

Tributary socks



I created these toe-up socks when I wanted something fast and fun (and cozy), after a complicated sweater that took me four months to knit. Since I was going to be knitting them during travel and a holiday I knew I'd have time to concentrate so I wanted something a little more interesting than plain socks, but still fast and easy. I wanted a simple pattern to add more interest. When I saw a friend's newly finished Nutkin, I knew I had a beginning. The pattern is called Tributary both because the mock cable does remind me a bit of ripples in a river and to convey the idea of tribute to all of its sources of inspiration.

Because they were begun when we were having snow every day for a week, I wanted something warm, so I chose some Trekking 6-fach that's a bit heavier than most sock yarn, but still light enough to fit inside your shoes comfortably. I love this colorway that looks like a dull purple on first glance but then reveals flashes of hidden colors as you look more closely. I cast on with Judy's Magic Cast on, scaled the stitch pattern from Nutkin down to a repeat of 14 stitches since with this yarn the socks only had to be 56 stitches around, invented a gusset that puts padding and reinforcement beneath your heel, used a heel similar to that of Widdershins from Knitty, and finished with a picot hem.

This pattern is written for two circular needles, but is easy to convert to DPNs or Magic Loop.

For 56-stitch sock to fit a women's medium size:

Materials:

1 skein Zitron Trekking 6 fach 6 ply

Either 2 US #3 /3.25mm circular needles (I like to use two different lengths so I can tell which is N1 and which N2). If you prefer you can use DPNs or Magic Loop; in pattern below, N1 refers to arch stitches and N2 to sole stitches.

Gauge:

27 sts/ 4" (10 cm) in stockinette

Toe:

With Judy's Magic Cast-on, CO 8 sts on each needle. K 1 round.

Rnd 1: [K1, M1L, K to 1 st before end of ndl, M1R, K1]. Repeat on N2.

Rnd 2: K

Repeat these two rounds until there are 28 sts on each needle.

Foot:

Begin Mock Cable pattern on N1, knit plain stockinette on N2 for sole of foot. Work this pattern until sock measures 3" (7.5 cm) less than length of foot.

Note: You can choose to use the Right Sock pattern for both socks, or mirror them by using the Right Sock pattern on one and the Left Sock pattern on the other.

Gusset:

Begin gusset on N2, maintaining Mock Cable pattern on N1. All slipped sts are slipped purlwise unless otherwise directed.

On N2, K14, PM, M1L, PM, k to end of needle.

Next round, k to marker, SM, M1L, K1, M1R, SM, K to end of needle.

Now begin heel stitch:

Rnd 1: K to marker, SM, K1, Sl 1, K1, SM, K to end of needle.

Rnd 2: K to marker, SM, M1L, K to next marker, M1R, SM, K to end of needle.

Rnd 3: K to marker, SM, K2, Sl 1, K2, SM, K to end of needle.

Rnd 4: K to marker, SM, M1L, K to next marker, M1R, SM, K to end of needle.

Rnd 5: K to marker, SM, K1, Sl 1, K1, Sl 1, K1, Sl 1, K1, SM, K to end of needle.

Rnd 6: K to marker, SM, M1L, K to next marker, M1R, SM, K to end of needle.

Continue in this manner; increase one st after the first marker and one st before the second marker on even rows, while on odd rows you continue the K1, Sl1 heel stitch pattern between the markers. Take care to line up the slipped stitches, and do not slip a stitch on the very first row after adding it. Continue until you have 47 sts on N2, for a total of 75 sts.

Heel

Heel stitches are knitted only on N2. On the RS rows, maintain the K1, Sl1 heel stitch pattern as best you can between the wrapped stitches.

(RS) K31, M1, K1, W&T
Row 2: P17, M1P, P1, W&T
Row 3: K15, M1, K1, W&T
Row 4: P13, M1P, P1, W&T
Row 5: K11, M1, K1, W&T
Row 6: P9, M1P, P1, W&T
Row 7: K7, M1, K1, W&T
Row 8: P5, M1P, P1, W&T

Work one round over both needles, maintaining patterns as set and finishing at center of heel ndl. As you come to each wrapped stitch, knit wrap together with the stitch it wraps.

Heel flap:

Heel flap: Work back and forth on heel stitches on Needle 2:
All slipped sts are slipped purlwise unless otherwise directed.

Continue knitting until 15 sts remain on heel ndl, ssk. Turn, do not wrap.
Next row (WS): Sl 1, P until 15 sts remain on needle, P2tog, turn.

Row 1 (RS): Sl 1, knit (maintaining heel stitch pattern, keeping the knits and slips lined up) until 1 st before gap, SSK. Turn.
Row 2: Sl 1, P until 1 st before gap, P2tog. Turn.
Repeat these rows until 29 sts rem on N2. K14, K2tog, K14.

Leg:

Knit Mock Cable pattern on N1 and N2 until leg is 0.5" (1.25 cm) less than desired height. K st st for 0.5".

Next round: YO, k2tog around.

K sts for 0.5" more. BO using Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Cast-Off (process all sts as knit stitches). Cut yarn, leaving a 20" (50 cm) tail. Fold top 0.5" inward along line of YOs. Neatly stitch hem, using tail of yarn. Weave in ends.

Mock Cable pattern:

Right sock, chart:

14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
•	↘				○								•	8
•		↘				○							•	7
•			↘				○						•	6
•				↘				○					•	5
•					↘				○				•	4
•						↘				○			•	3
•							↘				○		•	2
•								↘				○	•	1

Right sock, text:

- Rnd 1: *P1, YO, K3, SSK, K7, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 2: *P1, K1, YO, K3, SSK, K6, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 3: *P1, K2, YO, K3, SSK, K5, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 4: *P1, K3, YO, K3, SSK, K4, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 5: *P1, K4, YO, K3, SSK, K3, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 6: *P1, K5, YO, K3, SSK, K2, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 7: *P1, K6, YO, K3, SSK, K1, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 8: *P1, K7, YO, K3, SSK, P1, rep from *

Left sock, chart:

14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
•								○				↗	•	8
•							○					↗	•	7
•						○						↗	•	6
•					○							↗	•	5
•				○								↗	•	4
•			○									↗	•	3
•		○										↗	•	2
•	○											↗	•	1

Left sock, text:

- Rnd 1: *P1, K7, K2tog, K3, YO, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 2: *P1, K6, K2tog, K3, YO, K1, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 3: *P1, K5, K2tog, K3, YO, K2, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 4: *P1, K4, K2tog, K3, YO, K3, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 5: *P1, K3, K2tog, K3, YO, K4, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 6: *P1, K2, K2tog, K3, YO, K5, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 7: *P1, K1, K2tog, K3, YO, K6, P1, rep from *
- Rnd 8: *P1, K2tog, K3, YO, K1, P7, rep from *

Abbreviations:

K: knit

P: purl

PM: Place marker

SM: Slip marker

M1L: Using your left needle, pick up the top strand that goes between the needles from front to back. Knit the loop you picked up through the back.

M1R: Using your left needle, pick up the top strand that goes between the needles from back to front. Knit the loop you picked up through the front.

M1P: Using your left needle, pick up the top strand that goes between the needles from back to front. Purl the lifted stitch normally (through the front loop)

M1: Make 1 (either M1L or M1R). Just be consistent.

K2tog: Knit two together

P2tog: Purl two together

SSK: slip slip knit decrease

YO: yarn over

W&T: wrap and turn

st: stitch

rem: remaining

N1, N2: needle 1, needle 2

Links

Judy's Magic Cast-On:

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUESpring06/FEATmagiccaston.html>

Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off:

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEfall09/FEATjssbo.php>

