

Plain Vanilla Socks *...a pattern by Knitty Gritty Thoughts*

DIFFICULTY LEVEL - Beginner/Intermediate

This is simple, easy to knit pattern has been adapted for magic loop and is great for beginners. It's the one I always fall back on when I want something relaxing...the one I can knit in my sleep.

MATERIALS

100grams of sock-weight yarn, 2.5mm- 100cm long circular for magic loop in any size needles necessary to give you gauge. You will need a yarn needle for finishing.

SIZE - Men or Women's, any shoe size

GAUGE - 7sts/in knit in the round.

ABBREVIATIONS

k - knit

sl - slip a stitch

ssk - slip two stitches knitwise, then knit them together

k2tog - knit two stitches together

st(s) - stitch(es)



CASTING ON

Start by casting on 64 stitches in your favorite method. For socks I prefer the long tail cast-on over two needles for flexible, firm yet stretchy cuff. Once you have completed casting on, split the stitches evenly and join into the round taking care not to twist the stitches. I join for socks by switching one st from the left needle to the right and one stitch from the right needle to the left so essentially the stitches are trading place. Next, place a pin or a stitch marker to mark the beginning of the round.

CUFF & LEG

Work K2, P2 rib for 2 inches, or desired length for ribbing. Switch and begin to work the leg in stockinette stitch (knit every round) for 6-7 inches (or to your preferred length.)

HEEL FLAP

At the beginning of the next round, you will be dividing for the heel. Knit the first 32 stitches for the heel. You will begin working the heel back and forth as follows leaving the rest of the stitches resting.

Row 1: (WS) Sl 1, purl to last st, turn

Row 2: (RS) Sl 1, k1, sl 1, k 1 and continue across heel until you reach the end.

Repeat these two rows until the flap looks like you have formed a square, ending with row 1. You should now be ready to work a knit row.

TURNING THE HEEL

Row 1: (RS) sl 1, k16, ssk, k1, turn

Row 2: (WS) sl1, p3, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 3: sl1, k4, ssk, k1, turn

Row 4: sl1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 5: sl1, k6, ssk, k1, turn

Row 6: sl1, p7, p2tog, p1, turn

Continue in this manner until all the stitches have been used and the heel is turned. You will be essentially knitting to 1 stitch before the gap and then either ssk or p2tog to close the gap and then knit the next stitch. Then turn, leaving the rest of the stitches on the needles resting. On the next row, knit across all heel stitches.

GUSSET & INSTEP

(Magic loop note – I keep the instep stitches separate from the gusset stitches, it keeps the sock arranged and makes it easier to keep track of the decreases.) With right side of heel facing, pick up 1 st in each of the slipped sts along the edge of the heel flap plus 1 st “in the corner” to avoid a hole (on my sock I average 15-18 sts). Continue knitting across the instep sts, and continue back down the other side of the heel flap picking up the same amount of stitches you did on the other side (15-18). Please note that if you knit a shorter or longer heel flap, you will pick up fewer sts or more sts along the edge of the heel flap. The number of sts itself is unimportant, as long as you end up with 64 once you are finished decreasing for the gusset.

After you have finished picking up the stitches, knit one round even. However when you come to the picked up stitches, KTBL (knit through the back loop) to close any gaps. Continue working on round 2.

Rnd 1: Knit

Rnd 2: Work to 3 sts from the end of Needle 1, K2 tog, K1, Knit across Needle 2. Needle 3: K1, SSK, knit to end of round

Repeat these two rounds until 64 stitches remain.

FOOT

Continue working in stockinette stitch until the sock is 2- 2.25” less than the length of the foot.

TOE

Rnd 1: Knit to 3 sts from end of needle, K2 tog, K1. Instep Stitches: K1, SSK, knit across to 3 sts from end of needle, K2 tog, K1. Final Section: K1, SSK, knit to end of round

Rnd 2: Knit

Repeat these 2 rounds until 32 sts remain and then continue round 1 until only 8 sts remain (that is you will be decreasing every round instead of every other round.) Rearrange your stitches so that you have an equal number on both needles if necessary. Kitchener the toe closed and weave in all ends. Finish by blocking the sock. Wear and enjoy!

ADD'L SOCK OPTIONS

Once you've made a pair of plain vanilla socks, spice it up a bit by changing the ribbing on the leg. For instance, you could K2P2 and continue the ribbing all the way down the leg and instep which makes for a very cozy sock. Or, one of my other basic favorites is a k6p2 ribbing down the leg. I've also just finished knitting a plain vanilla sock however I KTBL(knit through the back loop) on the ribbing and toe to give it a unique look. Use your imagination and get creative!



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