

# Yarnscape's Sock Recipe

(easy, top-down socks)

This top-down sock recipe uses two different kinds of ribbing, a short-row heel and the easiest of toes – a star toe. 1x1 ribbing in the cuff provides fine visual detail and a cuff that stays up; switching



to 3x1 ribbing for the leg makes it faster to work, but still with good stretch and 'cling'.

The short row heel is easy to remember, and looks like the heels you see on machine made socks. It fits most people comfortably and without seams. And the 'star' toe is not only easy, but it also looks good and feels great. As a bonus, it doesn't have to line up with the heel!

## Ingredients

- 1 skein 'Footsie', Footsie-HT' or 'Dance!'
- 1 set of five 2.5 mm double-pointed needles, or size needed to get gauge
- 1 darning needle

## Gauge and fit

9 stitches per inch in 3x1 rib. Row gauge is not critical for this pattern.

## Sizes

This pattern is provided in three sizes: small, medium and large. The sizes refer to the width of your foot, not the length. You can simply knit the sock as long as you want! To work out your size, measure around right around your foot at the ball:

Size	Foot circumference
Small	8.5 inches
Medium	9.25 inches
Large	10 inches

If you are between sizes, consider how you like your socks to fit. (I prefer mine snug, so they don't slide around in my shoes.)

## Cast on

Cast on 44[52, 60] stitches, using a stretchy cast on method and leaving at least two inches of 'tail'. If you have problems because your cast on edge is too tight, try working the cast-on using a needle one or two sizes larger, or casting on with a double thickness of yarn.

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[A **note**: Most sock patterns tell you to start working in the round as soon as you have cast on. I find it easier to join the stitches into a round without twisting if I have knit a couple of rows first. The little 'gap' is easily joined using the cast-on tail when you are done. If you don't like this idea, simply join the stitches into the round immediately after casting on, and follow the pattern from there.]

**Row 1:** \* P1 K1 repeat from \* to end. Turn work.

**Row 2:** \*P1 K1; repeat from \* to end of row.

Distribute the stitches evenly over four of your needles. Arrange the needles so that the first stitch of the round is next to the last, making sure that the row is not twisted. Join the stitches into a round as follows:

- Slip the first stitch in the row onto the needle holding the last stitch in the row.
- Slip the last stitch of the row over the first stitch, and back onto the other needle.

The first and last stitches have now swapped places, and the stitches have been joined into a circle.

## Leg

**Next round:** \* P1 K1; repeat from \* to end of round.

This round sets the pattern for 1x1 ribbing. Continue working in this pattern until the cuff is 2 inches long.

**Next round:** \* P1 K3; repeat from \* to end of round.

This row sets the pattern for 3x1 ribbing. Continue working in this pattern until the leg measures 7 inches from the cast on edge.



## Heel – decrease rows

**Row 1:** Work 21[25, 29] stitches of the next round in pattern, starting and finishing with a purl stitch. Place these stitches onto a single needle, and ignore them for now. The heel will be worked over the remaining 23[27, 31] stitches.

Knit 22[26, 30] stitches. Wrap the next stitch and turn the work (w&t) as follows:

- Slip the next stitch onto the right hand needle.
- Pass the yarn to the right side of the work.
- Turn your knitting round, and slip the same stitch back onto the other needle.

You have now wrapped one stitch, and you're ready to go back the other way!

**Row 2:** Purl 21[25, 29] stitches, w&t.

**Row 3:** Knit 20[24, 28] stitches, w&t.

**Row 4:** Purl 19[23, 27] stitches, w&t.

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Keep going, working one less stitch per row, until....

**Row 16[18, 20]:** Purl 7[9, 11] stitches, w&t.

## Heel – increase rows

**Row 1:** Knit 7[9, 11] stitches. Lift the wrap around the next stitch and place it on the left hand needle. Knit the wrap together with its stitch; then w&t the next stitch (**note:** this stitch will already have one wrap, from the decrease rows).

**Row 2:** Purl 8[10, 12] stitches. Lift the wrap around the next stitch and place it on the left hand needle. Purl the wrap together with its stitch; then w&t the next stitch.

**Row 3:** Knit 9[11, 13] stitches. Lift the *two* wraps around the next stitch and place them on the left hand needle. Knit the wraps together with their stitch; then w&t the next stitch.

**Row 4:** Purl 10[12, 14] stitches. Lift the *two* wraps around the next stitch and place them on the left hand needle. Purl the wraps together with their stitch; then w&t the next stitch.



Repeat the last two rows, working one more stitch and its wraps on the end of each row before wrapping and turning, until...

**Row 16[18, 20]:** Purl 22[26, 30] stitches. Lift the *two* wraps around the next stitch and place them on the left hand needle. Knit the wraps together with their stitch.

**Row 17[19, 21]:** Knit 23[27, 31] stitches.

Hooray!! You've finished the heel!

## Foot

Now it's time to remember those stitches you've been ignoring. They will be the top of the sock; the ones you used to work the heel will be used to work the sole. Redistribute your stitches so the 'sole'



stitches are on two needles, and your 'top' stitches are on the other two. You will work the top of the foot in 3x1 rib for a good fit, and the sole of the foot in stocking stitch for comfort. Including a purl stitch at each side of the ribbing section makes a neat transition between the stitch patterns.

[**Another note:** Some sensitive folks find hand-knit socks more comfortable if they have the smoothest part of the sole on the inside. If you have very sensitive feet, you may like to work purl stitches across the sole of the foot instead of knit stitches.]

**Next round:** P1 \*K3 P1; repeat from \* 5[6, 7] times (across 'top')

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needles). K23 [27, 31] (across 'sole' needles).

Keep repeating this round until the sole of your sock measures about 1[1.5, 2] inches less than your foot length (from the back of your heel to the tip of your longest toe).

Guess what? You're nearly done: it's time to work the toe!

## Toe

Redistribute your stitches so you have 11[13, 15] stitches on each needle.

**Round 1:** \*K9 [11, 13], K2tog. Repeat from \* three more times.

**Round 2:** Knit all stitches.

Continue in this decrease pattern for 8[12, 16] more rows. On odd numbered rounds, knit until there are two stitches remaining on the needle, then knit them together. On even numbered rounds, knit all stitches. You should now have six stitches on each needle.

**Round 11[15, 19]:** \*K4, K2tog. Repeat from \* three more times.

**Round 12[16, 20]:** \*K3, K2tog. Repeat from \* three more times.

**Round 13[17, 21]:** \*K2, K2tog. Repeat from \* three more times.

**Round 14[18, 22]:** \*K, K2tog. Repeat from \* three more times.



Break off the yarn, leaving about six inches (or less, depending on how brave you are!). Use a darning needle to thread the tail through the remaining 8 stitches, and pull tight. Weave in ends.



[The dog in the main pattern photograph is **Woody**. He wasn't part of my plans for the photoshoot, but he had other ideas. As soon as you sit down, he wants to be there – on your lap, if at all possible. He's a rescue, with a lot of scars, but he still thinks he's a 25 kilo lapdog, and top of his wishlist is More Cuddles Please.]