

Basic Sock Pattern

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(Updated Nov 23 2013)

Gauge: 7.5 stitches on 2mm, 2.25mm, or 2.5 mm (or 2.75mm) double pointed needles
I prefer bamboo - the stitches don't slip off, but the yarn slides smoothly on them. They're worth the cost.

Size: to fit an 8" ankle approx (ladies shoe size 7-8) .

Cuff: Cast on 64 stitches (16 stitches on each of 4 needles - for man's sock I cast on 72 stitches and adjust stitch numbers accordingly) and do K2 P2 ribbing for 1.5 – 2:00" (I knit just 12 rows - because I prefer a shorter cuff)

Leg: Switch to stocking stitch (knitting every round) and continue until desired length (anywhere from 5.5" – 8.5")

Heel:

Heel Flap:

Leave 16 stitches on each of needle 2 and 3 for instep.

Put remaining 32 stitches (from needles 1 & 4) on 1 needle and work heel flap back and forth on this needle.

Knit 14 rows (knit 32 stitches, purl back 32 stitches - do this seven times for 14 rows ending with a purl row)

Short rows shaping:

Row 1 (RS): slip 1 knit wise, K20, wrap & and turn (or turn & wrap)

Row 2 (WS): slip the wrapped st purlwise, P10, W&T

Row 3 (RS): slip the wrapped st knitwise, K until the wrapped st of previous row, W&T

Row 4 (WS): slip the wrapped st purlwise, K until the wrapped st of previous row, W&T.

“Wrap” means putting the wool to the opposite side - if you're knitting it means taking the wool to the back, if you're purling it means bringing the wool to the front - slipping the next stitch, then turning the sock around, slip the first "wrapped" stitch, then continue either knitting or purling the stitches to the wrapped st , knitting that stitch this time, then doing another W&T.

Here's how the “wrap & turn” is done - (W & T):

At the end of a knit row:

1. bring wool to the front
2. slip the next stitch
3. take wool to back
4. TURN the knitting to purl
5. slip the wrapped (1st) stitch
6. purl from second stitch to end of needle (including the last wrapped stitch)

At the end of a purl row:

1. take wool to the back
2. slip the next stitch
3. bring the wool forward
4. TURN the knitting to knit
5. slip the wrapped (1st) stitch
6. knit from second stitch to end of needle (including the last wrapped stitch)

Each row is one stitch longer (as you bring in the stitches on the sides of the needle)
Knit/purl rows until you are working on all 32 stitches - ending on a knit row with your yarn on the left hand side (heel facing you)

Put the 16 stitches on the right of the needle onto a new needle (so you are again knitting with 4/5 needles)

Gusset:

It's time to pick up the gusset sts and work in the round.

Using your 5th needle, pick up 6 (7) sts from the flap edge - these are the original stitches that you slipped while creating the flap (including one from the bottom of the flap edge - for a total of 7 (or 8)).

Knit these stitches onto needle #1 (the needle on the left side of the heel) - bring the needle from the wrong side of the stitch so that you create a twist in the stitch - this makes the stitches on the side of the gusset tighter.

Now Work across needles 2 and 3 – the instep stitches.

Using your 5th needle pick up 1 stitch in the instep and then 1 stitch in each of the slipped edge stitches on the right side of the heel flap (heel facing you) for a total of 7 (8) stitches. (This becomes needle 4). Slip these stitches onto the needle on the right side of the heel.

Knit these stitches - remembering to make a twist to tighten the stitch) - then the 16 remaining on needle 4. Needles 1 and 4 should have the same number of stitches - 23 (or 24)

1. Row 1 - Knit one row: needle 1, needle 2, needle 3, needle 4
2. Row 2 - At left end of needle 1 K2 together, knit needles 2, 3, K2 together at the start of needle 4
3. Row 3 knit all 4 needles
4. Repeat Row 2 and Row 3 until you have 16 stitches remaining on needles 1 & 4 (with 23 stitches that should be a total of 14 rows - decreasing every other row)

Foot: Continue in plain knitting on all 64 stitches until the foot is the desired length – approximately 7" for a ladies size 8 shoe (I count rows, instead of length. 50 rows, on 2.5mm needles, after the gusset fits a ladies size 8 shoe).

Toe: Decrease Row:

Needle 1: work to last 3 stitches, K2 together, K1

Needle 2: K1 K2 together, Knit to end

Needle 3: work to last 3 stitches, K2 together, K1

Needle 4: K1 K2 together, Knit to end

Knit 2 rows and repeat Decrease Row — Repeat until you have 12 stitches on each needle.

Then *Knit 1 row, and repeat Decrease Row* – Repeat until you have 9 stitches on each needle.

Finally do Decrease Rows every row until you have 6 stitches on each needle.

Do decrease on Needle 1 – that will give you 5 stitches on that needle.

Graft Toe: Use Kitchener Stitch (<http://www.lupinworks.com/knitting/kitchener/>)

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