

# THE FOUR ELEMENTS

A blanket inspired by *Avatar: the Last Airbender*

by Kim Ramirez



## Measurements

One size: 72 x 72"

Size of each element square is approx 31 x 31"

## Hook

Size K (6.5mm)

## Gauge

14 stitches and 14 rows = 4 inches  
(obtaining gauge is not critical)

## Notions

Tapestry needle

## Materials

Yarn: Shown in Red Heart Super Saver, but any worsted weight yarn will do.

Element panels: You will need 550 yards of each color for each of the 4 panels.

Border: You will need 750 yards for the MC and 370 yards for the CC. Or you can choose to make the border in one color, in which case you'll need 1120 yards total.

### Fire Panel

Ranch Red  
Black

### Earth Panel

Frosty Green  
Coffee

### Air Panel

Aran  
Grey Heather

### Water Panel

Light Blue  
Windsor Blue

### Border

Buff (MC)  
Cafe (CC)

## Notes

Each element panel (Water, Earth, Fire, Air) is worked separately then joined together at the end. The blanket is then finished with an exterior border. The element panel's designs are created using cluster stitches (rather than a sc which doesn't stand out enough against the background).

For the panels, you will be working with two colors at the same time – the foreground color in cluster st (for the design on the chart), and the background color in sc. Do not break the yarn to change colors! Instead, you will be carrying both colors through the entire time, crocheting one color around the strand of the other. The outside color will be the visible color; the strand of the color running through the crocheted rows will be hidden (it will, however, peek through the spaces, which creates a nice visual texture). You'll need to carry the second color through the entire panel, including large patches of only one color, in order to keep the same thickness throughout and create a nice heavy blanket. To carry the unused color, keep it on the inside of the row, crocheting around it with working color. As you go, you may need to tug the inside strand along, so that it doesn't bunch up in the spaces.

To switch colors when you begin a sc or cluster st, just grab the opposite color and continue with the pattern, carrying the other yarn inside.



### A note on the yarn

I created this blanket when I was a college student on a budget - therefore I used cheap yarn. If I were to make this again I would choose a comfier, squishier yarn! However, if you use a similar yarn to what is shown, the project will may not turn out as soft as a blanket should be. However! It can be easily softened up by soaking thoroughly in water and putting it in the dryer with a dryer sheet. I did this for each square as I finished them. Then when the blanket was done I rinsed the border and put the entire blanket the dryer in order to soften those parts. If you use this method, this will take the place of blocking.

## Abbreviations

BG = background

ch = chain

cl st = cluster stitch (YO, insert hook in stitch, pull through, YO, insert hook in stitch, pull through (5 loops on hook), YO, pull through all loops)

dc = double crochet (YO, insert hook in stitch, pull through, YO, pull through 2 loops on hook, YO, pull through remaining 2 loops on hook)

FG = foreground

hdc = half-double crochet (YO, insert hook in stitch, pull through, YO pull through all loops on hook)

sc(s) = single crochet(s)

sp(s) = space(s)

st(s) = stitch(es)

YO = yarn over

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Mattress stitch tutorial: <https://hearthookhome.com/sew-crochet-pieces-together-using-mattress-stitch/>

# Instructions

## Element panels

Panels can be worked in any order, though you may consider starting with the Earth chart because it is the simplest.

### Panel set up

Ch 95 in BG color, turn, sc the entire way across (this is row 1)

Ch 1, turn

1 sc in BG color; attach FG color with 1 slip stitch; continue with Row 1 of chart.

### Chart

Work the rows according to each chart. At the end of each row, ch 1 and turn.

Make sure you are single crocheting with the BG color in the white boxes, and using the cluster stitch with the FG color on the grey boxes. Pay attention to whether you are working on the front or back side of the project as well, since you'll be turning it back and forth, and you do have to account for that while working the panels. (So, for instance, if you work row 1 by reading the chart from right to left, you'll end the row on the left side. When you turn, work row 2 by from left to right.)

Note: Panels will curl as you start adding the cluster stitches (because these take up more room than a sc). But don't worry about it, and just keep going; it will work itself out as you progress.

### Edging

When you've finished a chart, break only the BG color and weave in ends. Use the FG color to make the edging for each square:

Row 1: hdc around all four sides of the panel. For row 1, instead of going in the v's on the top and bottom of the square, drip down into the first row of spaces in order to make the edging stronger.

**Row 1 corners:** hdc 3 times in the corner st

Row 2: \*dc, ch 1, skip next st; repeat from \* until end

**Row 2 corners:** dc in corner st, ch 3, dc in same st

Row 3: hdc

**Row 3 corners:** dip down to hdc 3 times in the corner space of the first row. This makes the edge a bit stronger, as well as allowing the corners to look cleaner.

Break yarn and weave in end. Block each square as it is completed.

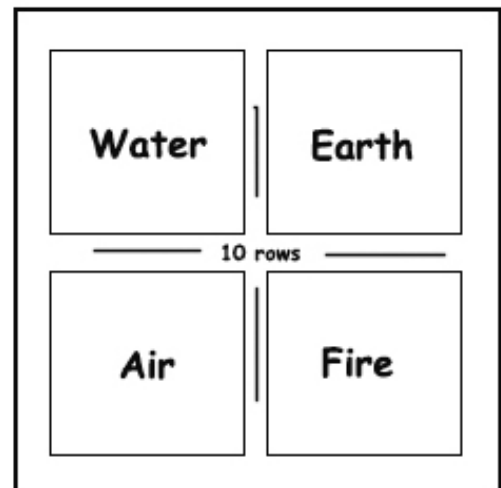
Repeat for remaining panels.

## Joining it all together

Once all four panels are done, it's time to join them all together. You'll first connect them vertically, and then horizontally (Water+Air on the left side, Earth+Fire on the right side).

You'll first create the inside borders and join vertically (Water on top of Air; Earth on top of Fire), and then create an inside border on the remaining interior sides and join horizontally (Water+Air piece to the left of the Earth+Fire piece).

*Important:* Carry a second color through the borders so that the same weight can be maintained throughout the blanket. If you have leftover panel yarn that matches your MC, you can use that (I used my leftover Aran).



### Inside border (Vertical join)

First, join Water to Air, and Earth to Fire with a middle border.

With the Border MC color:

sc 5 rows at the bottoms of each of the Water and Earth squares

Then sc 5 rows at the tops of each of the Air and Fire squares.

With right sides facing up, place the Air and Water panels next to each other, lining up the top of the Air square with the bottom of the Water square. Sew together using Mattress Stitch (or preferred seaming method) with MC.

Repeat for the other two panels, ensuring the top of the Fire panel is lined up to the bottom of the Earth panel.

### Inside border (Horizontal join)

Now you have Water and Air joined, and Earth and Fire joined. It's time to connect these two pieces together, which will be done the same way.

With right sides facing up, use the Border MC color to create a border on the remaining interior sides:

sc 5 rows on the right side of the Water+Air piece

sc 5 rows on the left side of the Earth+Fire piece.

OR, optionally add the CC in this vertical border as shown in the sample:

Rows 1 and 2: sc in MC

Row 3: sc in CC

Rows 4 and 5: sc in MC

Place both pieces right side up, Water+Air piece on the left side and Earth+Fire piece on the right side. Sew together using Mattress Stitch with MC.

### Exterior border

**Corners:** To turn the corners, repeat the st 3 times in each corner (sc, dc, or hdc depending on the row)

With right side facing, join MC in any corner

Row 1: sc in MC

Row 2: dc in MC

Row 3: sc in MC

Row 4: dc in CC

Row 5: sc in MC

Row 6: dc in MC

Row 7: sc in MC

### Edging

Complete final edging in CC, same as each element panel:

Row 8: Join CC in any corner, and hdc (dip down into the first row of spaces for these sts in order to make the edging stronger)

Row 9: \*dc, ch 1, skip next st; repeat from \* until end. *For corners on this row:* dc in corner st, ch 3, dc in same st

Row 10: hdc

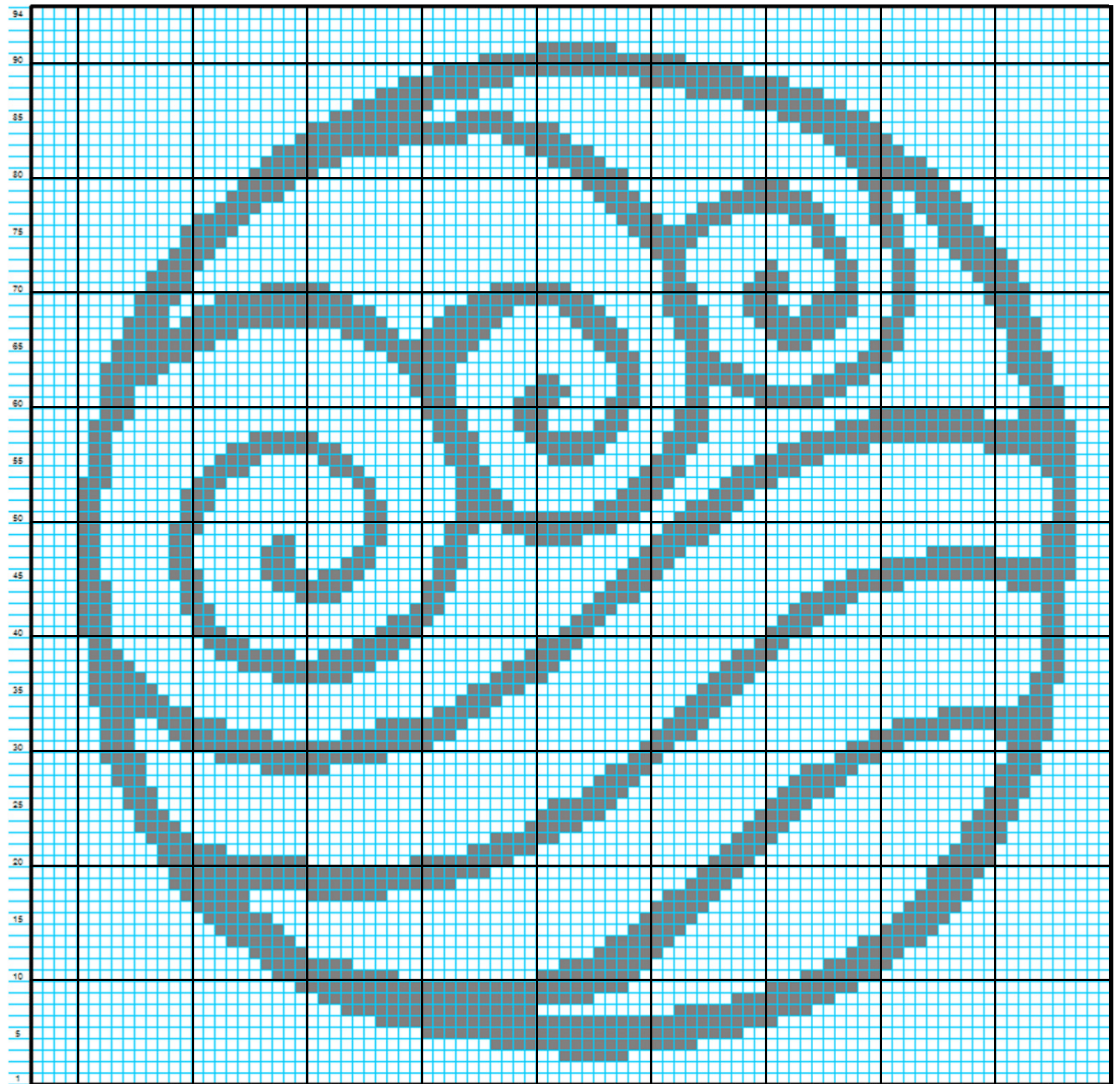
Break yarn and weave in ends.



# Water Chart

□ 1 sc in BG (Light Blue)

■ 1 cluster st in FG (Windsor Blue)

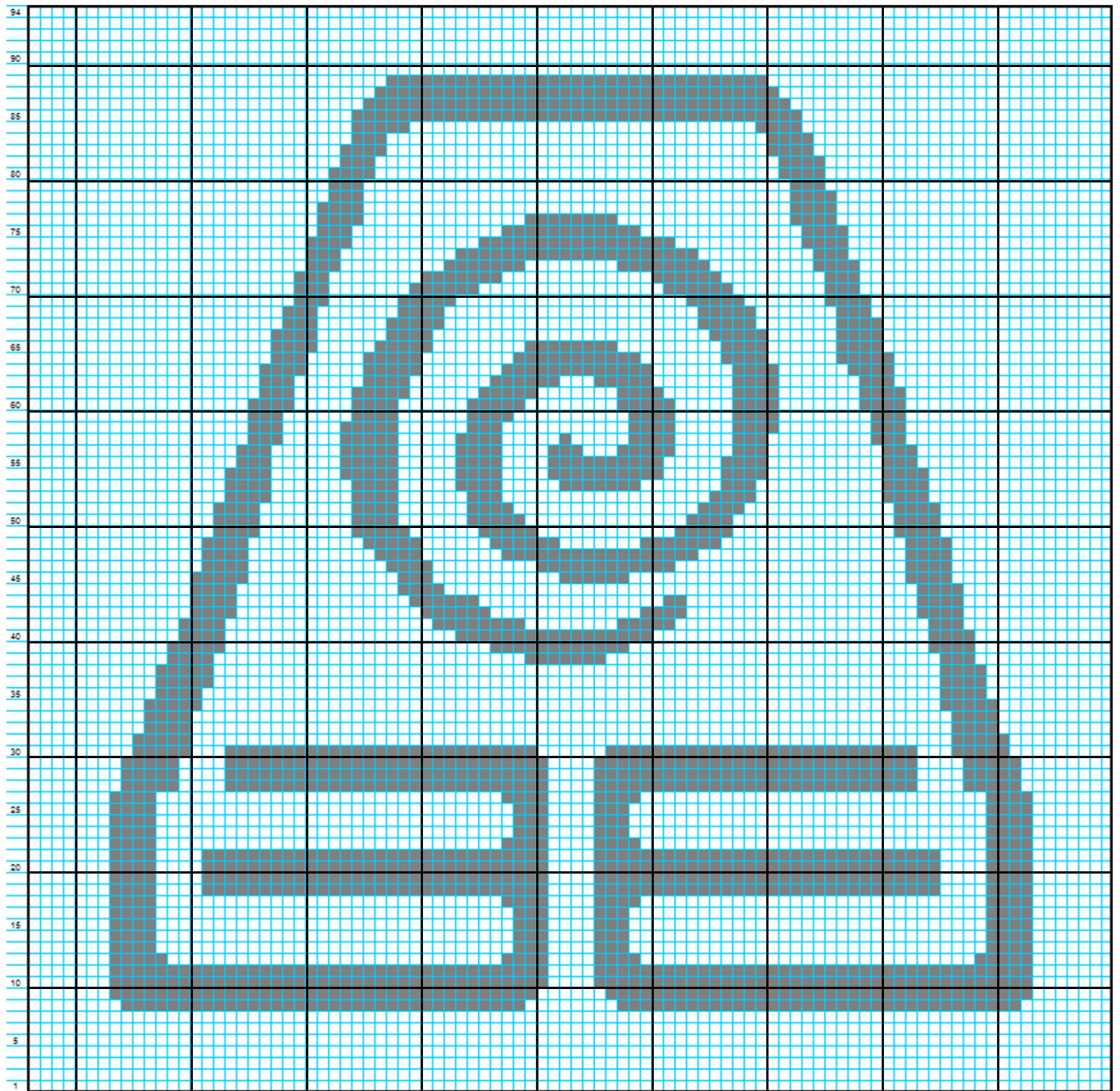




# Earth Chart

□ 1 sc in BG (Frosty Green)

■ 1 cluster st in FG (Coffee)

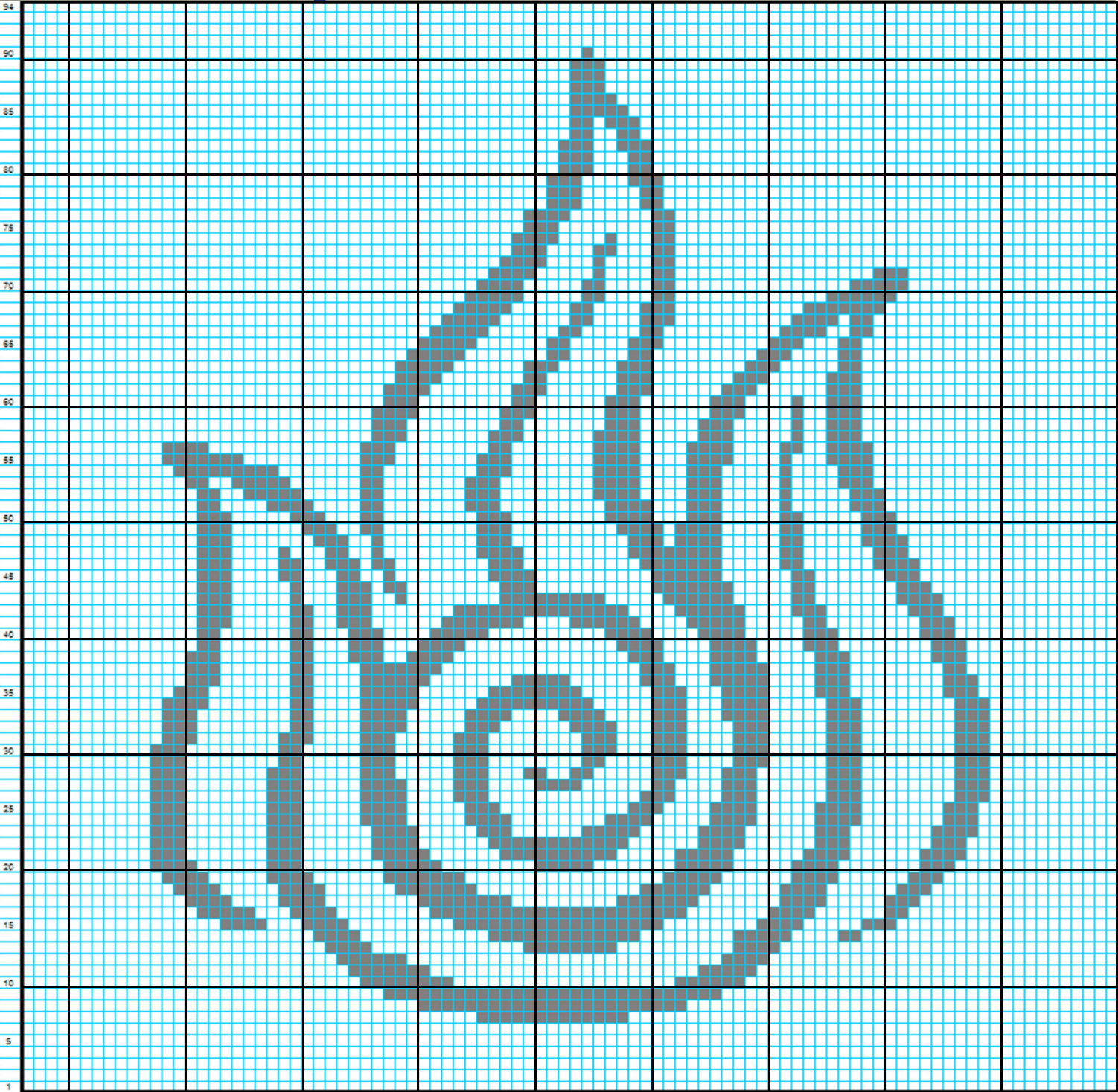




# Fire Chart

□ 1 sc in BG (Ranch Red)

■ 1 cluster st in FG (Black)





# Air Chart

□ 1 sc in BG (Aran)

■ 1 cluster st in FG (Grey Heather)

