

Longfellow Socks

I knit a lot of man socks. Socks for hubby, dad, brother, and now son, a recent graduate from boy to man. And when I have knit socks for these guys in the past, their one suggestion was to make the sock legs longer. But knitting longer socks presents the problem of one skein of yarn not *ever* being enough. And I don't want to buy two skeins of 400+ yard sock yarn only to have 300 yards of one manly-colored skein left over.

So why not knit the cuff, heel, and toe in a partial skein from my stash of sock yarn? Problem solved. I made these socks in similar colors (Patons Kroy Socks FX: turquoise/tan and blue/gray), but you can check your scrap stash and see what looks good together. Or you can totally mix it up and make a wacky pair of socks!



Yarn needed: several different colors of fingering weight yarn, totalling about 400 yds. Make sure yarns have a similar number of wraps per inch (WPI). Fingering yarn varies widely in WPI's.

Materials needed: Size 2 double pointed needles (or size to achieve gauge), a tapestry needle and scissors for snipping yarn.

Stitching notes: To make this sock, you should be familiar with basic in-the-round- sock knitting on double pointed needles, OR be able to change the pattern up in your head so you can use magic loop or knitting on two circular needles. I have included, however, quite a bit of guidance on stitch placement for 4 needles (stitches on 3 needles and 1 working needle. Also, I tend to use the words "round" and "row" interchangeably, unless the pattern is on a back and forth part, (heel). In that case, I only use the word "row."

Gauge: 7 stitches per inch, 9 rows per inch (row gauge is not vital). Make a swatch, change needle sizes if necessary, or use sock yarn that you know your gauge in stockinette.

Cuff Ribbing Pattern: K3, P2

Body Ribbing Pattern: **Note: There's lots of purling in this pattern.**

Row 1: K3, P2

Row 2: K1, P1, K1, P2

K2tog: Knit two stitches together

SSK: Slip two stitches, one at a time, to right needle as if to knit, put left needle in front of stitches and knit together.

Sl: slip one stitch (purlwise unless noted)

MC: Main Color

CC: Contrasting color

CUFF

With CC cast on 70 stitches, join in the round (put some kind of marker, if you want, or just pay attention to the yarn tail hanging down at the bottom and realize that's the beginning of the round), and work in Cuff Ribbing Pattern for 12 rounds.

LEG

Change to main color and begin sock body, repeating the two rows of the Body Ribbing Pattern (above) until sock measures 8½-9" from the beginning (or desired length).

HEEL FLAP

Change to contrasting heel color to knit the heel flap. DO NOT CUT main color yarn.

Heel will be worked on first 33 stitches of round. (Divide remaining 37 stitches on two needles)

Work reinforced heel as follows:

Set-up Row: Sl1, K1 across row until only two stitches remain. K2tog (in order for the heel to have an even number of stitches) Heel flap now has 32 stitches.

Row 1 (Wrong Side) purl

Row 2 (Right Side) *Sl1, K1* repeat between *s across the row.

Continue knitting rows 1 and 2 back and forth until heel is almost a square (for me this is usually 28-32 rows). End on a Row 2.

TURN HEEL (short rows)

P17, P2tog, P1, turn your work (12 stitches remain unknit)

Slip 1st stitch, K3, SSK, K1, turn your work (12 stitches remain unknit on this side also--this number, which I won't bother to type, will decrease by 2 every time you turn your work)

Slip 1st stitch, P4, P2tog, P1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, K5, SSK, K1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, P6, P2tog, P1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, K7, SSK, K1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, P8, P2tog, P1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, K9, SSK, K1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, P10, P2tog, P1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, K11, SSK, K1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, P12, P2tog, P1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, K13, SSK, K1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, P14, P2tog, P1, turn

Slip 1st stitch, K15, SSK, K1, **do not** turn. Cut CC leaving a 7" long tail to weave in later.

18 stitches remain on the needle

SET UP FOR GUSSET:

Go back to the point where you left the MC yarn.

Needle 3: Take an empty needle, and as the right (not wrong) side of the heel faces you, pick up 15 stitches along left side of heel (as opposed to the right), K9 of the heel stitches. Now this needle has 24 stitches on it. Let's call this "Needle 3" because it's holding the last stitches of the round. (At this point, the "round" or "row" will begin in the middle of the insole bottom of foot--see sock anatomy on my blog:

<http://nancyknit.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/basic-ribbed-sock-oct-update.pdf>

Needle 1: On another needle knit across the remaining 9 heel stitches, and pick up 15 stitches along the left side of the heel.

Needle 2: Continue in pattern across 37 instep stitches (see link above to be clear on the parts of a sock)

Knit across **Needle 3** stitches. Now you're at the beginning of a round.

GUSSET:

Row 1: K stitches on Needle 1, continue in pattern across Needle 2, K stitches on Needle 3

Row 2: K all stitches on Needle 1 until 3 stitches remain, K2tog, K1. Continue in pattern across Needle 2. On Needle 3 K1, SSK, knit to end of round.

Continue working Rows 1 & 2 above until 18 stitches remain on Needles 1 & 3 (36 stitches total on these 2 needles). Needle 2 still contains 37 stitches.

Work down the foot, knitting all stitches on Needles 1 & 3, and working in pattern across Needle 2. Work until 1½ inch less than desired length.

Change to CC and knit 1 row, decreasing 1 stitch on Needle 2 by doing a K2tog. Now you have 72 stitches total remaining, 18 stitches on each of Needles 1 & 3, and 36 stitches on Needle 2.

TOE:

Decrease Row 1: Needle 1: Knit to the last three stitches, K2tog, K1; Needle 2: K1, SSK, Knit to the last three stitches, K2tog, K1; Needle 3: K1, SSK, knit to the end of the needle (end of round).

Decrease Row 2: Knit

Repeat these two rows, decreasing every other row until 20 stitches remain, Using needle 3, knit stitches on needle 1 so that there are now 10 stitches on needle 2 and 10 stitches on needle 3. Cut the CC yarn, leaving a 12' tail. Hold needles parallel to each other and do the kitchener stitch.