Lace Ball with Mexican Insertion

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The Mexican Insertion is modified from the version shown in Barbara Abbey's Knitting Lace (#32) in the following ways: it is a stockinette fabric, not garter; the borders are removed; and the slant of decreases now emphasizes the line of the pattern.

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Loosely cast on 25 sts. Knit, following chart. Turn at the end of each row. There is no need to "wrap" for the short row turns. Repeat chart 14 times (grid provided for checking off rows as completed.) 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.

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)

/ = same as ^

\ = ssk (slip, slip, k the slipped sts tog) on odd # rows; ssp (slip, slip, p tog through back loop) on even # rows

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