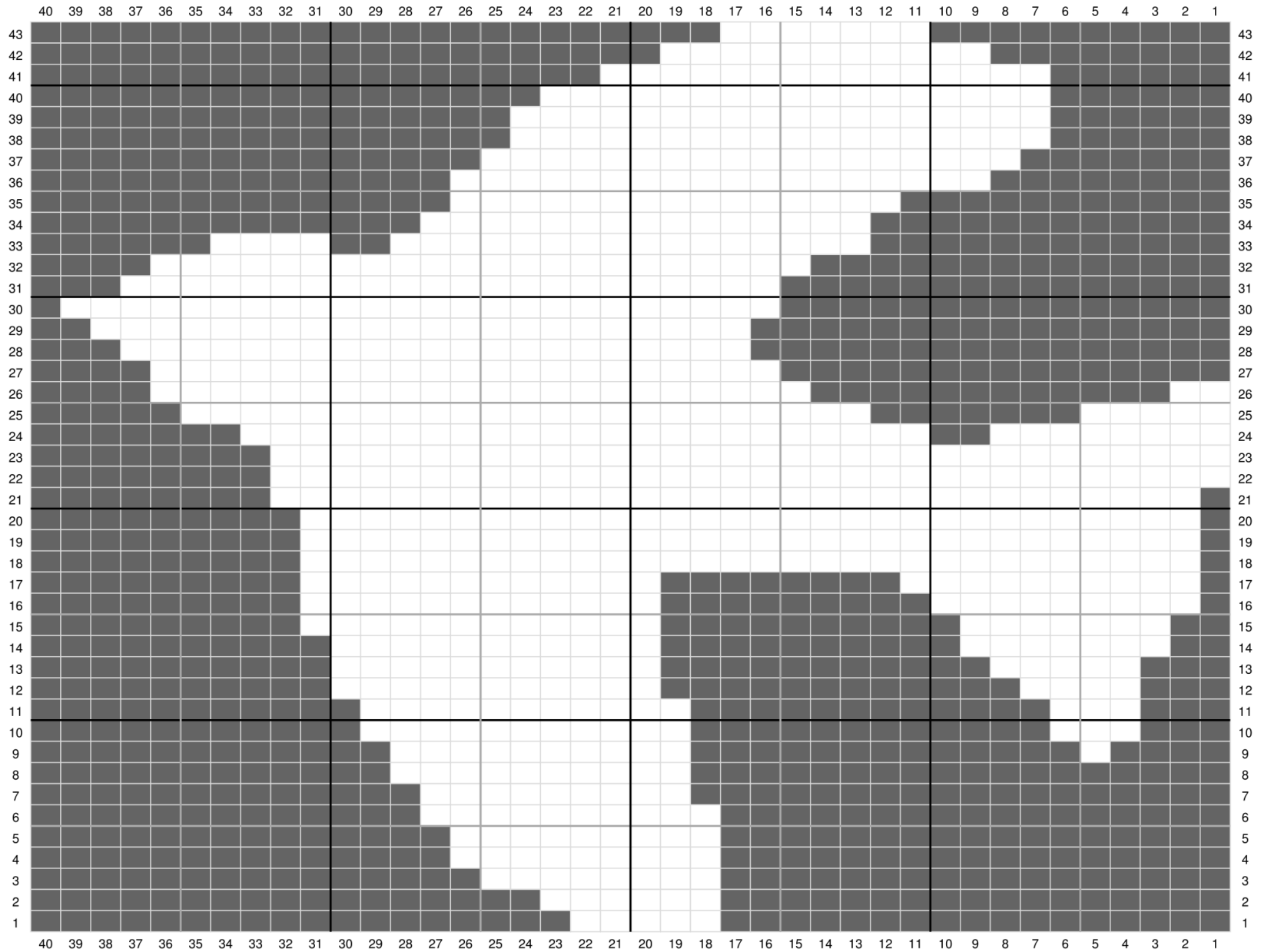
The dove is now worked in color B using **chart 1** (size A-D on page 5 and size E-F on page 6):

- Knit 15 (18) 21 (24) 23 (26) sts, place a stitch marker; this marks the right side of the chart.
- Knit as the stitches show in **chart 1, line 1**, and then place another stitch marker; this marks the left side of the chart.
- Knit the remaining 15 (18) 21 (24) 23 (26) sts.

When the chart is finished, continue in stockinette stitch until the front piece measures approx. 45 (47) 49 (50) 52 (52) cm. End with a row from the WS.



CHART 1, SIZE E-F



Right shoulder

Now you'll bind off stitches for the neck opening after which the right and left shoulder are worked separately with decreases to shape the neckline. Next row is from the RS.

Knit 24 (27) 30 (33) 35 (38) sts, bind off 14 (14) 14 (14) 16 (16) sts using the basic bind-off (k2 to begin with, and as you work each stitch, pass the previous stitch over it and off the needles), and then knit until end of row. You now have 24 (27) 30 (33) 35 (38) sts for both shoulders. (At this point, there's no need to place the left shoulder sts on a stitch holder; instead, you can just let them "rest" on the needle while working the right shoulder.)

Purl 1 row (= k1, purl until 1 st left, k1). Next row is from the RS.

Now begins the decrease sequence to shape the neckline. Continue as follows:

Row 1 (RS): k1 (edge st), **ssk**, knit until end of row.

Row 2 (WS): k1 (edge st), purl until 1 st left, k1 (edge st).

Repeat these two rows 4 times in total. = 20 (23) 26 (29) 31 (34) sts

Continue to work 10 rows flat in stockinette stitch (corresponding to approx. 6 cm). End with a row from the WS. Break the yarn, and place the 20 (23) 26 (29) 31 (34) remaining sts on a stitch holder to rest. Leave a *long* yarn end (approx. 1.5 m) to use when joining the shoulder later (*three-needle bind-off*).

Left shoulder

Now, the left shoulder is worked as the mirror image of the right shoulder. First row is from the WS.

Purl 1 row (= k1, purl until 1 st left, k1). Next row is from the RS.

From here, the decrease sequence is worked as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit until 3 sts left, **k2tog**, k1 (edge st).

Row 2 (WS): k1 (edge st), purl until 1 st left, k1 (edge st).

Repeat these two rows 4 times in total. = 20 (23) 26 (29) 31 (34) sts

Continue to work 10 rows flat in stockinette stitch (corresponding to approx. 6 cm). End with a row from the WS. Break the yarn, and place the 20 (23) 26 (29) 31 (34) remaining sts on a stitch holder to rest while you work the back piece.

Back piece

Cast on 60 (68) 72 (80) 84 (92) sts with color A on 8 mm circular needles (80/100 cm) as you did for the front piece.

Now, work 2 x 2 rib stitch knit flat as follows:

Row 1 (WS): sl1 wyif, * p2, k2; repeat * until 3 sts left, p2, k1.

Row 2 (RS): sl1 wyif, * k2, p2; repeat * until 3 sts left, k3.

Repeat these two rows until the rib measures 9 (9) 10 (10) 11 (11) cm (corresponding to approx. 16 (16) 18 (18) 20 (20) rows in total). End with a row from the RS.

Change to 9 mm circular needles (80/100 cm), and work a final row 1 (above).

Now you'll begin the stockinette part of the back piece; once again, remember the edge stitches.

Size A (-) C (-) E (-) only

Work the next row (RS) in the following way: k1 (edge st), **m1R**, knit 1 st left, **m1L**, k1 (edge st).

All sizes

You now have 62 (68) 74 (80) 86 (92) sts on the back piece.

Work stockinette stitch flat (i.e., knit on the right side and purl on the wrong side) until the back piece measures 46 (48) 49 (51) 53 (53) cm (including the ribbing). End with a row from the WS.

Now, you'll work short rows to shape the shoulder (I personally prefer Japanese short rows, but you're welcome to use the short row technique of your choice):

Row 1 (RS): Knit until 3 sts left, turn.

Row 2 (WS): Purl until 3 sts left, turn.

Row 3 (RS): Knit until 3 sts *before* the last turn, turn.

Row 4 (WS): Purl until 3 sts *before* the last turn, turn.

Repeat row 3 and 4 – 4 (5) 6 (7) 8 (9) more times (i.e., 8 (10) 12 (14) 16 (18) more short rows = 12 (14) 16 (18) 20 (22) short rows in total).

Work the final two rows before binding off for the neck opening in the following way:

Row 1 (RS): Knit until end of row.

(here, you'll be knitting over the short row stitches on the left shoulder)

Row 2 (WS): k1 (edge st), purl until 1 st left, k1 (edge st).

(here, you'll be purling over the short row stitches on the right shoulder)

Now you'll bind off stitches in the neck: Knit 20 (23) 26 (29) 31 (34) sts, bind off 22 (22) 22 (22) 24 (24) sts for the neck opening using the basic bind-off (k2 to begin with, and as you work each stitch, pass the previous stitch over it and off the needles), and then knit until end of row. Refrain from breaking the yarn as it will be used for the three-needle bind-off in the next step.

Joining the shoulder seams

Now, the front and back piece are joined by knitting the stitches on each shoulder together using the three-needle bind-off. This bind-off technique requires the use of an auxiliary needle (9 mm).

Begin with the left shoulder where you already have yarn ready from working the back piece. Proceed in the following way:

- Slide the 20 (23) 26 (29) 31 (34) resting sts from the left shoulder (front piece) onto a needle.
- Place the front and back piece with the RS facing each other so you can bind off from the WS.
- Take your auxiliary needle, and knit the first stitch from each needle together. Do this twice so you have two sts on your right-hand needle.
- Now pass the first stitch over the second stitch and off the needles, binding off one stitch.
- Continue in this way until all sts have been bound off. Make sure not to bind off too tightly.

Break the yarn, and repeat the procedure for the right shoulder. Here, you can use the long yarn end that you left when working the right shoulder on the front piece.

Joining the sides of the body

Now the sides of the front and back piece are joined together using mattress stitch. (Note that the armhole will ultimately consist of more front piece than back piece, and this is completely intentional. ☺)

Begin right above the ribbing on both pieces, so the sweater gets a slit on both sides (with the back piece being a little longer than the front piece).

Sew until you have an armhole that is approx. 20 (20) 20 (21) 21 (21) cm deep (≈ consisting of approx. 68 (68) 68 (72) 72 (72) rows for picking up sleeve stitches later).

Repeat on both sides. They should preferably be identical.

Neckband

Pick up 72 (72) 72 (72) 76 (76) sts along the neckline with 7 mm circular needles (40 cm). The number of stitches to be picked up corresponds to approx. 1 st being picked up in every stitch/row along the neckline. Begin in the bind-off edge on the back piece. Should you end up with a few sts too many, you can make a corresponding number of decreases (e.g., **p2tog**) evenly distributed on the round when working your first round of ribbing.

Example

Size A-D (72 m): Pick up 21 sts in the bind-off edge, 18 sts in the left slope of the neckline, 15 sts along the bind-off edge on the front piece, and 18 sts in the right slope of the neckline.

Size E-F (76 m): Pick up 23 sts in the bind-off edge, 18 sts in the left slope of the neckline, 17 sts along the bind-off edge on the front piece, and 18 sts in the right slope of the neckline.

Now work 15 rnds of either

- twisted 1 x 1 rib stitch (* k1tbl, p1tbl; repeat * until end of rnd) or
- 2 x 2 rib stitch (* k2, p2; repeat * until end of rnd), if you would like the neckband to match the ribbing on the body and sleeves.

Now fold the neckband, and knit it down on the inside by working 1 st from the needle together with 1 st from the picked-up edge sts (**k2tog** all the way round). Be careful to knit the neckband straight down (and not at an angle). As the stitches are knitted together, bind off using the basic bind-off. Once again, make sure not to bind off too tightly.

Sleeves

Pick up 52 (52) 52 (56) 56 (56) sts for the left sleeve with 9 mm circular needles (40 cm). The number of stitches to be picked up corresponds to approx. 4 sts per 5 rows (i.e., you pick up 4 sts and then skip 1 st). Begin at the bottom of the armhole, and place a beginning-of-round marker here once you've picked up all the sleeve stitches.

You can now continue to work stockinette stitch in the round (i.e., knit away) until the sleeve has your desired length (see *the text box below and on the next page*).

How to find the right sleeve length (before finishing with a long ribbed edge)

This is where the measurements of your gauge swatch before washing and blocking come into play. Try the sweater on, and measure the length from the first sleeve sts on your upper arm to where you want your sleeve to end. Take this number and subtract 14 cm; these centimeters cover the transition between the stockinette stitch and the ribbed edge + the edge itself, and also take into account the growth of the sleeve due to the natural weight of the yarn. Now you can calculate how long you should make the sleeves before the ribbing:

For centimeter: $((\text{length minus 14 cm}) / \text{number of rows pre-blocking}) \times 17$ rows of stockinette stitch

For amount of rounds (vertical stitch count): $((\text{length minus 14 cm}) / 10 \text{ cm}) \times 17$ rows of stockinette stitch

Example

Let's say you have 18 rows of stockinette stitch per 10 cm *before* blocking.

From the first sleeve sts on your shoulder to your wrist, you measure 45 cm.

That means, in order to get your desired sleeve length *after* blocking, you should knit $((45 \text{ cm minus } 14 \text{ cm}) / 18 \text{ rows}) \times 17 \text{ rows} = 29 \text{ cm}$ of stockinette stitch (measured from the first sleeve sts on your upper arm) **or** manually count $((45 \text{ cm minus } 14 \text{ cm}) / 10 \text{ cm}) \times 17 \text{ rows} = 53$ rounds of stockinette stitch, again starting with the first sleeve sts on your upper arm.

Change to 8 mm circular needles (40 cm), and knit a final rnd.

Now, work 2 x 2 rib stitch (* k2, p2; repeat * until end of rnd) until the ribbed edge measures 12 cm.

Bind off using the basic bind-off (still following the 2 x 2 rib stitch pattern). Make sure not to bind off too tightly.

Work the right sleeve the same way as the left.

Finishing (sort of)

Weave in all ends.

Wash and block the sweater (as you did your swatch). I recommend that you wash and block the sweater *before* you embroider. In this way, you'll know the final dimensions of the sweater and your embroidery won't "pull" the garment when the yarn grows.

If you want, you can sew a thin elastic thread into the folded neckband to make sure that it keeps its shape and drapes beautifully around your neck.

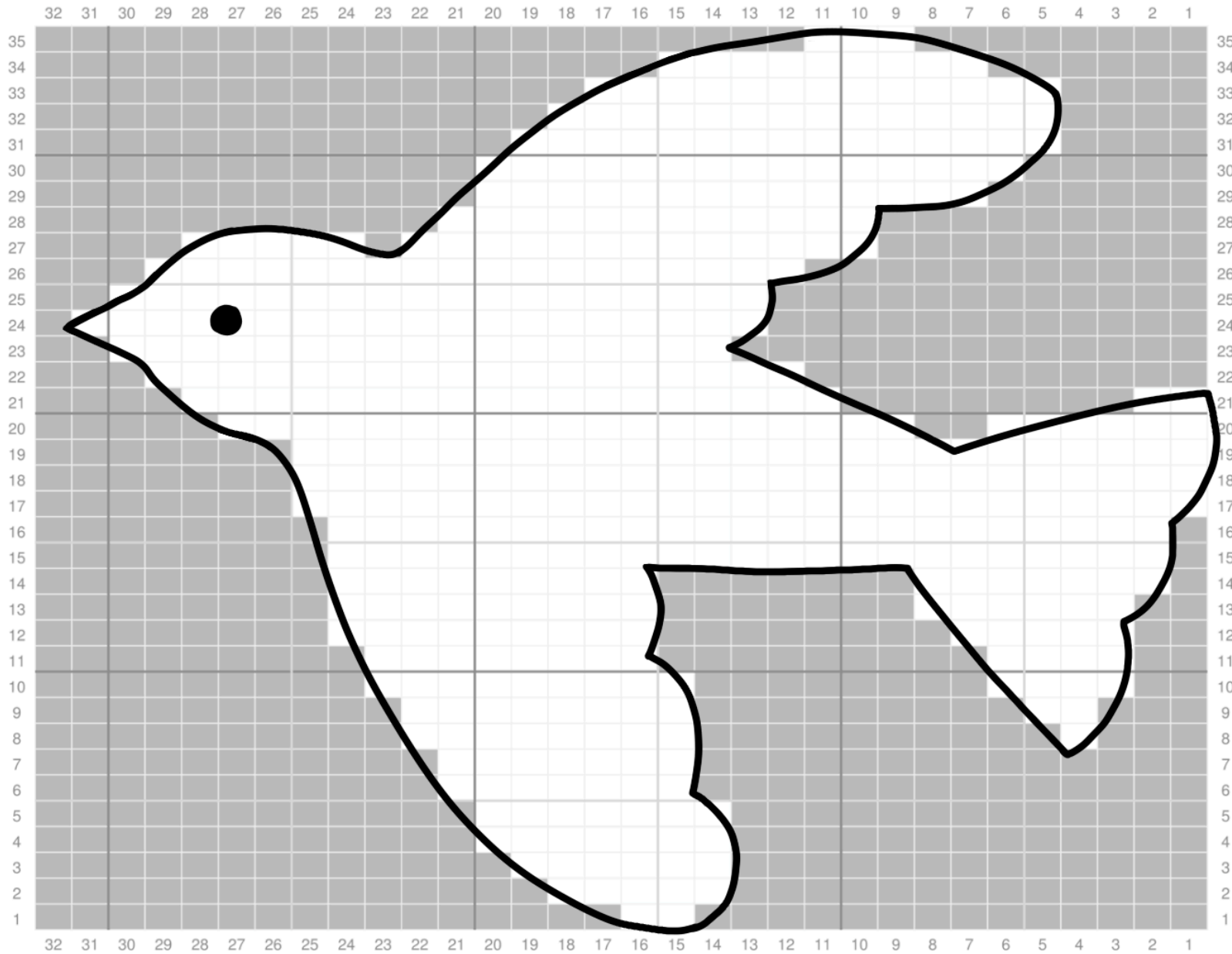
Embroidery (the ✨real✨ finishing)

In this final part, there is plenty of opportunity to individualize the expression of the sweater; which yarn you choose and which embroidery stitches you use is entirely up to you, so think of the following as a suggestion – it's just one way to do it. I myself used scraps of a fingering weight merino (100 g = 400 m) for the silhouette of the dove and scraps of Peruvian Highland Wool (aran/worsted weight, 100 g = 200 m) for the rest. The inspiration for this sweater came from the British artist Jessie Cutts' beautiful protest banners, and I'm even lucky enough that Jessie has agreed to let me use her pictures in this pattern. Each banner is unique, just as each sweater that emerges from this pattern will be its very own.

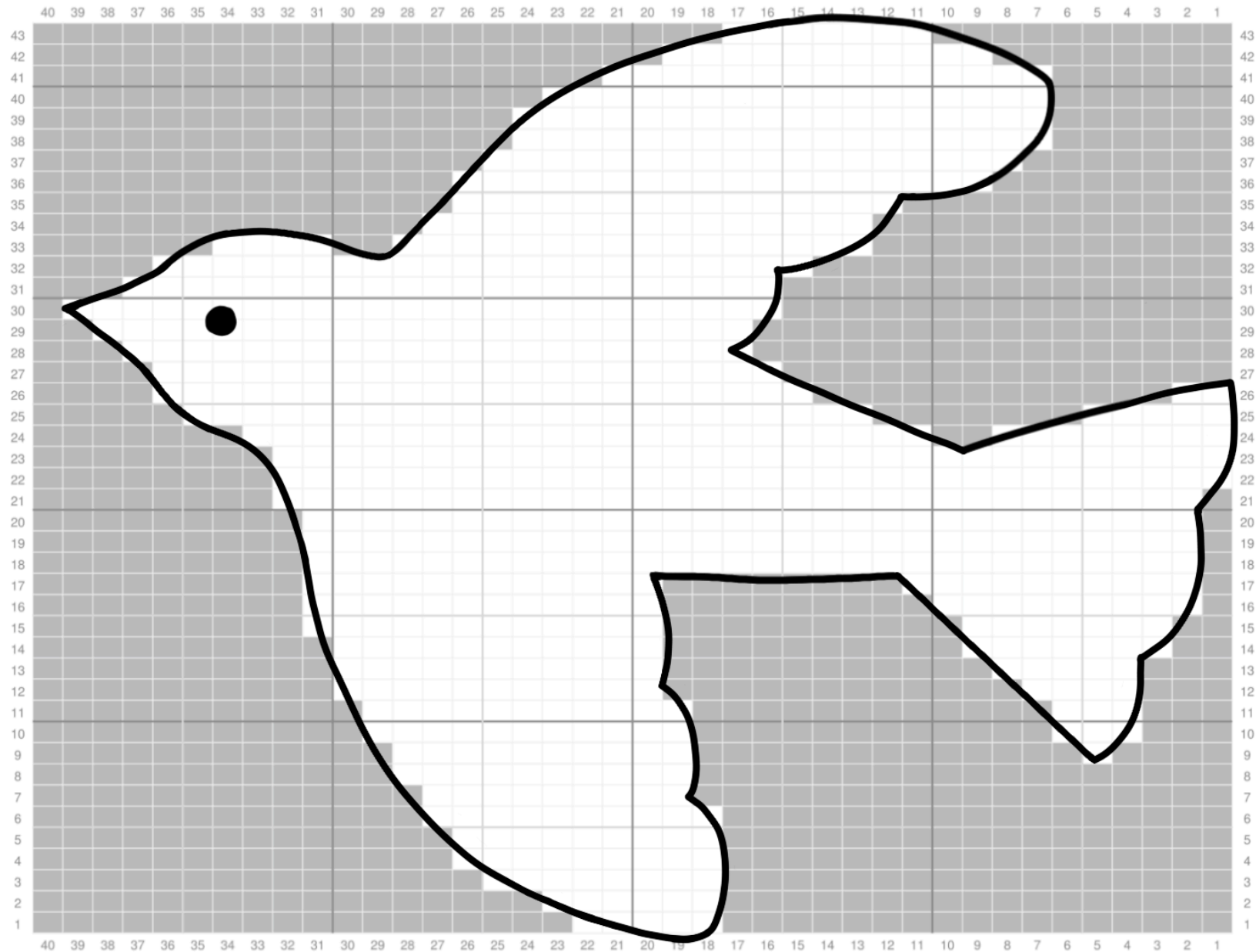
Embroider the silhouette of the dove and the olive branch using chain stitch, and afterwards embroider the eye of the dove as well as the olives using satin stitch. When embroidering the olives, you can also use a few chain stitches to make the shape more even.

Use the images on the following pages as inspiration. ♥

Suggestion for silhouette embroidery (based on CHART 1, **SIZE A-D**)



Suggestion for silhouette embroidery (based on CHART 1, **SIZE E-F**)





The images above are extracts; you can see the full banners [here](#) and [here](#).



In [this video](#) you can see parts of my process (incl. embroidery with both chain stitch and satin stitch).

*Feel free to share your version of the sweater on Instagram using the hashtag
#notjustadovesweater*



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