

My Favorite Vanilla Socks

by Meaghan Schmaltz



The Story

When I started out fiendishly knitting socks I hated the gusset heel. All I wanted to knit was a short row heel sock from the toe up. Having learned a gusset heel, and found one I love love love, I almost exclusively knit cuff-down socks with a gusset heel. They are my favorite TV time knitting... even when watching *The Walking Dead* (though nothing interrupts *Game of Thrones*). So here they are, My Favorite Vanilla Socks. Period.

Materials

Fingering Weight Yarn; 400 yds per 100g
 US 2 (2.75mm) 32-inch circular needle (or preferred length)
 Adjust needle size as necessary to match gauge.
 Removable stitch marker (1)
 Stitch markers (2)

Finished Sizes

7½ (8½, 9¾) inch circumference (recommended fit: 1-inch neg. ease)

Gauge

30 sts and 42 rows = 4 inches stockinette in the round.

Stitch Glossary:

beg of rnd - beginning of round
 dec - decreased
 inc - increased
 k - knit
 k2tog - knit 2 sts together (1 st dec)
 p - purl
 p2tog - purl 2 sts together (1 st dec)
 rep - repeat
 RH - right hand
 rnd(s) - round(s)
 RS - right side
 sl - slip stitch
 ssk - slip 1 stitch knitwise, slip a second stitch knitwise,
 move these 2 stitches back to the left needle and k2tog tbl
 (1 st dec)
 st(s) - stitch(es)
 tbl - through back loop
 WS - wrong side

Notes

These socks are worked from the cuff down, feature a modified Eye of Partridge gusset heel and use the Kitchener Stitch to close the toe.

This pattern includes written instructions only. Make 2 socks to complete a pair.

Instructions are given for smallest size with additional sizes in parentheses. When only one set of instructions is given, it applies to all sizes.

Slip all sts purlwise unless otherwise noted.

This pattern is written for the Magic Loop technique however any method of circular knitting may be substituted. In case of using DPNs, assume that the Front needle is synonymous with Needles 1 & 2, and that the Back needle is synonymous with Needles 3 & 4.

Note: If you use a lighter-weight sock yarn, such as 462 yds/100g, I recommend going down one needle size and going up one size in the instructions. *For example:* I knit a 56 st size sock on US 2 needles with 400 yds/100g yarn, but knit a 64 st size sock on US 1 needles with a 462 yds/100g yarn.

If you find any errors or have any questions please feel free to e-mail me directly: meaghan@unapologeticknitter.com



THE unapologetic KNITTER

Cuff

Cast on 56 (64, 72) sts loosely using your preferred method. Divide the sts evenly; place the first 28 (32, 36) sts on the Front needle - these will be the Front/Instep sts. The last 28 (32, 36) sts will be the Back/Sole sts and will be worked on the Back needle. *If using DPNs, divide the sts evenly over 4 needles; Needles 1 and 2 will be the Front/Instep Sts and Needles 3 and 4 will be the Back/Sole sts.*

TIP! Use the cast-on tail to indicate beg of rnd until enough fabric is available to clip a removable marker to the work.

Work in [k1, p1] rib for 1½ inches.

Leg

Knit every round until the Leg measures 6 inches from the cast-on edge (or desired length).

Heel Flap

With WS facing, and knitting flat on the Back needle:

Row 1 (WS): K3, purl to end of row.

Row 2 (RS): P3, *k1, sl 1; rep from * to last 3 sts, k3.

Row 3: K3, purl to end of row.

Row 4: P3, *sl 1, k1; rep from * to last 3 sts, k3.

Rep [Rows 1-4] 6 (7, 8) more times; there will be 14 (16, 18) garter edge sts for pickup after turning the heel.

Turn the Heel

With WS facing, continuing to knit flat on the Back needle:

Row 1 (WS): Sl 1, p14 (16, 18), p2tog, p1. Turn work.

Row 2 (RS): Sl 1, k3, ssk, k1. Turn work.

Row 3: Sl 1, purl to 1 st before the gap, p2tog across the gap, p1. Turn work.

Row 4: Sl 1, knit to 1 st before the gap, ssk across the gap, k1. Turn work.

Rep [Rows 3 & 4] until all the heel sts have been worked, ending with Row 4; 16 (18, 20) sts rem on Back needle.

Pick Up Stitches

Using the Back needle, pick up and knit 14 (16, 18) sts along the Heel Flap edge. Pick up and knit one additional st to close the gap. Place a marker. Knit the first 14 (16, 18) sts of the Front needle. This is now Needle 1.

Using the Front needle, knit the next 14 (16, 18) sts. Place a marker. Pick up and knit one additional st to close the gap. Then pick up and knit 14 (16, 18) sts along the Heel Flap edge. Knit 8 (9, 10) heel stitches. This is now Needle 2.

There are now 37 (42, 47) sts on each needle.

Work the Gusset

Rnd 1 (Needle 1): Knit to 2 sts before marker, ssk, sm, knit to end.

Rnd 1 (Needle 2): Knit to marker, sm, k2tog, knit to end.

Rnd 2 (Needle 1): Knit to 3 sts before marker, k2tog, k1, sm, knit to end.

Rnd 2 (Needle 2): Knit to marker, sm, k1, ssk, knit to end.

Rnd 3 (Needles 1 & 2): Knit, slipping marker as encountered.

Rep [Rnds 2 & 3] until 28 (32, 36) sts rem on both needles. Redistribute sts and remove markers as encountered, placing 28 (32, 36) Instep sts on the Front needle and 28 (32, 36) Sole sts on the Back needle.

Instep

Knit every round until the foot measures 1½ (1¾, 2) inches short of the desired length.

Toe Decreases

Begin decreasing for toe shaping as follows:

Rnd 1 (Front needle): K1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1.

Rnd 1 (Back needle): Work as per front needle [4 sts dec on round].

Rnd 2: Knit.

Rep [Rnds 1 & 2] until 24 (28, 32) sts rem, ending with Rnd 2; 12 (14, 16) sts each on Front and Back needles.

Finishing:

Break yarn leaving a 10-inch tail. Using the Kitchener Stitch, close the toe of your sock. Weave in the ends. Rock your new socks!