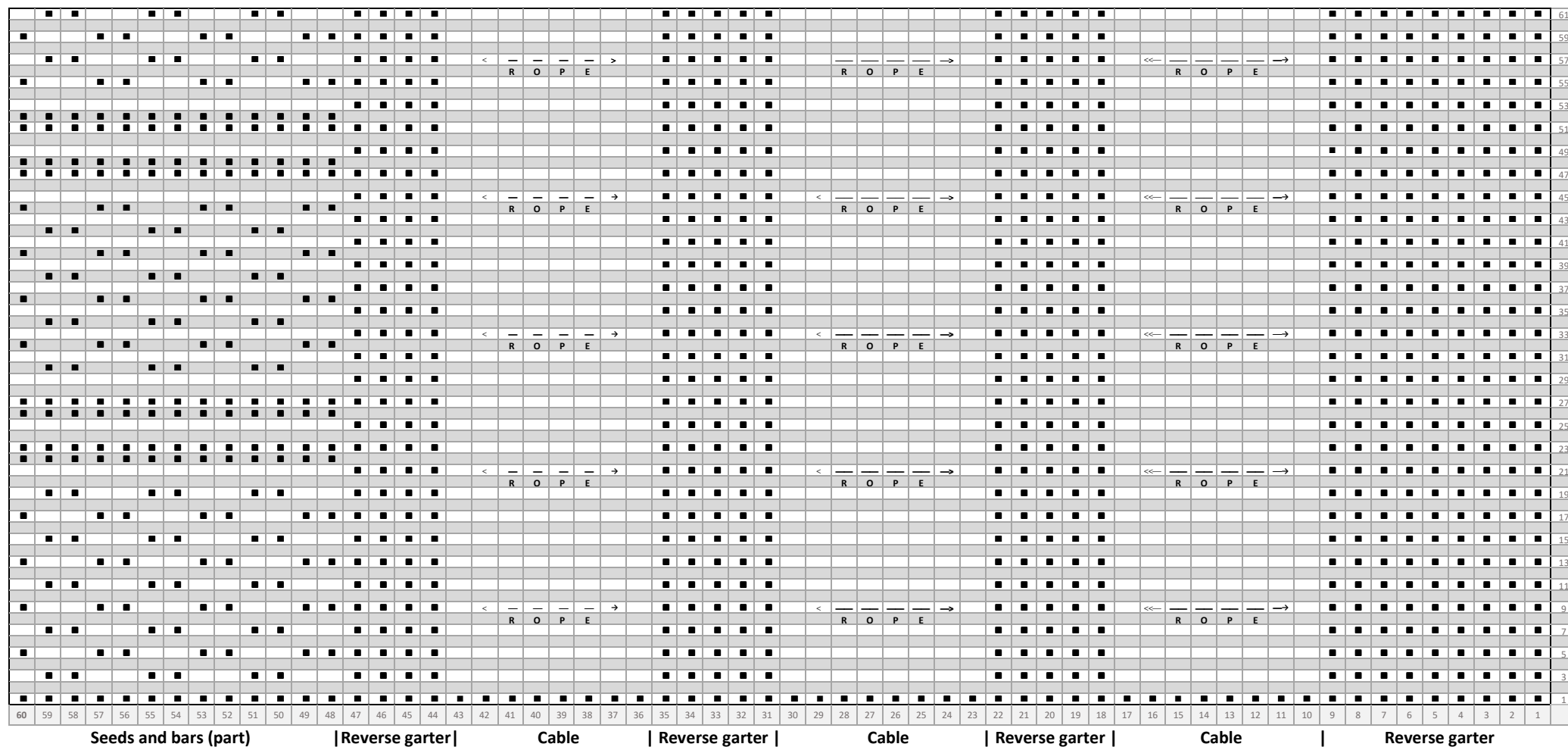


GP71 "Duggie" Carter's seed panels and cables gansey

King's Lynn (commercial)



■ = purl stitch on the right side (knit stitch on the wrong side) <<—> = cable turning to the left

Photo no.: james-duggie-carter.jpg

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Singer and fisherman James 'Duggie' Carter (centre) with singer Thomas Anderson (left) and Rev Edward Edwards in the 'Tilden Smith' public house in 1905, where they met and performed for Ralph Vaughan Williams. The gansey Duggie is wearing is not new (see the hole at right hand side of the neck) so the gansey must have been knitted around 1900 or before. The yoke begins with three rigs of two rows purl, two rows plain. In the centre of the yoke are 6 horizontal panels of seed stitch, the first and third are 9 seeds high, the rest are only 8 and the panels are separated by two rigs, each composed of two rounds of purl separated by two rounds of plain. The chart begins with row 1 representing the top row of the lower rigs, followed immediately by the seed stitch panel. Whereas in the double rigs that divide the panels above there is two plain rows above and below the rigs. The three cables down each breast are a little unusual in that they are 3-over-3 cables, in columns of stocking stitch 8 stitches wide, crossing to the left (as most Norfolk ganseys do) at intervals of 12 rows They are each flanked by columns of reverse garter stitch, which has an appearance of wider spacing of the rows than garter stitch does. The shoulder strap is garter stitch.

Yoke pattern

Garter stitch	9
Cable	8
Garter stitch	5
Cable	8
Garter stitch	5
Cable	8
Garter stitch	4
Seeds and bars	46
Garter stitch	4
Cable	8
Garter stitch	5
Cable	8
Garter stitch	5
Cable	8
Garter stitch	9

142 stitches

Seam stitches

4

Each side

144 stitches

Total

288 stitches (72 ribs in the welt)

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If the gansey is a 40" chest, then tension = 7.2 spi. This accords with what we see: one of the coarser ganseys in Norfolk, knitted in 5-ply worsted. The sleeve begins with a single rig of 2 round purl, followed by 18 rounds plain; a second rig and 18 round plain; a third rig and 18 rounds plain, then the fourth and last rig. Cuff of k2 p2 rib.

On the basis that an almost identical design of gansey is seen on a wherryman (GP96), presumed to be on the Norfolk or Suffolk Broads I do not think Duggie Carter is wearing a unique family pattern from the North End. Instead, I think this is a commercial product, a contract (hand-) knitted gansey purchased from a marine outfitter. It carries designs often seen in these garments – that is, seeds and bars and cables – but in combination.

Note to knitters

Sharp-eyed knitters may have noticed that the seed stitch panels 1 and 3 have the seeds falling on the odd rows while in the second panel they fall on the even rows. We were concerned that this inconsistency might be taken as a mistake but this is exactly what the photograph shows, as indicated by the juxtaposition of the seeds and the rows of the reverse garter stitch. If, when designing your own gansey, you wish to keep the seed stitches falling on the odd rows (that is, on the right side) to make the knitting easier, an adjustment could be made by either inserting an extra plain row, or removing a plain row, in the vicinity of the rigs.

Above: Swatch by Val Smith with a single row between the lower rigs instead of two and this keeps the seed panels in kilter with the reverse garter stitch and seeds are made on the right side (odd numbered rows).

