

LATTES & LLAMAS PRESENTS
Natural 20 Sweater

THE 2024 GEEK-A-LONG



The Geek-A-Long (GAL) supports Child's Play Charity, which provides games and consoles to children in hospitals and domestic violence shelters. We encourage GAL participants to donate to CP Charity via our [sanctioned widget](#) in lieu of paying for this pattern. No donation is too small!



History of the Geek-A-Long

First imagined in the Winter of 2013, the Geek-A-Long (GAL) was born from unrestrained idealism and way too much coffee. The idea was ridiculous: Release a new pattern every week all year, based on pop-culture nerdiness. At the end of the year, we would join 48 double-sided squares together to make a massive blanket. Our Fandom Opus would be sent to the Child's Play Charity Dinner Auction in Seattle, and the proceeds of the sale would go towards providing video games and other entertainment to children in hospitals and domestic violence shelters.

When Megan-Anne cast on that first square, she had no idea what the GAL would turn into. Seven years, seven blankets, and nearly 300 squares later, the Geek-A-Long has grown far beyond us. The community has grown each year and based on our square download statistics there are GAL knitters in every corner of the world. Your generosity is astounding. The GAL community has raised over \$10,000 for Child's play with individual donations and proceeds raised from the sale of the auctioned blankets.

We wanted to do something to make 2020 memorable. Admittedly, that decision was made in 2019, and 2020 doesn't need help standing out. Still, we wanted to shake things up. When Megan-Anne finished knitting that first blanket in 2014, we never imagined we'd still be making them in 2020. We are blown away by how much love and support the project has gotten and couldn't have predicted it. We want you to see [Eight Bit](#), [On Board](#), and now this sweater for what they are: a love letter from us to the entire GAL community.



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All rights reserved. You may not sell, redistribute, or publish this pattern. This pattern is for personal use only. However, if you wish to sell your socks or an item made using this pattern for the benefit of Child's Play Charity, please follow the guidelines set forth by CP Charity to ensure that 100% of the proceeds go to CP Charity. If you use this color chart in one of your designs and wish to share it with others, it must be free and Lattes & Llamas must be given appropriate credit along with a link to our website and the [Child's Play Charity Widget](#).



Natural 20 Sweater: Clue 4

Note: If you would prefer to make your sweater without pockets, you will ignore the following instructions, and work the Natural 20 Chart around for all rounds (still working the alternating MC and CC sts for the 7 steek sts) until the sweater is 2” shorter than your desired final length.

Please read before beginning the pocket section:

The pockets are created by working waste yarn stitches where the top of the pocket will be. This is the same technique as working an afterthought heel, and it really isn't very complicated. You will need to have waste yarn available to you, and I recommend using yarn that is a little smaller in gauge than your working yarn. I tend to reach for sock yarn for this technique regardless, but in the end it doesn't matter all that much what waste yarn you use as long as it's not larger than your working yarn.

The most important thing will be choosing something with a strong contrast to your working yarn. You'll thank me later when we are finishing the pockets (that will be clue 6) and you don't have to work hard to tell the difference between your live stitches (made with your MC and CC) and your waste stitches (made with your waste yarn). If you are really feeling like doing a solid for future you, choose 2 different waste yarns for this technique. One for the lifelines and one for the waste stitches. Then you will easily be able to tell apart the live stitches, the lifelines, and the waste stitches.

If you've never worked an afterthought heel or run a lifeline I know that these can seem intimidating, but they really are one of the easiest things you'll learn in knitting. To run a "lifeline" you will take a length of waste yarn, thread it on a tapestry needle, and then pull the needle through the loops of knit stitches you just worked. That way, when you pick out the stitches in a row below/above them, those live stitches will be held on the waste yarn, and you can slip them right back onto your needles without any fuss.

Last year we released a pair of socks for the 2023 Geek-A-Long and included a tutorial for this technique to create an afterthought heel. You can view that [HERE](#). There is no difference in technique for the pockets vs. a heel. We will place a lifeline, knit a waste row, knit across the waste row again and place a lifeline in those stitches so that there is a lifeline on either side of the waste row, and then just move on with our lives and sweater. When you finish the sweater, you will pick out the waste stitches and be left with live stitches at the top of your pocket and at the point on the body that meets the pocket, with a nice opening between them that didn't require any casting on or binding off.

POCKETS

Rounds 1-5: Alternate MC and CC between the steek markers as established in prior sections, then work the NATURAL 20 chart around, stopping after you complete row 5 of the chart.

Round 6 (Pocket Placement): Work the steek as established. Work **ONLY the first 9sts** of the NATURAL 20 Chart. Drop MC. With CC, K43 sts. Thread a length of waste yarn onto a tapestry needle and place a lifeline by running the tapestry needle through the loops of the 43 CC sts just worked. Do not remove those 43 sts from the needle, just run the waste yarn through them.

Turn so the wrong side is facing you. Drop CC and with waste yarn, purl back across the 43 sts you just knit (the sts you just put a lifeline through). Break waste yarn and turn so the right side is facing you again.

With MC, K across the 43 waste yarn sts. Thread a length of waste yarn onto a tapestry needle and place a lifeline by running the tapestry needle through the loops of the 43 MC sts just worked. Do not remove those 43 sts from the needle, just run the waste yarn through them. You now have 43 waste yarn sts with a row of CC above it and MC below it and lifelines run through the MC and CC sts.



You are now at the spot where you dropped CC. Pick it back up and work **ONLY the last 8 sts** of row 6 of the NATRUAL 20 Chart. Place Marker.

Work row 6 of the NATURAL 20 Chart around to the last 60 sts. Place Marker.

Work **ONLY the first 8sts** of the NATURAL 20 Chart. Drop MC. With CC, K43 sts. Thread a length of waste yarn onto a tapestry needle and place a lifeline by running the tapestry needle through the loops of the 43 CC sts just worked. Do not remove those 43 sts from the needle, just run the waste yarn through them.

Turn so the wrong side is facing you. Drop CC and with waste yarn, purl back across the 43 sts you just knit (the sts you just put a lifeline through). Break waste yarn and turn so the right side is facing you again.

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You are now at the spot where you dropped CC. Pick it back up and work **ONLY the last 9 sts** of row 6 of the NATRUAL 20 Chart.

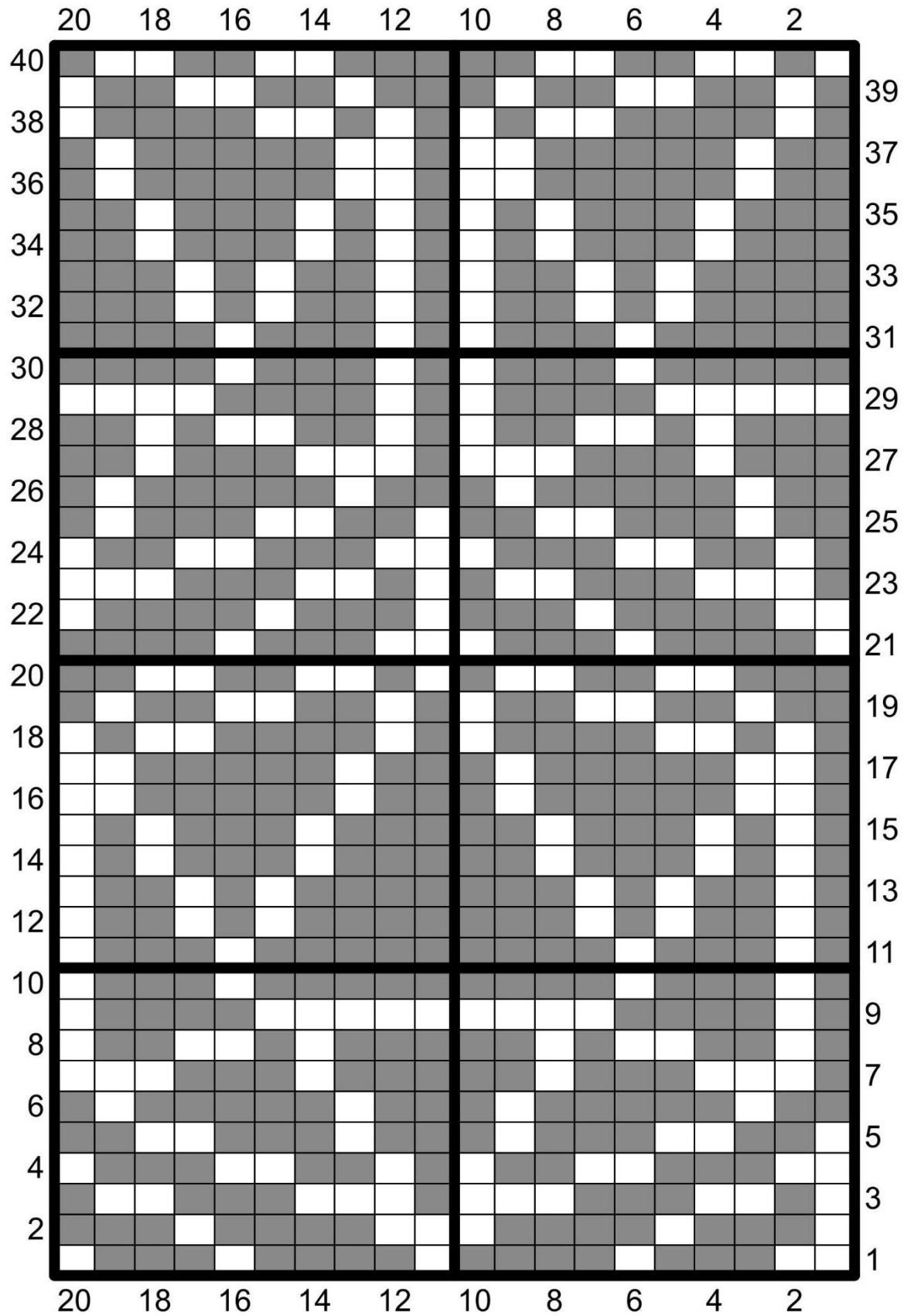
Next 54 Rounds: Work the steek as established. Work the MIMIC chart to the first marker. Starting on row 7 of the chart, work the NATURAL 20 Chart to the next marker. Work the D&D chart to the end of the round.

Remainder of Body: Beginning on row 21 of the chart, work the steek as established and then repeat the NATURAL 20 Chart around until the sweater is 2" less than the desired length.



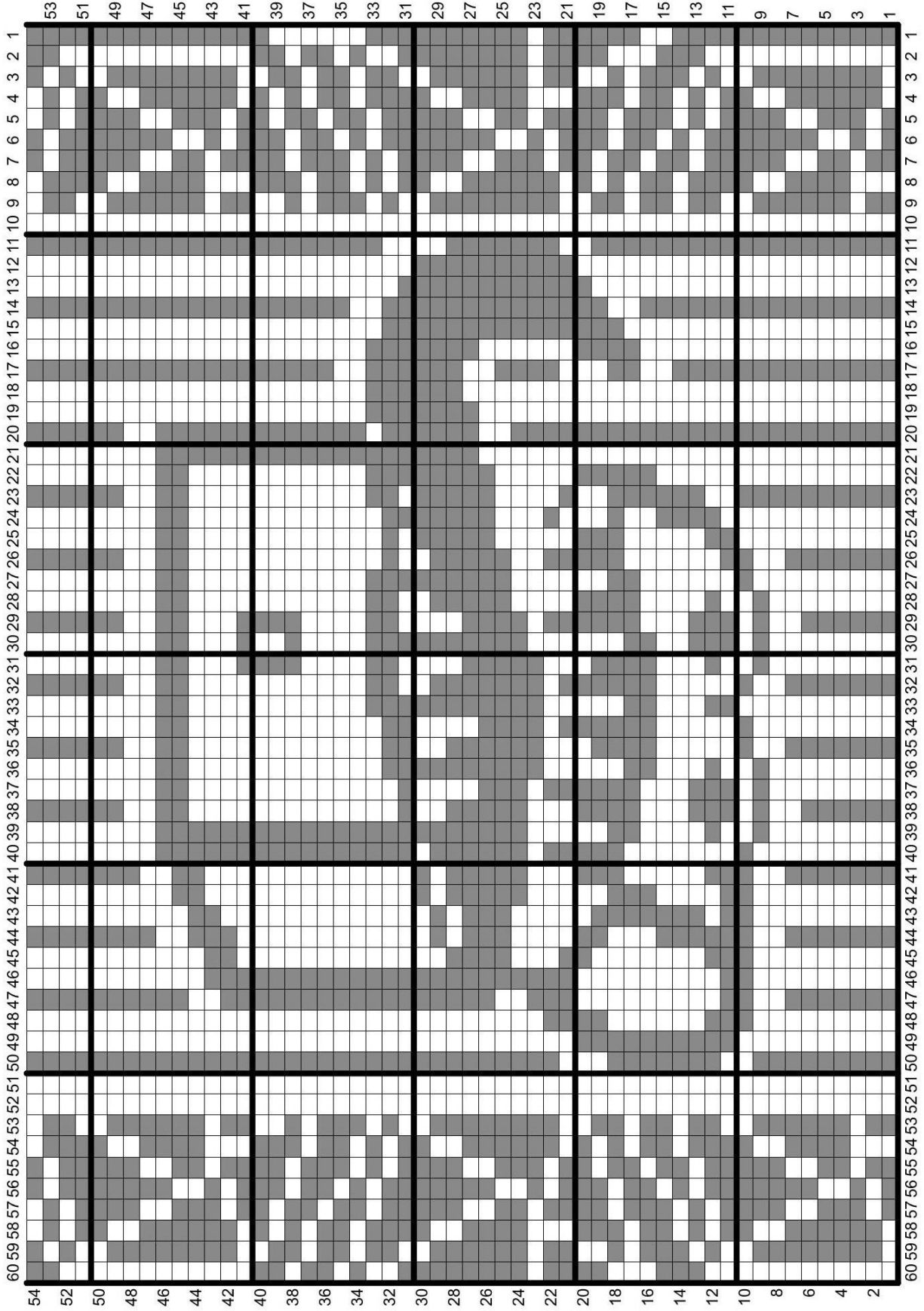


NATURAL 20





Mimic





D&D

