



Once the holidays roll around, I find I need some simple, selfish socks to work on as a nice change of pace from the frenzy of gift knitting. Admittedly, the only thing “holiday” about these socks is the colorway, but they definitely fit the bill for a relaxing, non-fussy project. The stitch pattern is forgiving and easy to memorize so they are especially well-suited for beginners. Keeping beginners in mind, the pattern includes a photo tutorial for picking up gusset stitches at the end. So find yourself a festive colorway and start a pair for yourself!

Skills Needed:

- * Knit and purl in the round
- * Decrease with k2tog and ssk
- * Stretchy cast on
- * Heel flap and gusset
- * Kitchener stitch
- * Knit with DPNs (or magic loop)



Gauge	Suggested Yarn Weight	Suggested Needles	Pattern Size / Stitch Count	Finished Sock Circumference
6 sts & 12 rnds per inch / 24 sts & 48 rnds per 10 cm	DK	3.25 mm	1 - 54 2 - 60 3 - 66 4 - 72	9.0" / 22.9 cm 10.0" / 25.4 cm 11.0" / 27.9 cm 12.0" / 30.5 cm
7.5 sts & 11 rnds per inch / 30 sts & 44 rnds per 10 cm	Sport	2.50 mm	1 - 54 2 - 60 3 - 66 4 - 72	7.2" / 18.3 cm 8.0" / 20.3 cm 8.8" / 22.4 cm 9.6" / 24.4 cm
8 sts & 12 rnds per inch / 32 sts & 48 rnds per 10 cm	Fingering	2.25 mm	1 - 54 2 - 60 3 - 66 4 - 72	6.8" / 17.1 cm 7.5" / 19.1 cm 8.3" / 21.0 cm 9.0" / 22.9 cm
9 sts & 12 rnds per inch / 36 sts & 48 rnds per 10 cm	Fingering / Light Fingering	2.00 mm	1 - 54 2 - 60 3 - 66 4 - 72	6.0" / 15.3 cm 6.7" / 16.9 cm 7.3" / 18.6 cm 8.0" / 20.3 cm



Sizing, Needles, and Gauge:

- * This pattern can be knit at a variety of gauges to fit many different sizes. Use the Sizing Chart on page 1 to find the stitch count for your combination of yarn weight, needle size, gauge, and finished sock circumference.
- * Measure the circumference around the ball of your foot and knit a gauge swatch in stockinette in the round. For my swatches, I cast on around 20 stitches and knit for a couple of inches before measuring the number of stitches and rounds in one inch of width and length.
- * Knitting this pattern at a gauge with a larger number of stitches per inch will result in a smaller finished sock and knitting at a gauge with a smaller number of stitches per inch will result in a larger finished sock.
- * For snug, well-fitting socks, you want about 0.5 - 1 inch of negative ease in the finished sock. So if your foot measures 8.5 inches around the ball of the foot, you will want to use a gauge and stitch count that results in a finished sock circumference of about 7.5 - 8 inches.

Notions:

- * 3 stitch markers.
- * Tapestry needle.

Yarn:

- * ~320-360 yards of fingering, sport, or DK weight yarn.
- * Shown in Socks that Rock Lightweight (fingering) by Blue Moon Fiber Arts (100% superwash Merino wool). Colorway: X-Mas Rocks.
- * Shown in Size 2 at 8 sts/inch to fit a woman's 8.5" foot. Larger sizes might require additional yarn.

ABBREVIATION KEY:

k = knit
 p = purl
 st(s) = stitch(es)
 rnd = round
 sm = slip marker
 IM = instep marker
 k2tog = knit 2 together
 ssk = slip 1 st knitwise, slip another, knit together through the back loop
 tbl = through the back loop
 ~ = approximately
 dec. = decrease/decreased
 DPNs = double-pointed needles

NOTES:

- * Repeat actions between asterisks (*) until otherwise indicated, or until the end of the rnd.
- * Instructions are given for the different pattern sizes as follows: size 1 (size 2, size 3, size 4).

Pattern:

CAST ON 54 (60, 66, 72) stitches using a stretchy cast on and join to knit in the round. I prefer the Twisted German Cast On, a variation of the Long Tail Cast On, for every knitted edge that I want to be extra stretchy. Please see TheKnitWitch's excellent tutorial on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfFadEumBak>).

CUFF:

Rnd 1: *k3, p3*

Repeat 18 times until cuff measures ~1.5" (~4 cm) or desired length.

LEG (see chart on page 4):

Rnds 1-4: knit
 Rnd 5: *p3, k3*
 Rnds 6-9: knit
 Rnd 10: *k3, p3*

Repeat the 10 rounds of the LEG pattern 5 times total until entire sock measures ~6" (~15 cm), or until ~0.3" (~1 cm) less than desired length. Then work Rnds 1-5 once more.

HEEL FLAP:

SIZES 1 & 3:

Turn work and purl 27 (33) sts on the WS for the heel flap. Proceed to heel flap instructions for all sizes.

SIZES 2 & 4:

To center the purl ridges evenly on the top of the foot, slip the first st of the next round and transfer it the last needle, which holds the sts that you just worked. Turn work so WS is facing and purl 29 (35) sts, including the first st that you just transferred. Proceed to heel flap instructions for all sizes.

HEEL FLAP, continued:

ALL SIZES:

Rearrange sts as needed so that the 27 (29, 33, 35) sts just purled are on their own needle. These heel flap sts will now be knit flat, back and forth.

Row 1 (RS): *slI, kI*, slI
Row 2 (WS): purl

Repeat both rows until you count 15 slipped sts, or flap measures ~2.5" (6.5 cm). The heel flap can be lengthened to provide a deeper heel for those with high arches, you will just need to pick up more sts for the gusset.

HEEL TURN:

Row 1 (RS): slI, kI3 (I4, I7, I8), ssk, kI, turn
Row 2 (WS): sl I, p3 (3, 5, 5), p2tog, pI, turn
Row 3: sl I, k to I st before gap, ssk to close gap, kI, turn
Row 4: sl I, p to I st before gap, p2tog to close gap, pI, turn

Repeat Rows 3 & 4 until all heel flap sts have been worked.

GUSSET:

Knit across heel sts, placing a marker in the middle of the heel to indicate the new beginning of the rnd. Pick up and knit the slipped sts on one side of the heel flap for the gusset. (See Page 5 for a photo tutorial.) I picked up 19, but it's fine if your number is different, since extra sts will be decreased away and fewer sts will make a slightly smaller gusset. Place an instep marker (IM) after your last gusset st to indicate the beginning of the instep sts (top of foot). Sizes 2 & 4, see next section before proceeding. Knit across instep sts in LEG pattern starting with Rnd 6. Place another IM to indicate the end of the instep sts. Pick up and knit slipped sts on the other side of the heel flap and knit to the end of the rnd.

SIZES 2 & 4 ONLY:

The last gusset st picked up before the instep and the first st picked up after the instep will be considered part of the instep sts for the rest of the foot in order to continue the stitch pattern properly. Your IMs should be placed before the last gusset st of one side and after the first gusset st of the other.

ALL SIZES:

There should be 27 (33, 33, 39) sts between IMs for the top of the foot.

Rnd 1: k to 2 sts before IM, k2tog, sm, k instep in pattern, sm, ssk, k to end
Rnd 2: k to IM, sm, k instep in pattern, sm, k to end

GUSSET, continued:

Repeat Rnds 1 & 2 of the gusset until 54 (60, 66, 72) sts remain.

FOOT:

Repeat the 10 rnds of LEG pattern (keeping the 27 (27, 33, 33) sole sts in stockinette) until sock measures ~1.3" (1.5", 1.8", 2.0") / ~3.5 (3.9, 4.7, 5.2 cm) less than the desired length of the foot, ending on a plain knit row. The sample shows a total of 25 purl ridges (12.5 pattern repeats) before the toe.

TOE:

SIZES 1 & 3:

There are 27 (33) sts between IMs and 27 (33) sts for the sole.

SIZES 2 & 4:

The first and last sts of the instep (which were former gusset sts) will now be considered part of the sole. When you reach the IMs in the next rnd, move the first marker 1 st to the left and the second marker 1 st to the right so you now have 31 (37) sts between IMs and 29 (35) sts for the sole.

ALL SIZES:

Rnd 1: k to 2 sts before IM, k2tog, sm, ssk, k to 2 sts before IM, k2tog, sm, ssk, k to end
Rnd 2: knit

Repeat Rnds 1 & 2 until 26 (28, 26, 28) sts remain.

SIZES 1 & 3:

Work Rnd 1 of TOE 2 more times until 18 sts remain, with 9 on the instep needle and 9 on the sole.

SIZES 2 & 4:

Work Rnd 1 of TOE once more until 24 sts remain.

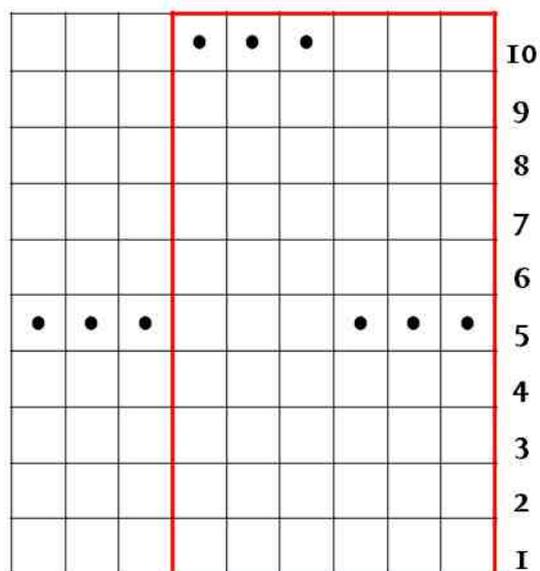
Final Rnd: k to 2 sts before IM, k2tog, sm, ssk (x2), k to 4 sts before IM, k2tog (x2), sm, ssk, k to end (6 sts dec.)

Arrange the 18 remaining sts so that 9 are on the instep needle and 9 are on the sole.

FINISHING:

Use kitchener stitch to close the toe (<http://knitty.com/ISSUEsummer04/FEATtheresasum04.html>). Weave in yarn ends. Repeat the whole process for the second sock and enjoy! For questions or comments, I can be reached on Ravelry ("Shoelaceswitcher"), on Craftsy ("Shoelaceswitch"), or by e-mail to alicia@woolendiversions.com.

Leg and Foot Pattern Chart:



 = knit
 = purl

CHART NOTES:

- * Work all chart rows from right to left.
- * For the LEG, repeat ONLY the sts inside the red box 9 (10, 11, 12) times for each rnd. Do not work sts outside of the red box.
- * For the FOOT, repeat sts within the red box 4 (5, 5, 6) times and work the rest of the chart once for the instep. Knit the 27 (27, 33, 33) sole sts in stockinette for each rnd.



Gusset Photo Tutorial:

There are many ways to work a gusset but this is how I like to do it. Use what works for you!

STEP 1: You should begin with all of your instep sts on one needle and all of your heel sts on another needle with the working yarn to the left of the heel, ready to knit new sts. With this setup, you don't need to place markers to indicate where the instep begins and ends because all of those sts are on their own needle, so it's easy to remember.

STEP 2: For the first side, take a new needle and pick up the **BACK LEG** of the 'V' made by the sts that were slipped along edge of the heel flap. You will pick these up by moving your needle from **BACK TO FRONT** under the leg.



STEP 3: Once you've picked up all of the slipped sts (and perhaps a few extra between the slipped sts and the instep if it seems like there might be a gap there), take a new needle and knit the picked-up gusset sts **THROUGH THE BACK LOOP**. This will twist the stitches and give you a nice, solid gusset.



Gusset Photo Tutorial, continued:

STEP 4: Knit across instep stitches in pattern (not pictured).

STEP 5: For the other gusset, pick up the FRONT LEG of the slipped sts from FRONT TO BACK.

STEP 6: Now knit these picked-up sts THROUGH THE FRONT LOOPS in order to twist them.



STEP 7: If you're using 3 needles to hold your sts and a 4th to knit with, you will need to split your heel sts between the 2 needles holding your gusset sts in order to free a needle for knitting. Knit across half of the heel sts using the needle with which you just picked up gusset sts, slip the rest of the heel sts onto the needle that holds the first set of gusset sts, and then you're ready to go! Like with the instep markers, if you arrange your sts as described you won't need to place an end-of-round marker. Just remember that the transition between the needles that meet at the bottom of the heel marks the new beginning/end of the rnd.

