

Single-Bed Machine Knit Socks

By Ruth Rogers

This pattern is knit starting from the toe, because I was trying to squeeze one more pair of socks out of a ball of yarn and wanted to make sure I could leave enough for the second sock. If you don't have to worry about how much yarn you have left, working the pattern from the cuff would allow for a machine-turned hem, eliminating one row of Kitchener stitch.



Specifications

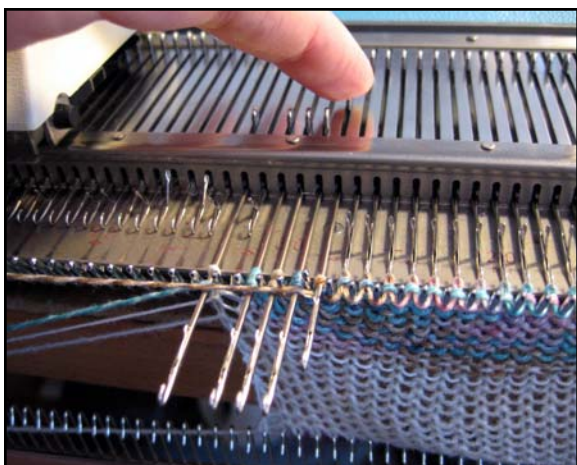
Standard-bed knitting machine (4.5mm needle spacing)
Yarn: Tofutsies (fingering-weight)
Gauge: 30 stitches / 40 rows = 4 inches
Foot circumference: 9 inches
Foot length: 10 inches

Right Sock

Set stitch size (SS) to 6; move 68 needles to working position (WP). At each end, return the second needle from the end to non-working position (NWP) to leave a one-needle gap. This creates a longer stitch that will be used for creating a flat seam when finishing the sock.

Cast on 66 stitches with scrap yarn. Knit ~10 rows, then knit in a rip cord.

Thread the working yarn with the carriage on the left, and make sure the carriage is set to not knit needles in the holding position (HP). Move 33 needles on the right end (opposite the carriage) to HP.



Working toe decreases

Toe Decreases: On the end nearest the carriage, move one needle to HP; knit 1 row. Repeat until the last row knit contains 13 stitches.

On the end nearest the carriage, move 2 needles to HP, knit 1 row. Repeat once more. There should now be 9 needles in WP that have just been knitted.

Toe Increases: Reverse the process. On the end nearest the carriage, use the eyelet tool to return 2 needles to WP. Pass the yarn under the next non-working needle to "wrap" it—this prevents holes in the knitting. Knit 1 row. Repeat once more. There are now 13 needles in WP.

On the end nearest the carriage, return 1 needle to WP, wrap yarn under next NWP needle. Knit 1 row. Repeat until the last row knit contains all 33 original working needles. The carriage should now be on the left.



Toe increases—wrapping yarn

Foot: Return all needles to WP and knit 43 rows. The carriage should now be on the right.

Heel: Set SS to 4. Move the 33 needles on the left side of the knitting to HP. (The heel is worked on the opposite side from the toe.)

On the end nearest the carriage, move one needle to HP. Knit 1 row. Repeat until the last row knit contains 15 stitches.

On the end nearest the carriage, return 1 needle to WP. Wrap the yarn under the next non-working needle, knit 1 row. Repeat until the last row knit contains all 33 working needles.

Leg: Set SS to 6. Return all needles to WP and knit 20 rows.

Faux Ribbed Cuff: Set SS to 4. Beginning with the 3rd working needle from the right, move every other stitch onto the needle to its right, and move the now-empty needle to NWP. Do not move the two outermost stitches. There will now be a 2-needle gap before the last needle on the left, and a 1-needle gap between all other needles.

Knit 30 rows. Cut working yarn, leaving a 20-inch tail. Knit 1 row with rip cord, then ~10 rows with waste yarn. Remove from machine.



Beginning faux ribbed cuff

Handwork: Thread a thin knitting needle through the cuff edge stitches, then remove the rip cord and waste yarn. Using a second knitting needle, pick up a loop using the "gap" between each stitch of the first ribbed row, on the purl side of the sock. Place the two needles parallel and thread the tail of yarn through a darning needle. Use the Kitchener stitch to join the two edges, as follows:



Ready to begin handwork

On the near needle, insert the darning needle into the first stitch as if to knit; remove the stitch from the knitting needle and insert the darning needle into the second stitch as if to purl. Leave that stitch on the knitting needle, and pull the yarn tail through. Don't pull it tight -- it's easier to tighten the grafting stitches later than to loosen them!

Now insert the darning needle into the first stitch on the knitting needle farther from you as if to purl, removing it from the knitting needle. Insert the darning needle into the second stitch as if to knit, and pull through. Repeat all the way across. I remember what to do by repeating "front - knit off, purl on; back - purl off, knit on."

When the cuff has been grafted into place, weave in the end of the yarn tail and trim the excess. Fold the sock in half lengthwise, purl sides together, and using another length of yarn and the same stitch, graft the toe seam across the bottom of the foot, working from the knit side. Weave in the end and trim.

Now work the side seam. Align the two edges, purl sides together. You should see long stitches alternating with short stitches on the edges, where the gaps were between needles. The long stitches are what you'll work with. Beginning from the toe end and using a crochet hook or latch tool, insert the hook from front to back through the first long stitch on one edge. Reach across to the other edge and hook the first long stitch on that side, pulling it through the loop on the hook. Now pull through the next one on the first edge. Continue in this way, picking up a stitch from one side and then the other and pulling it through the one before it, up and over the top and down the back of the ribbed cuff. Fasten off yarn, weave in all ends.



Finished flat seam (stretched to show detail)

To make the second sock, follow the same process in mirror-image, beginning with the carriage on the right, working the toe on the right and the heel on the left, etc.

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