

Exceedingly Vanilla Socks (condensed version)

This is a super stripped-down version of my vanilla sock pattern that has been formatted to fit on a single piece of paper, printed double-sided. It assumes that you know standard knitting abbreviations and don't mind a lack of pictures.

Skill level: adventurous beginner

Skills needed: knit, purl, slip stitches, decreases (k2tog, ssk, p2tog), picking up stitches

Yarn: approximately 100 g of fingering weight yarn.

Needles: US 1 / 2.25 mm

Notions: tapestry needle, stitch markers and row markers (optional), extra DPN

Gauge: 9-10 stitches/inch (4 sts/cm)

Sizes: (S, M, L)

Instructions

Cast on (56, 64, 72) stitches using a stretchy method. My favorite is the German twisted cast on.

Separate stitches evenly onto your desired needle configuration. For the remainder of the pattern, stitches that form the front of the leg/top of the foot will be referred to as "front stitches" and stitches on the back of leg/bottom of foot will be "back stitches."

Cuff

Row 1: k1, [p2, k2] to the last three front stitches, p2, k1. Repeat for back stitches.

Repeat row 1 until cuff is desired length.

Leg

Knit all stitches on both needles until leg is desired length.

Heel flap

Knit all stitches on front needle. The heel flap is worked only across the back needle.

If you are using a contrasting color for your heel, add the following step:

Knit all stitches on back needle in main color.

Cut main color and use contrasting color to purl across the back needle.

Row 1 (RS): k3, [s1, k1] to last three stitches, k3. Turn.

Row 2 (WS): k3, p to last three stitches, k3. Turn.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until the heel flap is (28, 32, 36) rows long.

Heel turn

Row 1 (RS): k(17, 19, 21), ssk, k1, turn.

Row 2 (WS): s1, p(7, 7, 7), p2tog, p1, turn.

Row 3 (RS): s1, k to 1 stitch before gap, ssk, k1, turn.

Row 4 (WS): s1, p to 1 stitch before gap, p2tog, p1, turn.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until all unworked side stitches have been used. You will now have (18, 20, 22) stitches on your back needle.

If you have been using a contrasting color, cut it and reattach your main color.

Gusset

(RS) Knit across back needle. Pick up one stitch in each garter ridge along the right side of the heel flap and one extra stitch in between the front and back needles.

Knit across front needle.

Pick up one stitch between the front and back needles and in each garter ridge along the left side of the heel flap.

Note - a lot of patterns will now have you consider the start of your row to be in the middle of the back needle. While this makes sense, I don't like it and have a hard time keeping track of when to do my gusset decreases. So we will continue to have the start of the row between the end of the back needle and start of the front. Sure, on one side of the gusset you work an extra row, but trust me, you won't notice on the finished sock!

Knit the rest of the way across the back needle. You now have (28, 32, 36) stitches on the front needle and (48, 54, 60) stitches on the back needle.

Gusset decreases

Row 1: knit all stitches on both needles.

Row 2: knit all stitches on front needle. On back needle, k1, ssk, k to last three stitches, k2tog, k1.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until there are (28, 32, 36) stitches remaining on the back needle.

Foot

Time for some math! (Trust me, this is the most foolproof way I've found to always get socks that fit.)

1. Measure your row gauge: _____ rows/cm
2. Foot length of recipient: _____ cm
3. Socks need at least 10% negative ease to fit well:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{total sock length} &= \text{foot length} \times 0.9 \\ &= \text{_____ cm} \end{aligned}$$

4. Let's account for the length of the toe decreases:

$$\frac{\text{\# of toe rows}}{\text{row gauge}} = \frac{(15, 16, 18)}{\text{answer to \#1}} =$$

_____ cm.

5. The length you need to knit before starting the toe is #3 - #4 = _____ cm (round down to the nearest half cm)

If you don't want to do any math, knit until your foot is ~6 cm shorter than the **foot length** of the sock recipient.

Knit all stitches on each row until the length of the foot from the heel turn is your answer to #5.

If you are doing a contrasting toe and want it to pop a bit more, I suggest switching colors 5 rows (~1 cm) before starting the toe decreases.

Toe

Row 1: k1, ssk, k to last three stitches, k2tog, k1 on each needle.

Row 2: k all stitches

Repeat rows 1 and 2 (5, 5, 6) times - (18, 22, 24) stitches per needle remaining.

Row 3: k1, ssk, k to last three stitches, k2tog, k1 on each needle.

Repeat row 3 (5, 6, 6) times - (8, 10, 12) stitches per needle remaining.

Close toe using kitchener stitch, weave in ends, and enjoy your new sock!