

# Rick Rack – graph paper

by  
Cath Thomas  
for

Contemporary  
Geometric  
Beadwork



Rick Rack by L. Venturosa



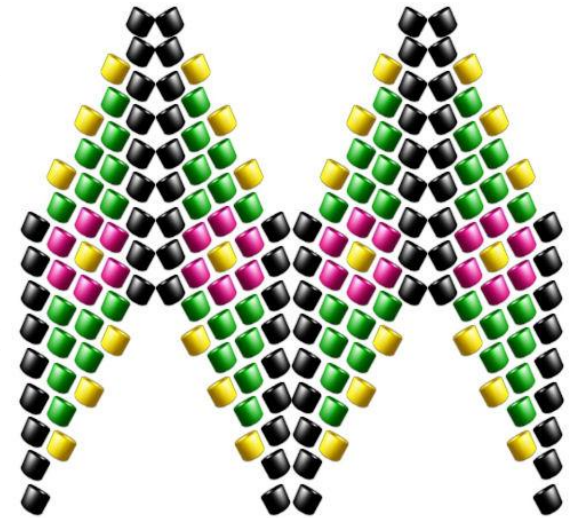
Various Rick Racks by T. Habing

# Rick Rack Graphs - general info

The graphs in this document hopefully will help you design patterns for your rick rack bracelets, simply by colouring them in. We also hope that the measurement of the bracelets / full peaks (indicated in cm / mm) in the various graphs will help you determine what size and how many full peaks you will need to create a bangle to fit your size hand.

A survey to gather information about the sizes of the bracelets showed that there are as many 'favorite counts' as there are different beaders.

Data about size is based on an **average**, because - depending on the **tension** of your beadwork (some beaders pull much more than others) it can be easier or more difficult to slip a rick rack bangle over the hand.



The **finish** of the beads may result in important differences. Galvanized or plated beads are often bigger than ordinary opaque beads. Matte beads, as well as silk beads, are made of etched glass, resulting in a smaller, more fragile bead. Differences in size even might occur between opaque beads (some beaders have noticed that black is sometimes smaller than white). It may be insignificant in one spot, but in a bracelet with more than 250 beads in one row, the difference may be considerable!

Please bear in mind that the present charts, as accurate as possible, are not rocket science and variation may happen depending on your bead weaving tension and your beads. Creating a Rick Rack bangle involves a degree of experimentation and trial and error.

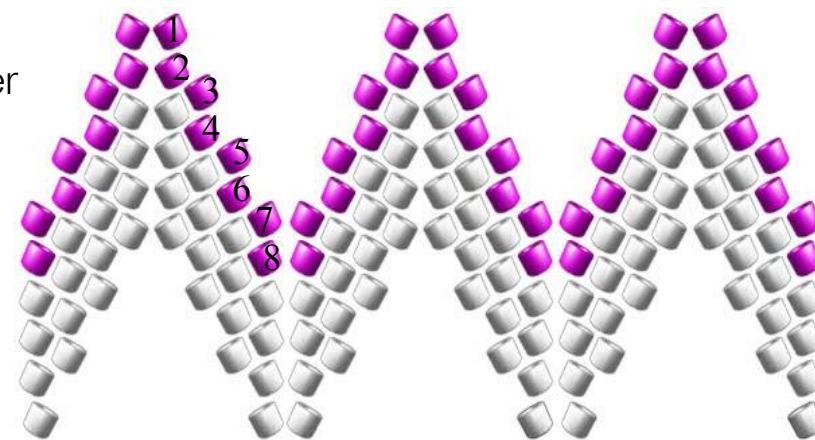
The graphs are free. **Tip:** to save ink and paper, print only the page you need – the number is written at the top of the page.

For more info about Contemporary Geometric Beadwork and Rick Racks, please visit the official [website](#).

# Rick Rack Graphs - sizing

The number of beads mentioned in the graphs is the number of Delicas in a row in a HALF peak. The illustration here shows 3 peaks with 8 beads on each side of the peak.

Note: This number – 8 here – is also the number of *MRAW units* you need to make *one entire* peak. See page 4 for details.



To make a Rick Rack bracelet,

1. Measure your hand at its largest part (the knuckles), or measure another bangle with a measuring tape, keeping in mind that a soft bangle can pass over the hand more easily, or measure it with a bangle sizer if you have one.
2. See in the charts what size and number of peaks suits you the best. Written vertically on the side of each graph there is an example showing the number of peaks needed to make a bangle in a variety of sizes.
3. Remember that you can make *more* or *less* peaks. You can also make peaks of *variable* sizes in order to adjust to a certain circumference.
4. Not only a stiff tension can make the bracelet more difficult to slip over the hand. The length also can make a difference: the taller the bracelet, the harder it gets.
6. Making horns in the beadwork can reduce the overall circumference considerably.

# Rick Rack Graphs - counting

Counting beads – how many units / how many beads....



Reminder: one unit is a little RAW square and when attached to one another with one extra Delica in between it's called 'MRAW'. An increase is when you add two Delicas in between the units, a decrease when you do not add Delicas at all in between the units. .

To make a 20.8cm Rick Rack bangle, with **16 peaks** counting 8 Delicas per edge, build an MRAW belly band of 16 x (4+4) units, ie 16 times **4 units, one increase, 4 units, one decrease, etc. as in the sample illustrated below.** This is equivalent to 256 beads in the peyote rows.



For a 17.8cm Rick Rack bangle you can make **8 peaks** with 16 Delicas per edge. Also equivalent to 256 beads). MRAW belly band of 8 x (8+8) units, ie. (8 times 8 units, one increase, 8 units, one decrease).

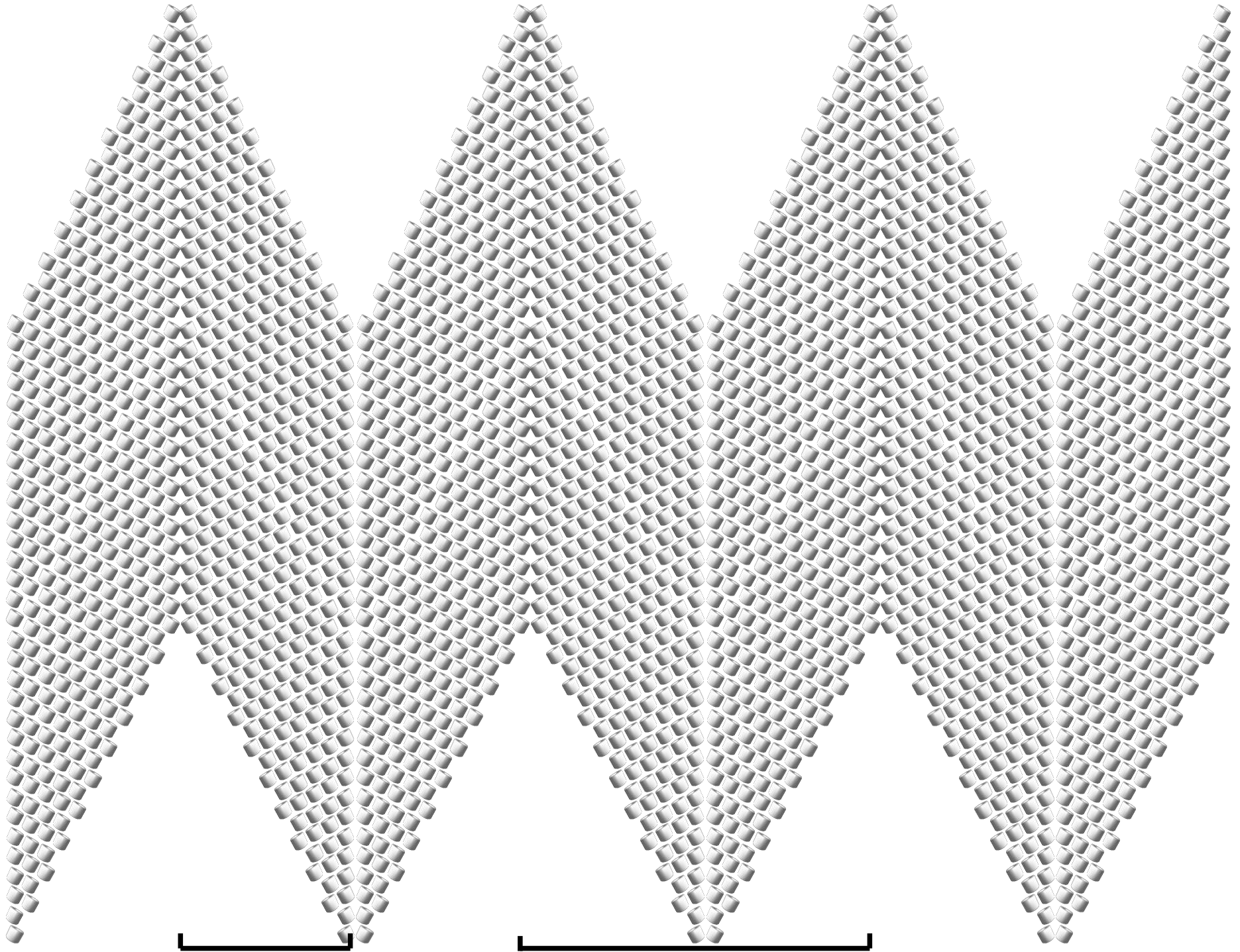
It seems logical to think that both bracelets made with 256 beads would be the same size, but this it is not the case. This comes from the position of the beads: in the peyote part they take less place than the in the Herringbone part.

Consequently, the more Herringbone peaks and valleys, the wider the bangle, even if you have the same number of beads.

Now choose your graph and have fun!



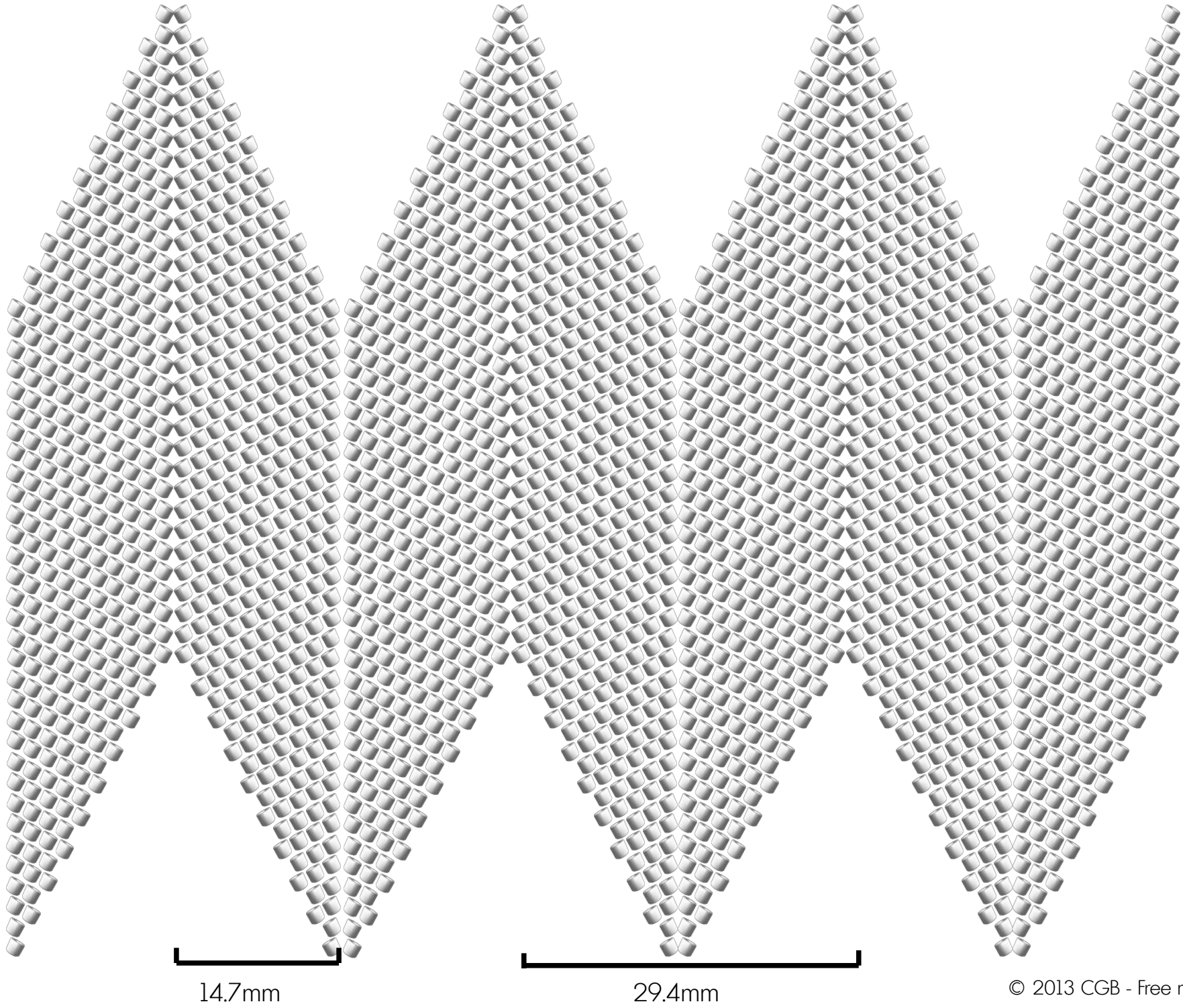
Bangle sizer



17mm

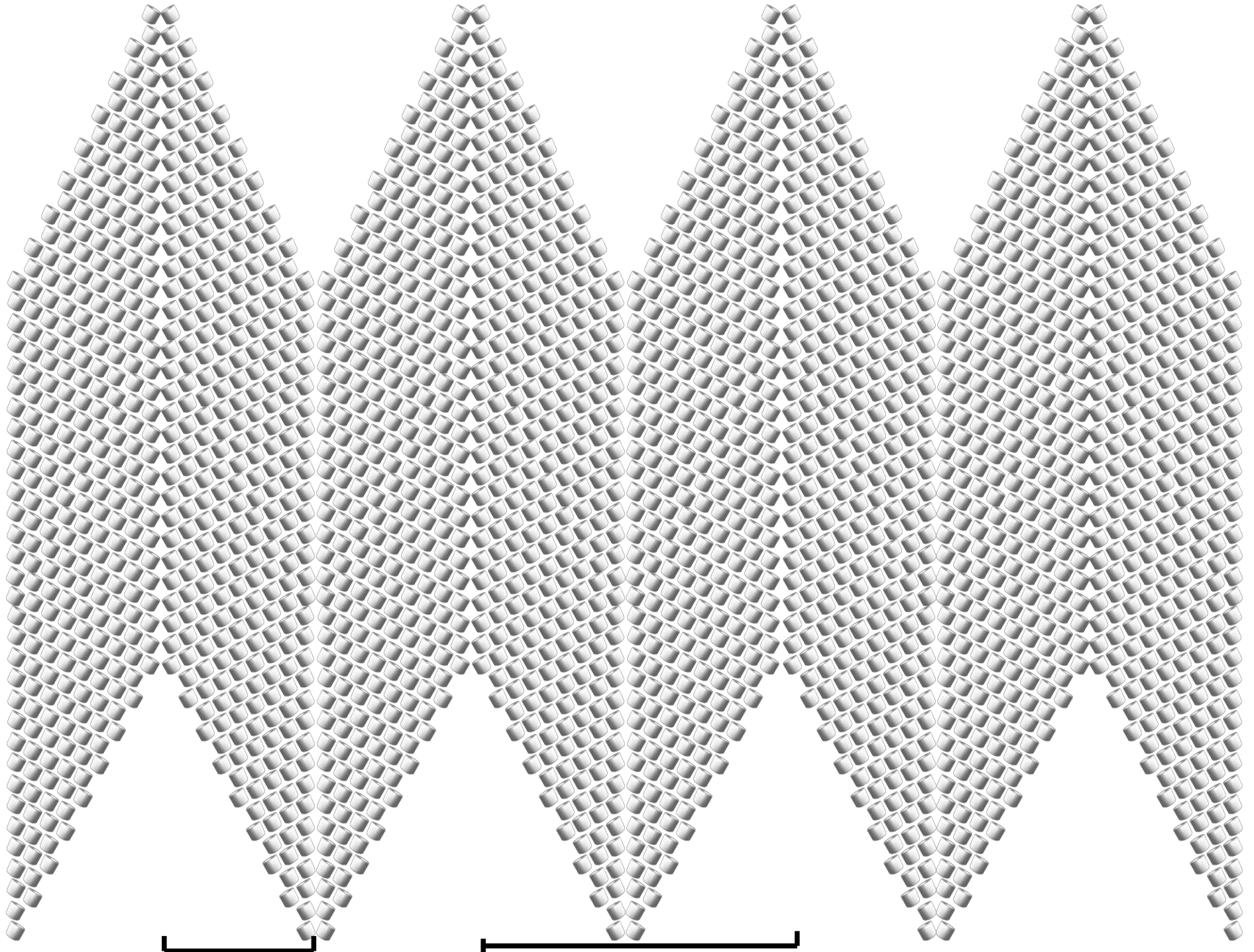
34mm

22 DB (6 peaks 20.4cm)



14.7mm

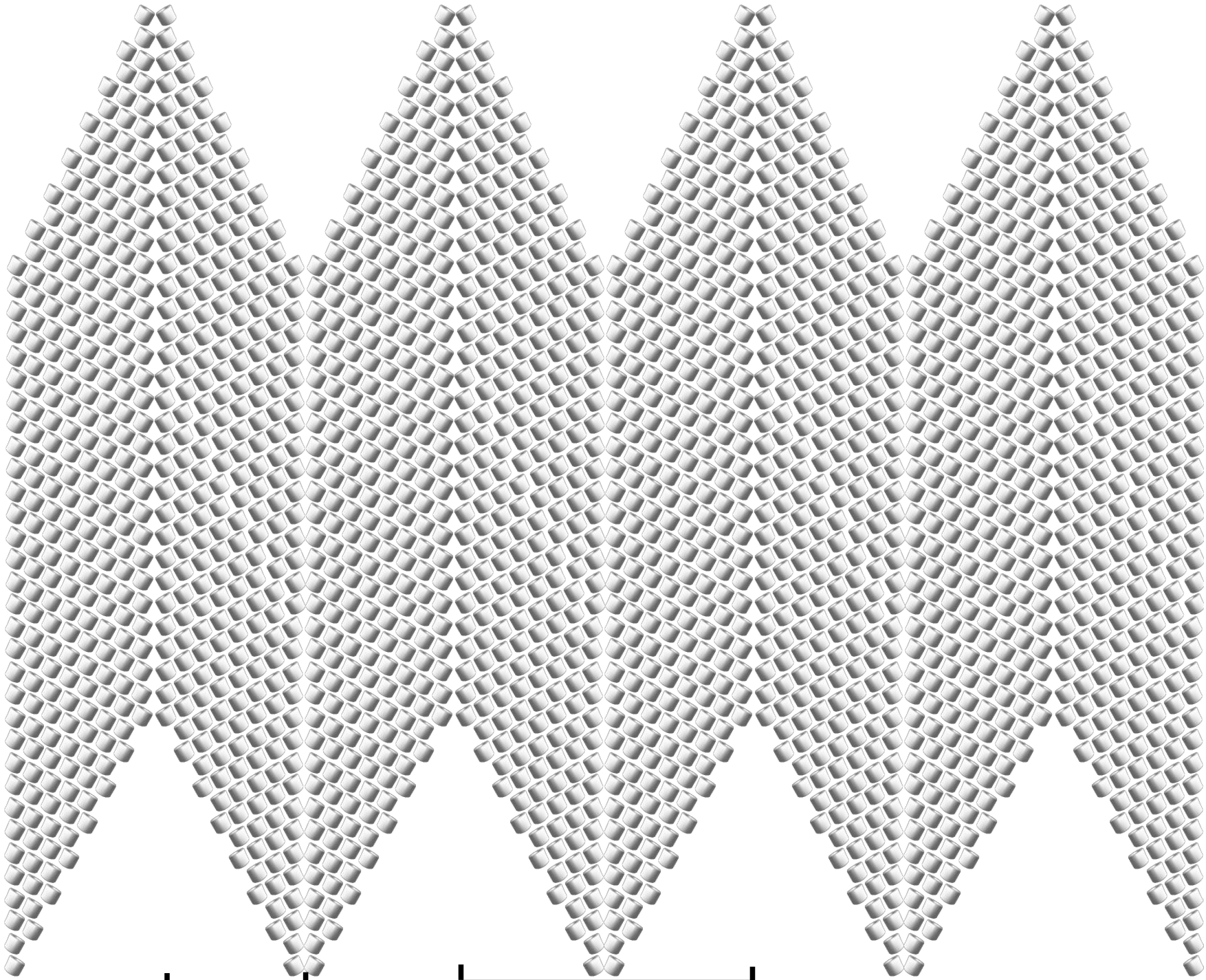
29.4mm



12.5mm

25mm

18 DB 8 peaks = approx. 8" (20.5cm)

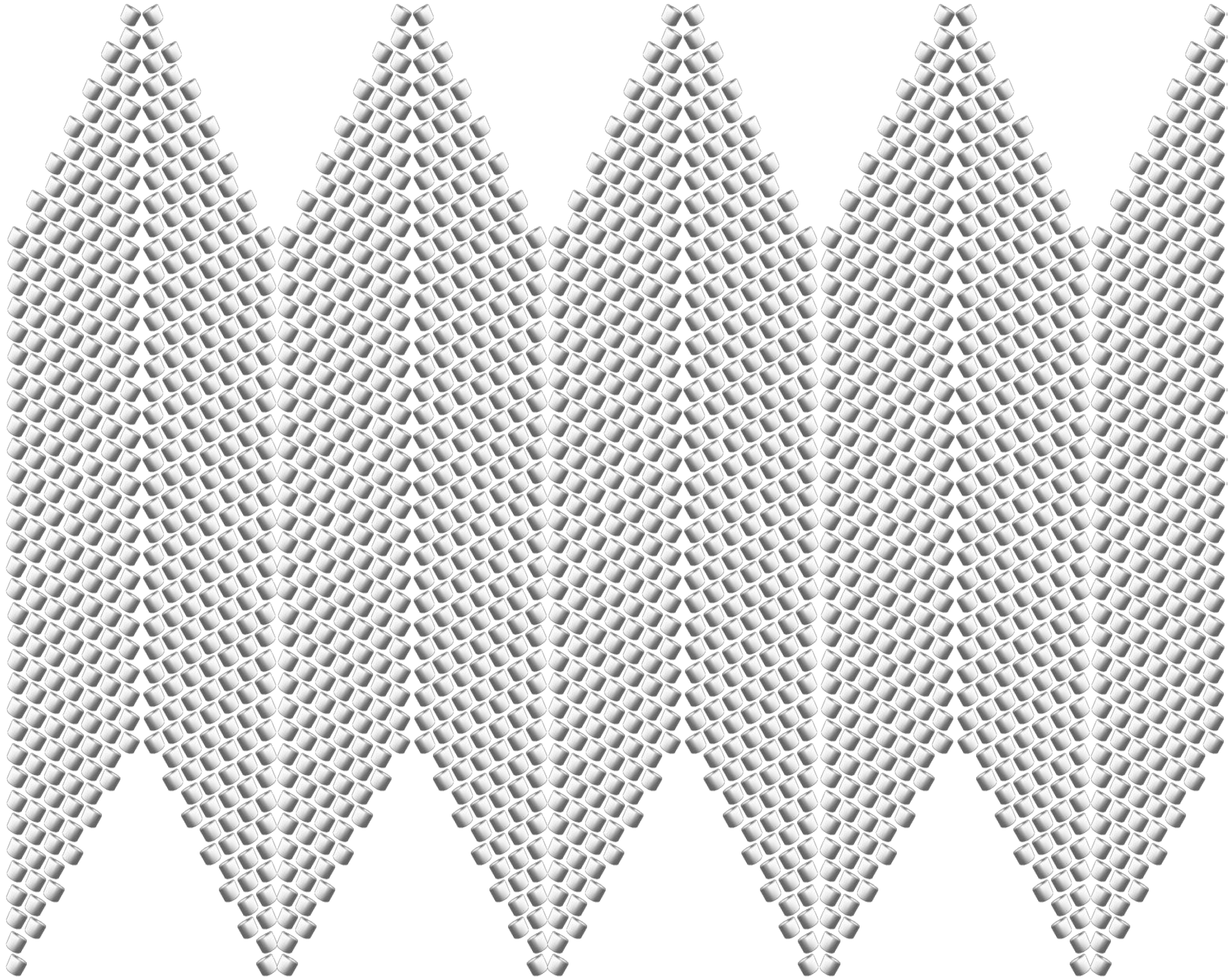


11mm

22mm

16 DB (8 peaks = 17.7cm, 9 peaks = 19.8cm)

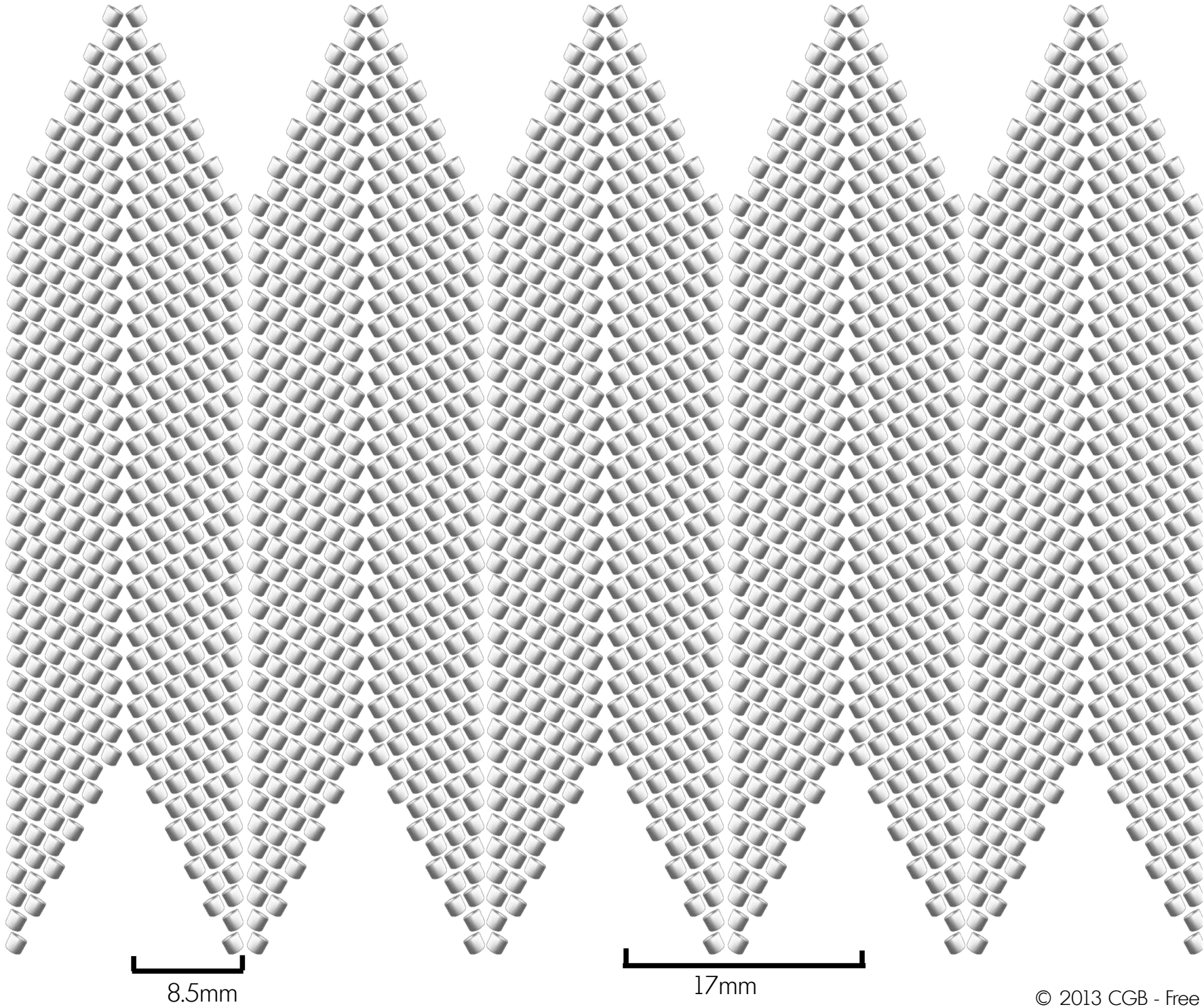




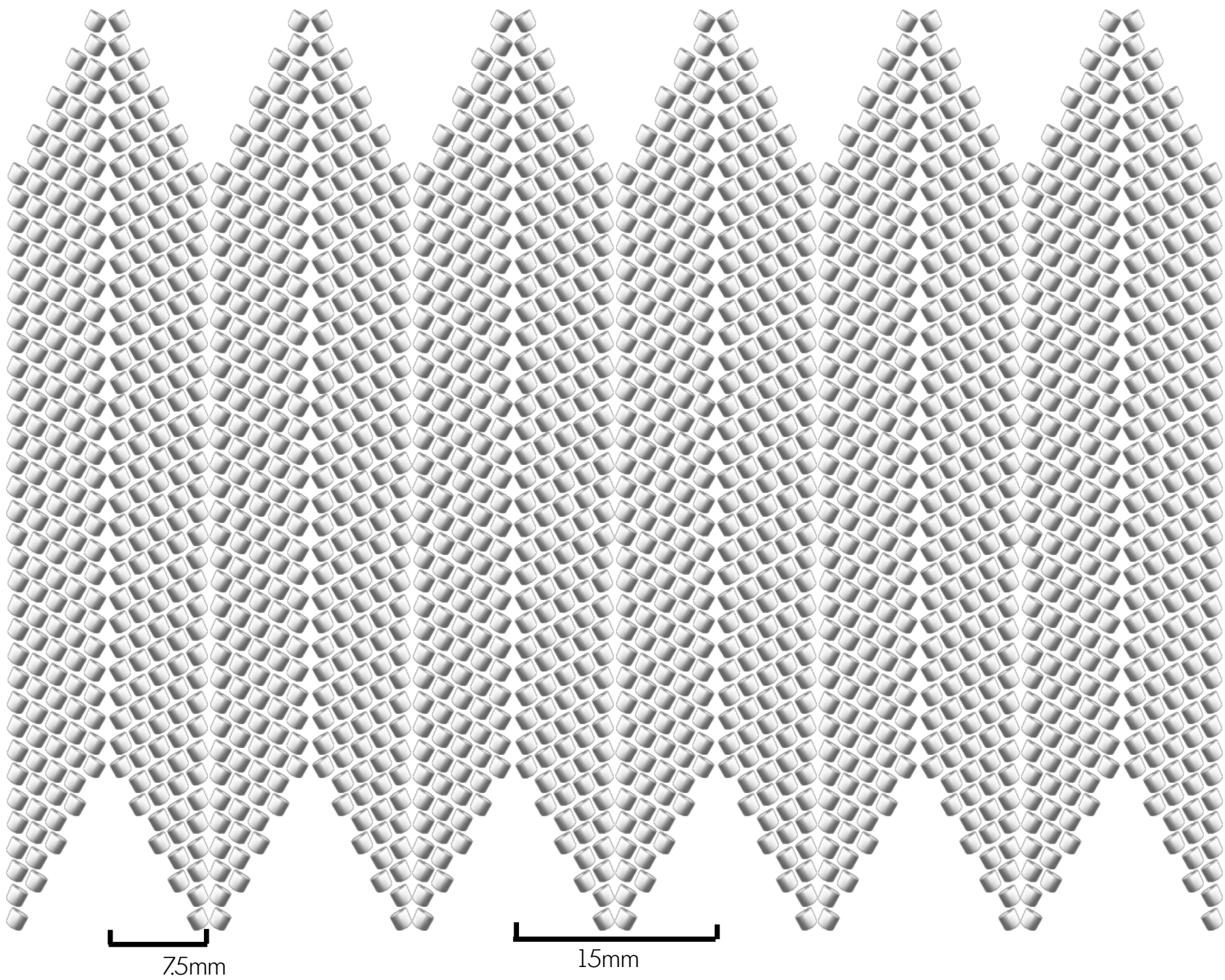
10mm

20mm

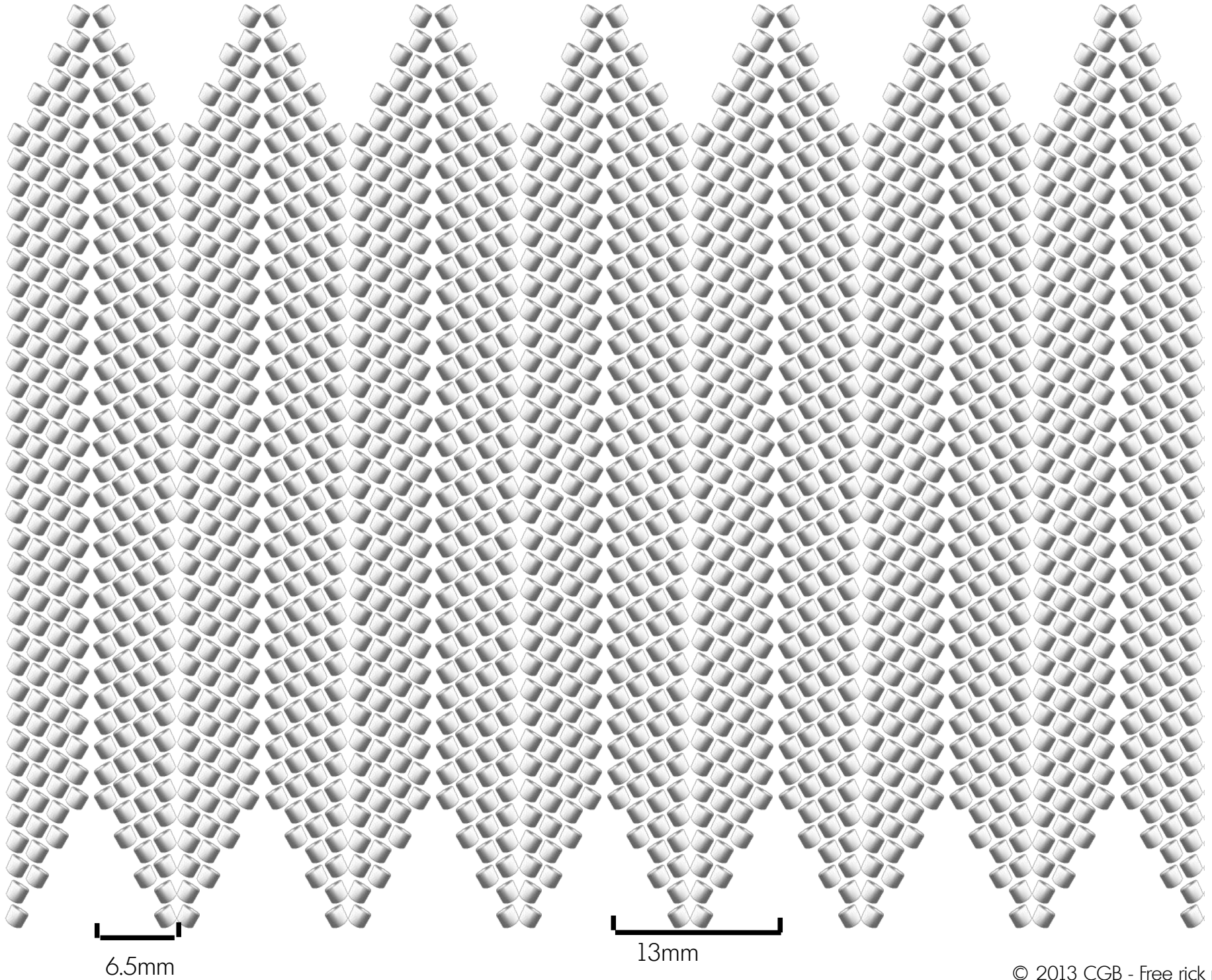
14 DB (9 peaks = 18cm 10 peaks = 20cm)



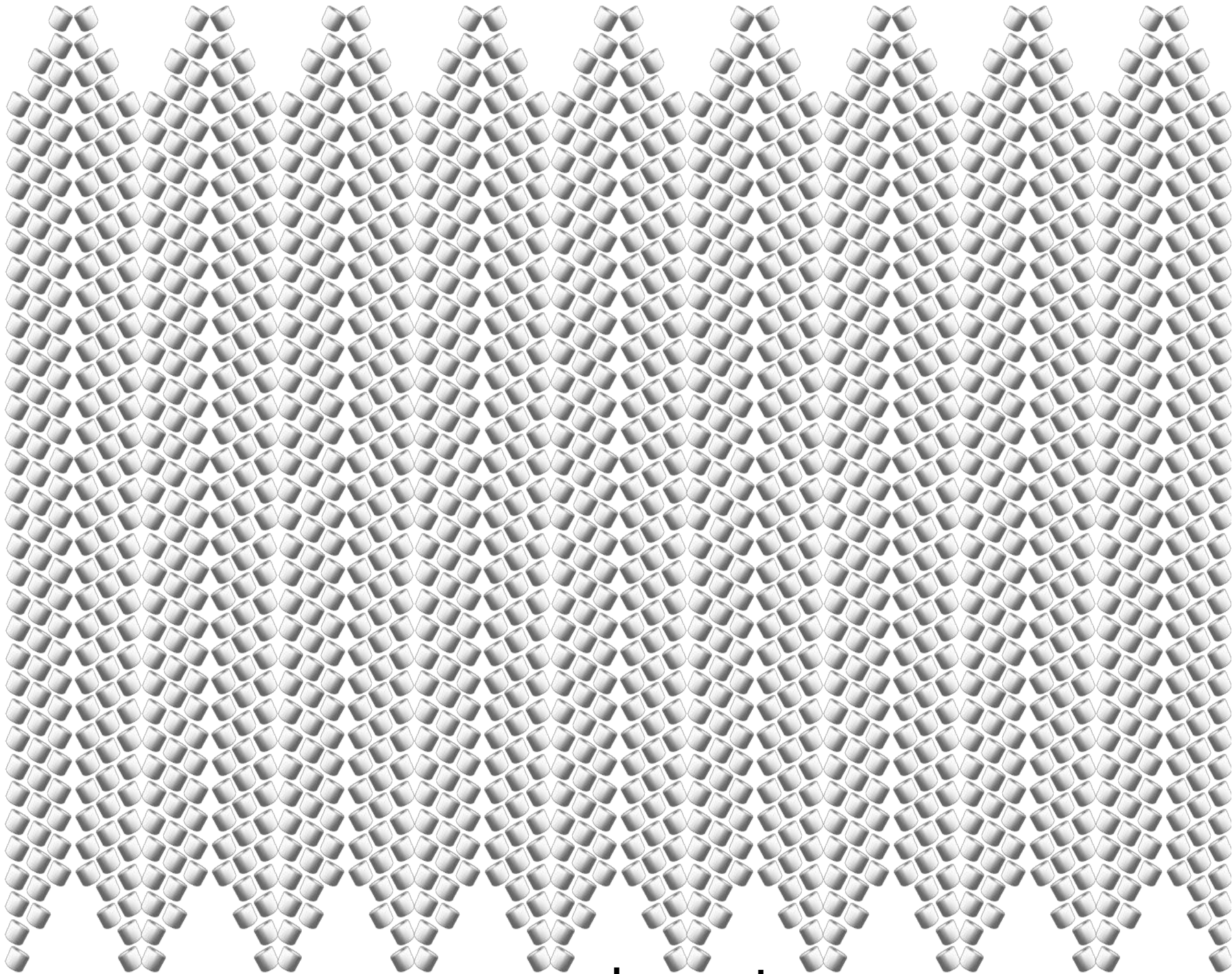
12 DB (11 peaks = 18.7cm, 12 peaks = 20.4)



10 DB (13 peaks = 19.5cm, 14 peaks = 21 cm)



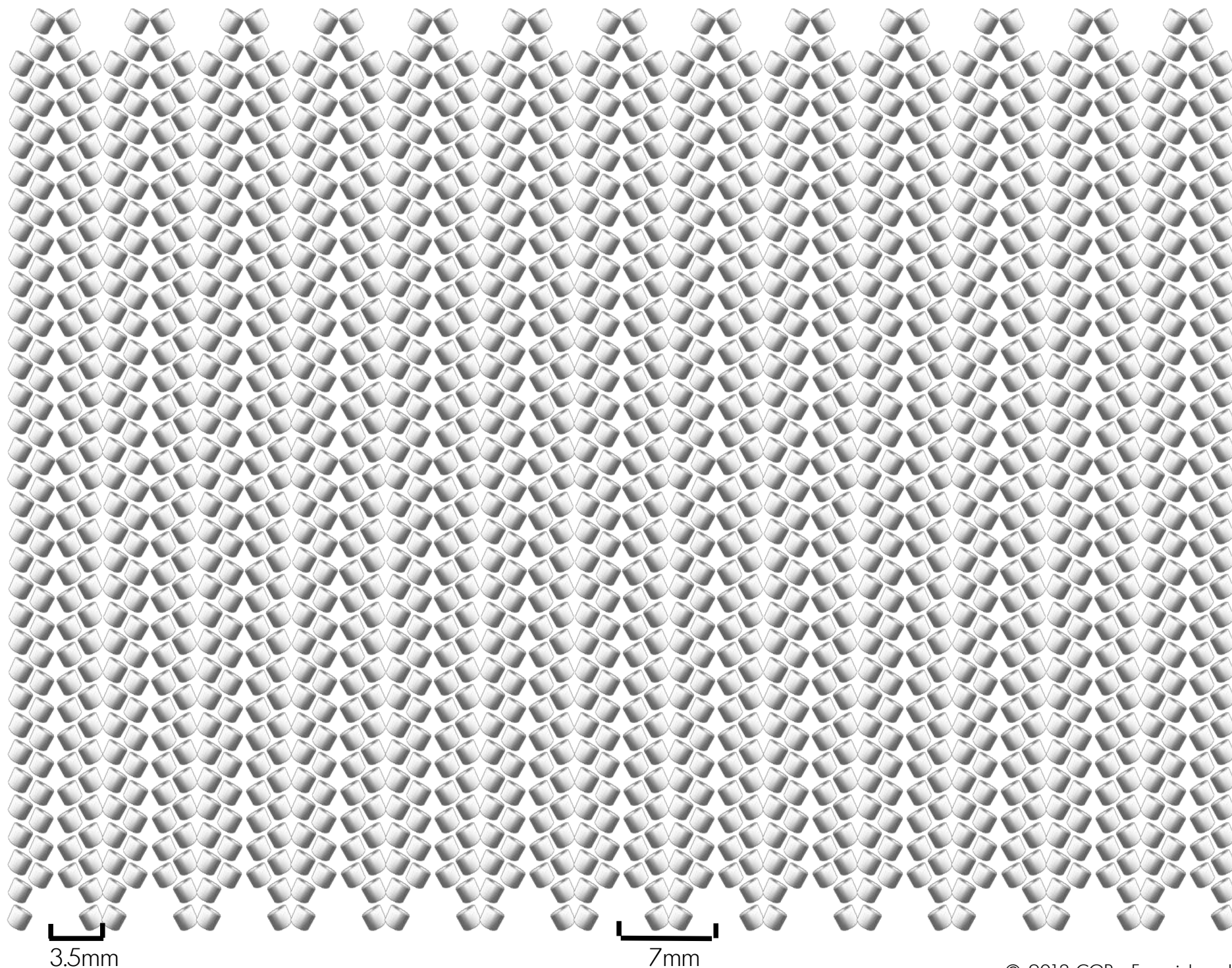
8 DB (16 peaks = 20.8cm)



5mm

10mm

6 DB (19 peaks - 19cm - estimate



4 DB (28 peaks, 19.6 cm, 29 peaks – 20.3cm – estimate.

# Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the persons who contributed to the making of the present graphs, their input has been very useful.

Special thanks to Tiena Habing, Gerlinde Lenz, Cristina Grifone and Debra Schwartz aka Datz Katz.

Without their help this document would not exist.



Red crown double Rick Rack – Kate McKinnon

Happy Beading!

*Cath*