Generic Shaping for a Lace Ball

©Judy Gibson, 1999*

These lace balls are knitted flat, using short row shaping to form "wedges" like orange sections. The arrow by the row number shows the direction of knitting for each row. This chart shows a single section. It takes about 12 to 14 wedges (120 to 140 rows) to make a sphere. See http://www.users.cts.com/crash/j/jgibson/knitting/laceball.htm for photos and fuller explanations.

A lace pattern of about 6 to 10 stitches wide can be inserted in the center, where it will encircle the "equator" of the sphere. The number of repeats of the lace insertion has to come out even with the number of repeats of the short-row shaping, for example, a pattern with a 6-row repeat can be worked 20 times (120 rows) and come out even with 12 repeats of the chart below. Space is provided to check off each row for up to 15 repeats.

Loosely cast on 19 sts plus the number needed for the lace insertion. Knit, following chart plus pattern for insertion for each row. Turn at the end of each row. There is no need to "wrap" for the short row turns. Bind off loosely, and sew seam, running thread through ends to pull one opening tight. Soak in stiffener, insert and inflate balloon, pull other end tight, and hang to dry. Pop and remove balloon.

5	4	3	2	1	0	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1																row
																		^	O	^	O	^	O	^				O	^	O	^	O	^	O	^	O	|	> 10
																	|	O	^	O	^	O	^	O				^	O	^	O	^	O	^				< 9
																				^	O	^	O	^	O				O	^	O	^	O	^	O	|			> 8
																			|	O	^	O	^	O				^	O	^	O	^						< 7
																								^				O	^	O	^	O	|					> 6
																							|	O				^										< 5
																												O	|								> 4
																																						< 3
																^	O	^	O	^	O	^	O	^														> 2
															|	O	^	O	^	O	^	O	^	O				^	O	^	O	^	O	^	O	^		< 1
check off rows as done															c/o 9 sts										c/o as needed			c/o 10 sts									

Lace Insertion of your choice goes here

Key to symbols:

^ = knit 2 sts together (odd # rows) or purl 2 sts together (even # rows)

O = YO (yarn over)

| = knit (odd rows), or purl (even rows)

*This chart may be reproduced as needed for personal, noncommercial use. Contact jgibson@cts.com for permission for other use.