



Just Yer Basic Sock

Alyson Johnson

Yarn:

Fingering Weight Yarn

(one skein - at least 375 yards)

Needles & Notions:

2.25 mm (US Size 1) DPNs

(or size to achieve gauge)

Tapestry (darning) needle

Gauge:

30 stitches/40 rows = 4" / 10 cm

Want to knit a sock? Want to knit just a plain ol' sock? Well, then this is the pattern for you! Some sock yarns are at their very best when it's just them and some stockinette – self-stripping yarns and self-patterning yarns especially. Nothing too fancy here!

Pattern Notes: This pattern is written with instructions for a medium sock and a large sock. If you are knitting for shapelier calves/ankles, then the larger size will be more comfortable. Large size instructions are indicated in parentheses. Please note, the socks shown are knit at a length longer than crew – again, if you have shapely legs, you may want to add a bit of shaping by casting on more stitches and decreasing for shape, but I won't cover that in the pattern.

Abbreviations:

k	knit
p	purl
k2tog	knit 2 together
ssk	slip knitwise, slip knitwise, knit 2 slipped stitches together through back loop
sl	Slip stitch purlwise
* *	Any instructions between asterisks are to be repeated until end of row/round (or the number of times specified)

Cuff/Leg:

Cast on 64 (72) stitches and divide evenly among four double point needles. (64 stitches = 16 stitches on each needle. 72 stitches = 18 stitches on each needle.) Join for working in the round. You may wish to place a marker to note the beginning of your round – if you used a cast-on method that leaves a tail, that can mark the beginning of your round. Knit as follows:

Ribbed Cuff:

K2, P2 (Repeat to end of round)

Work ribbed cuff for 1.5 inches (about 15 rounds). Switch to stockinette (knit every stitch all the way around.) Knit the length you desire. (A crew-length sock would measure about 7 inches, so you would continue knitting in stockinette for 5.5” after your 1.5” ribbed cuff.)

Heel Flap:

The heel flap is worked over the first 32 (36) stitches of your round. The other 32 (36) stitches are the instep stitches, which will be held in place on the needles while you knit the heel flap. When you reach the end of your last round for the leg, continue as follows:

Set-up:

Row 1: Knit across 16 (18) stitches. **Turn** your work – you’ll knit the next row on the wrong side (purl bumps) of the sock.

Row 2: Slip first stitch purlwise, purl across remaining 31 (35) stitches. (You’ll be working back across the first and fourth needles of your round, so the tail or beginning of your round is right in the back center of your sock.) **Turn** your work – you’ll be knitting on the right side again on the next row.

Row 3: Slip first stitch purlwise, knit across remaining 31 (35). Turn.

Row 4: Slip first stitch purlwise, purl across remaining 31 (35). Turn

Continue repeating rows 3 and 4 fourteen (16) more times. You should have 32 (36) rows in your heel flap TOTAL (including your setup rows). *Note:* You will always slip the first stitch of the row purlwise – this will make a nice neat little chain of stitches along the side of the heel flap for you to pick up for the gusset.

Turn Heel:

Row 1: s11, k18 (20), k2tog, k1, turn

Row 2: s11, p7 (7), p2tog, p1, turn

You’ll notice that when you work across these stitches, there will be a gap between where you decreased and the next stitch. You’ll decrease over that gap – so when you get to the stitch before the gap, k2tog or p2tog on that stitch and the one after the gap, then

Row 3: s11, knit to one stitch before gap, k2tog over gap, k1, turn

Row 4: s11, purl to one stitch before gap, p2tog over gap, p1, turn

Continue in this manner, decreasing over the gap, until all stitches have been worked. You will have 18 (22) stitches remaining.

Instep/Gusset:

This part can get a little fiddly – you may find it will help if you have a few extra DPNs to play with, otherwise you'll have to shift some stitches around just for the meantime.

Knit across to end of heel stitches. There are 16 (18) stitches in the gusset to pick up - pick up and knit 16 (18) stitches (this is Needle 1). Knit plain across the 32 (36) instep stitches (Needles 2 and 3). Pick up and knit 16 (18) stitches for the gusset (Needle 4). Knit 9 (11) stitches from the heel stitches onto Needle 4. You should have 25 (29) stitches for each gusset needle and 32 (36) stitches for the instep. Continue knitting the gusset as follows:

Round 1:

Needle 1: Knit the remaining nine heel stitches onto Needle 1 and continue knitting across the picked up gusset stitches to the last three stitches; k2tog, k1.

Needles 2 & 3: Knit plain

Needle 4: K1, ssk, knit to end of round

Round 2:

All Needles: Knit plain

Round 3:

Needle 1: Knit to the last three stitches; k2tog, k1.

Needles 2 & 3: Knit plain

Needle 4: K1, ssk, knit to end of round

Repeat rounds 2 and 3 (decreasing every *other* round) until there are 16 (18) stitches on each needle and you are back to 64 (72) total stitches.

Foot:

Continue knitting plain on every round in plain stockinette. Knit until foot measures about 2.5" shorter than your intended finished length. (If you're knitting for yourself or for someone else and you can measure the person's foot, that's your best bet for a perfect fit. Alternately, you can refer to a shoe size conversion chart to determine the length of a foot based on shoe size.)

Toe:

You'll continue knitting plain, but adding decreases as you did in the gusset section. Knit as follows:

Round 1:

Needle 1: Knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1

Needle 2: K1, ssk, knit to end

Needle 3: Knit to last three stitches, k2tog, k1

Needle 4: K1, ssk, knit to end

Round 2:

All Needles: Knit plain

Knit these two rounds 12 (14) times total. There will be four stitches on each of the four needles. Knit the four stitches from Needle 1 onto Needle 4 and slip the four stitches from Needle 2 onto Needle 3. (You'll now have eight stitches on each of two needles.) Graft the remaining stitches using Kitchener stitch, weave in ends. If you're feeling up to it, knit another one!