

Charity Socks

(by marion nowak/nowaks nähköstchen)

Sometimes you want to knit socks as a gift, but you don't know the size needed exactly. Or you need socks for charity where you can't tell at all what size will be needed.

Now knitted socks are always stretchy and can adapt, but clever use of ribbing makes them so stretchy and retraceable that one sock will fit over five sizes and nearly all possible widths. That makes those socks also perfect for feet that still grow. And you can do without a gusset, ribbing will help here, too.

The socks are knitted toe up with a short toe heel. Knitting top down is also possible and you can use the principle on different ways to shape the toe. It does not work on a heel flap heel.

The pattern includes instructions for sizes M, L and XL.

M corresponds to German/European sizes 36-39, L to 39 – 43 and XL to 42 -47. Roughly M should fit most women, L for woman with long feet

and men with small to normal sized feet and XL will fit men with big feet.

If there are several numbers in the instructions the first will be for Size M and the numbers in brackets will be for sizes L/ XL.



Materials: ca. 65g (85g/ 100g) 4ply sock wool

1 set of dpns US#0/ 2,0 mm (If you prefer you can use a circular needle and knit with the „Magic Loop“ technique or knit on two circls. Since I'm knitting quite loosely most people will have to go up one needle size, so please swatch and compare gauge.)

1 Tapestry needle

Gauge in 2-2 ribbing: 44 stitches/ 48 rows = 10 cm/ 4 inch unstretched
or 20 stitches/ 52 rows = 10 cm/ 4 inch well stretched

CO: The socks are knitted toe up.

Co 16 stitches with two needles, 8 on each needle, then knit every stitch once.

(I started with „figure 8“ but you can use any technique you like as long as they result in stitches „facing“ each other back to back. 8 stitches face up, 8 stitches face down.)

Toe: Distribute the stitches on four dpns (4 st per needle), knit the next four stitches (=next needle). That is the beginning of the rounds and it under the sole.

Continue in rounds. The first round after the set up is knit, from then on continue alternating 2 rows

purl stitches and 2 rows knit stitches.

Stitches for the shaping are added between the last and the last but one stitch on needles 1 and 3 and between the first and the second stitch on needles 2 and 4.

Add stitches

5 (5/ 6) x each round (=36 (36/ 40) stitches)

5 (6/ 7) x every second round (=56 (60/ 68) stitches)

3 (4/ 3) x every third round (=61 (76/ 80) stitches)

Foot:

Knit the foot in 2-2 ribs for 55 (60/ 70) rounds.

Heel: The heel is worked with short rows over needle 4 and needle 1. Like on the toe alternate two rows stockinette and two rows reverse stockinette.

Size M:

After 55 rounds of the feet part knit needles 1-3 in ribbing. Then bring the stitches of needle 4 and needle 1 on one needle and continue in rows.

k34, turn

Turnstitch, p33, turn,

Ts, p32, turn,

Ts, k31, turn,

Ts, k30, turn,

Ts, p29, turn,

Ts, p28, turn,

Ts, k27, turn,

(...)

Ts, p16, turn,

Ts, k15, turn,

Ts, k14, turn,

Ts, p13, turn,

Ts, p12, turn,

Ts, k11, turn,

Ts, k5.

Separate the heel stitches on two needles (needle 4 and needle 1) again and continue in rounds.

Needle 1: k17, while knitting the Ts as normal knit stitches.

Needle 2 & needle 3: work in 2-2 ribbing.

Bring stitches from needles 4 and 1 on one needle and continue in rows.

K23 while knitting the Ts as normal knit stitches, turn

Ts, p11, turn,

Ts, p12, turn,

Ts, k13, turn,

Ts, k14, turn

Ts, p15, turn,

Ts, p16, turn,

Ts, k17, turn,

Ts, k18, turn

(...)

Ts, p28, turn,
Ts, k29, turn,
Ts, k30, turn,
Ts, p31, turn.
Ts, p32, turn,
Ts, k33, turn,
Ts, 4 x (k2, p2)



The pic shows the socks on feet of different sizes. From left to right: sock M on foot size 39, sock L on foot size 39, sock L on foot size 42, sock XL on foot size 42, sock XL on foot size 47.

Size L:

After 60 rounds of the feet part knit needles 1-3 in ribbing. Then bring the stitches of needle 4 and needle 1 on one needle and continue in rows.

k38, turn

Ts, p37, turn,

Ts, p36, turn,

Ts, k35, turn,

Ts, k34, turn,

Ts, p33, turn,

Ts, p32, turn,

Ts, k31, turn,

(...)

Ts, k18, turn

Ts, p17, turn,

Ts, p16, turn,

Ts, k15, turn,

Ts, k14, turn,

Ts, p13, turn,

Ts, k6.

Separate the heel stitches on two needles (needle 4 and needle 1) again and continue in rounds.

Needle 1: k19, while knitting the Ts as normal knit stitches.

Needle 2 & needle 3: work in 2-2 ribbing.

Needle 4: k19, while knitting the Ts as normal knit stitches.

Needle 1: k19

Needle 2 & needle 3: work in 2-2 ribbing.

Bring stitches from needles 4 and 1 on one needle and continue in rows.

k26, turn

Ts, p13, turn,

Ts, p14, turn,

Ts, k15, turn,

Ts, k16, turn

Ts, p17, turn,
Ts, p18, turn,
Ts, k19, turn,
Ts, k20, turn
(...)
Ts, k32, turn,
Ts, p33, turn.
Ts, p34, turn,
Ts, k35, turn,
Ts, k36,turn,
Ts, p37, turn.
Ts, p2, 4 x (k2, p2)



This pic shows how well the socks also adapt different feet widths.

Size XL:

After 65 rounds of the feet part knit needles 1-3 in ribbing. Then bring the stitches of needle 4 and needle 1 on one needle and continue in rows.

k40, turn
Ts, p39, turn,
Ts, p38, turn,
Ts, k37, turn,
Ts, k36, turn,
Ts, p35, turn,
Ts, p34, turn,
Ts, k33, turn,
(...)
Ts, k20, turn
Ts, p19, turn,
Ts, p18, turn,
Ts, k17, turn,
Ts, k16, turn,
Ts, p15, turn,
Ts, p14, turn,
Ts, k7.

Separate the heel stitches on two needles (needle 4 and needle 1) again and continue in rounds.

Needle 1: k20, while knitting the Ts as normal knit stitches.

Needle 2 & needle 3: work in 2-2 ribbing.

Needle 4: k20, while knitting the Ts as normal knit stitches.

Needle 1: k20

Needle 2 & needle 3: work in 2-2 ribbing.

Bring stitches from needles 4 and 1 on one needle and continue in rows.

k28,turn

Ts, k15, turn,

Ts, k16, turn

Ts, p17, turn,

Ts, p18, turn,

Ts, k19, turn,

Ts, k20, turn

(...)

Ts, p34, turn,

Ts, k35, turn,

Ts, k36,turn,

Ts, p37, turn,

Ts, p38,turn,

Ts, 5 x (k2, p2)

(„Turnstitches“ are something you make to prevent holes on the turningpoints. I am using a method from the German webside from Junghans-wool: You slip a stitch as if to purl. The working yarn is at the front. Then you pull the yarn very strong to the back, the stitch will be torn to the back and there will be two loops on the needle, looking as if there were two stitches. When you knit or purl that stitch later you knit those two loops as if you would knit(purl) two together. Since it is only one stitch the number of stitches does not change that way.)

Cuff:

Distribute the stitches again evenly on four needles and continue in 2-2 ribbing for 53 (63/ 70) rounds.

BO loosely in ribbint.

Weave in ends.

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Thank you