

Christmas Stockings

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I was inspired to make these Christmas stockings from a desire to have a unique gift for every member of my family. As a sock knitter, I really enjoyed making these stockings. First, they are knit on large needles so they work up really fast. Second, it's a great way to use up all those left over mini balls of yarn that build up in a knitter's stash each year. And finally, because you are making each one to be unique, you don't have to stress yourself by trying to match the second sock. The bells add a sense of fancy and Christmas joy. But you must be careful on Christmas Eve; their gentle jingling will give you away!

Materials

Size: measurement from cuff to heel – 14 inches; from heel to toe 10 ½ inches.

Yarn: assortment of #3 DK light worsted yarns in Christmas colours like red, green, white. The addition of other colours like orange, pink, blues and textured yarns with sparkles, add to the uniqueness. The yarn will be doubled throughout to make a chunky yarn. Patons Classic Wool, in a series of colours, held double, will do the trick. You will need a total of 200 grams of yarn.

Notions: 10 –½ inch brass bells

Needles: 4 double pointed, size 6mm or size needed to obtain correct gauge

Tapestry needle

Gauge: In St st, 12sts and 18rows = 4"/10cm on size 6mm needles

To save time, take time to check your gauge.

Abbreviations

Sl1 – on a knit row, slip one stitch knit wise; on a purl row, slip stitch purl wise

K2tog – knit two stitches together

Ssk – slip one stitch knit wise, slip another stitch knit wise, put these back onto the left needle and knit both through the back of the loops

Seed Stitch pattern (over an even number of stitches):

Row 1: *K1, p1* to end of round

Row 2 : *P1, k1* to end of round

Instructions:

SECTION OF SOCK	INSTRUCTIONS	COLOURS/YARNS
<p>STARTING OUT: THE CUFF</p>	<p>Using double pointed needles and white yarn held double to create a bulky yarn, cast on 36 stitches and divide them amongst three needles:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Needle 1: 12 stitches Needle 2: 12 stitches Needle 3: 12 stitches</p> <p>Join in the round, being careful not to twist the stitches. Knit in Seed Stitch for 2 inches/5cm.</p>	<p>White DK yarn, held double to create a chunky weight.</p> <p>Using a yarn with a bit of texture or fuzziness will add to the idea that this is a fur cuff that is found on classic Christmas Stockings.</p>
<p>KNITTING THE LEG</p>	<p>Switch to stockinette stitch. Knit leg for a total of 10 inches/25cm from cuff.</p> <div data-bbox="543 805 936 1333" data-label="Image"> <p>The image shows two knitted Christmas stockings laid flat on a white surface. The stockings feature a white cuff at the top and a toe patch. The main body of the stockings is decorated with horizontal stripes of various colors, including red, green, orange, and blue. Small gold bells are attached to the toe and cuff of each stocking.</p> </div>	<p>Change colours – this is where your creativity comes in. If you are knitting a stocking for a special person, you can incorporate colours that you know that person likes. Create stripes by changing colours every 1 – 2 inches and separating those colour changes by a band of white or something darker. See photo on left.</p>

<p>SETTING UP AND KNITTING THE HEEL FLAP</p>	<p>On the next row knit 18, getting the additional 6 stitches from needle 2. Divide remaining 18 stitches between two needles.</p> <p>Needle 1: 18 stitches Needle 2: 9 stitches Needle 3: 9 stitches</p> <p>Working only with Needle one – 18 stitches and knitting flat on that one needle, you will create the heel flap using the following two rows:</p> <p>Row 1: (WS) *sl1, p1* to end of row, ending with a purl stitch. Row 2: (RS) sl1, knit to end of row.</p> <p>Repeat these two rows for 3 ½ inches ending with Row 1.</p>	<p>The colours you use for the heel flap can also be used for the heel. See photo above.</p>
<p>TURNING THE HEEL</p>	<p>Using needle 1 and still knitting flat, turn the heel using the following rows:</p> <p>Row 1: K9, k2tog, k1, turn. (17 sts total) Row 2: Sl1, p1, p2tog, p1, turn. (16 sts total) Row 3: Sl1, k2, k2tog, k1, turn. (15 sts total) Row 4: Sl1, p3, p2tog, p1, turn. (14 sts total) Row 5: Sl1, k4, k2tog, k1, turn. (13 sts total) Row 6: Sl1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn. (12 sts total) Row 7: Sl1, k6, k2tog, k1, turn. (11 sts total) Row 8: Sl1, p7, p2tog, p1, turn. (10 sts total) Row 9: K10</p>	
<p>MAKING THE INSTEP</p>	<p>Using needle 1 with the 10 heel stitches, pick up and knit 10 stitches along left side of heel flap, twisting the stitches by knitting through the back of the loop to tighten them up.</p> <p>With needle 2 knit across the 18 instep stitches.</p>	<p>Change colours.</p>

Using **needle 3**, pick up 10 stitches along right side of heel flap, twisting the stitches by knitting through the back of the loop to tighten them up. Knit 5 stitches from the 10 heel stitches found at the end of the first needle.

Total of 48 stitches:

Needle 1: 15 stitches

Needle 2: 18 stitches

Needle 3: 15 stitches

Knit one full round.



You now have a lot of stitches on your needles and have to decrease along each side to create the bend for the foot. See photo above.

The following creates the decrease pattern for the instep:

Needle 1: knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog (decreasing one stitch)

Needle 2: knit across all 18 stitches

Needle 3: Ssk, knit to end (decreasing one stitch)

Repeat this round 6 times until there are 9 stitches each on needles 1 and 3.

Needle 1: 9 stitches

	<p>Needle 2: 18 stitches Needle 3: 9 stitches</p>	
KNITTING THE FOOT	Knit in the round for 4 ½ inches/11.5cm.	Change colours as the fancy strikes you.
SHAPING THE TOE	<p>To shape the toe, you will do a decrease round similar to the instep decreases, but involving needle 2 this time.</p> <p>The following creates the decrease pattern for the toe:</p> <p>Needle 1: knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog (decreasing one stitch) Needle 2: Ssk, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog (decreasing two stitches) Needle 3: Ssk, knit to end (decreasing one stitch)</p> <p>Repeat this round 7 times until there are 8 stitches in total.</p> <p>Needle 1: 2 stitches Needle 2: 4 stitches Needle 3: 2stitches</p> <p>Cut yarn leaving an 8 inch tail. Draw remaining toe stitches up with this tail and pull tight. You will have a pointy toe, just the effect you want for a Christmas Stocking.</p>	Change colours.
FINISHING TOUCHES	<p>Sew bells along cuff edge in 4 groups of 2 bells. Using tail left from drawing in toe stitches, sew 2 bells to toe. Weave in ends and gently steam block, if necessary.</p>	

