Knit • Intermediate (first socks)

Footpath Socks

Classic cuff-down socks in fingering-weight yarn: a ribbed cuff, a plain leg, a slip-stitch heel flap, a turned heel, gusset decreases and a wedge toe finished with grafting. Every row of the heel is written out.

Size

One size: about 8 in (20 cm) around the foot unstretched, for a foot about 8½–9 in (21.5–23 cm) around. The foot as written is about 9½ in (24 cm) long, heel to toe; see the notes to make it longer or shorter.

Materials

- Yarn: fingering-weight (#1) sock yarn with some nylon, about 380 yds (350 m) for the pair.
- Needles: a set of US 1½ (2.5 mm) double-pointed needles, or a long circular for magic loop.
- Notions: 2 stitch markers plus one for the start of the round, tapestry needle.

Gauge

32 sts and 44 rounds = 4 in (10 cm) in stockinette. Check your gauge: socks need to fit.

Abbreviations

k: knit
p: purl
sl1: slip 1 st purlwise (yarn in back on RS rows, in front on WS rows)
k2tog: knit 2 together
ssk: slip, slip, knit: slip 2 sts knitwise one at a time, then knit them together through the back loops
p2tog: purl 2 together
pm / sm: place marker / slip marker
RS / WS: right side / wrong side
st(s): stitch(es)
rep: repeat
*: repeat the instructions after the * as directed

Notes

- Cuff down: the leg is worked in the round, the heel flap and heel turn back and forth over half the stitches, then the foot in the round again.
- The gap in the heel turn is the little gap left where you turned on the row before.
- To change the foot length, work more or fewer plain foot rounds (about 11 rounds to the inch); every round number after the foot then moves by the same amount. In Row & Round, set the count to the first toe round when you start the toe.
- Make two socks the same way.

Cast on 64 sts loosely. Place a marker and join to work in the round, taking care not to twist the stitches.

▢ Cuff

Rounds 1–16: *K2, p2; rep from * around.

▢ Leg

Rounds 17–60: Knit.

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☐ Heel flap

Row 61 (RS): Working over the first 32 sts only, *slip 1 purlwise with yarn in back, k1; rep from * 15 more times. Turn. (32 heel sts)

Row 62 (WS): Slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front, purl to the end of the heel sts. Turn.

Rows 63–92: Work 15 more repeats of the last 2 rows.

☐ Heel turn

Row 93 (RS): Sl1, k17, ssk, k1. Turn, leaving 11 sts unworked.

Row 94 (WS): Sl1, p5, p2tog, p1. Turn, leaving 11 sts unworked.

Row 95 (RS): Sl1, knit to 1 st before the gap, ssk, k1. Turn.

Row 96 (WS): Sl1, purl to 1 st before the gap, p2tog, p1. Turn.

Rows 97–104: Work 4 more repeats of the last 2 rows.

Row 105 (RS): Sl1, knit to 1 st before the gap, ssk. Turn.

Row 106 (WS): Sl1, purl to 1 st before the gap, p2tog. Turn. (18 heel sts)

☐ Gusset

Round 107: K18 heel sts, pick up and knit 16 sts along the side of the heel flap, pm, k32 instep sts, pm, pick up and knit 16 sts along the other side of the flap. This is the new start of the round. (82 sts)

Round 108: Knit to 3 sts before the first marker, k2tog, k1, sm, knit to the next marker, sm, k1, ssk, knit to end. (80 sts)

Round 109: Knit.

Rounds 110–125: Work 8 more repeats of the last 2 rounds. (64 sts)

☐ Foot

Rounds 126–169: Knit.

☐ Toe

Round 170: Knit to 3 sts before the first marker, k2tog, k1, sm, k1, ssk, knit to 3 sts before the next marker, k2tog, k1, sm, k1, ssk, knit to end. (60 sts)

Round 171: Knit.

Rounds 172–183: Work 6 more repeats of the last 2 rounds. (36 sts)

Rounds 184–188: Work the decrease round only, every round. (16 sts)

☐ Finishing

- Arrange the stitches so the 8 instep sts are on one needle and the 8 sole sts on another. Cut the yarn, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail, and graft the toe closed (Kitchener stitch).
- Weave in the ends, closing any holes at the corners of the gusset.



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