

Sibling Socks

by the [Knitting Pirate](#)

This snugly-fitting ribbed sock design grew from a shortage of fine-gauge sock patterns. I was working with Trekking XXL to make a pair of socks for my sworn-brother Michael. When I swatched on size 0 needles, I got an gauge of 45 stitches to 4 inches - somewhat incredible, since most of the sock patterns I've seen are written for more like 32 stitches to 4 inches. I decided that I would just design a pattern for this fine yarn, and I called it "Brother's Socks."



After I knit the same pattern in a slightly smaller size for myself, they were given a new name - "Sibling Socks" - and I am pleased to be able to share the pattern in both sizes! The ribbing means these would be great gift socks even if you don't know your recipient's exact width, since it will stretch to accommodate his or her foot.

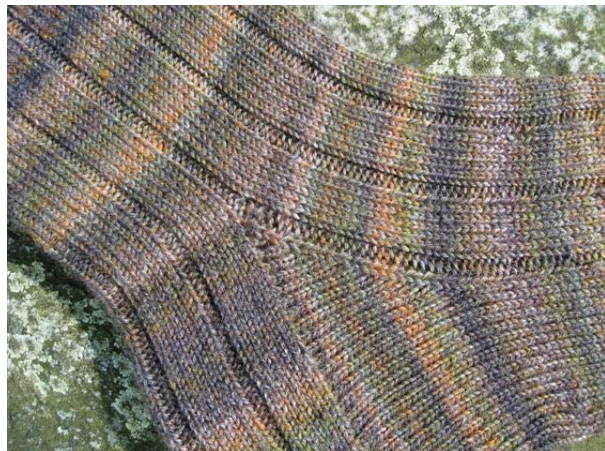
SIZE: M [L] (blue colorway #71 shown in size L, brown colorway #90 in size M)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS: To fit a foot that's 8.25 [9.5] inches around at widest point.

YARN: Trekking XXL [75% wool, 25% nylon; 100g/459 yards] or any other light fingering weight yarn to get gauge. I needed 1.25 balls of Trekking to knit the larger size, because they'd been requested with longer legs. You could probably get away with only one ball if you make the leg shorter or if you have smaller feet. I made the leg shorter on the smaller size, and had plenty of yarn left over.

GAUGE: 45 sts/42 rounds = 4" in stockinette stitch

AND ALSO: five US 0/2mm double-point needles and a stitch marker.



CUFF AND LEG

Cast on 80 [96] stitches and divide them in groups of eight over 4 needles. Join, being careful not to twist stitches. PM at beginning of round.

Work K2, P2 ribbing for 2 inches or desired length.

Change to K6, P2 ribbing and work until sock measures 6 inches or desired length.

Rotate stitches to center the pattern: Slip one stitch from the beginning of each needle to the end of the needle before. Having a purl stitch on either side of the heel flap will give it a smooth finished edge, and there will be a purl 'gutter' on either side of the instep down to the toe.

HEEL FLAP

40 [48] stitches will be set aside (Needles 2 and 3) for the instep.

Knit across Needle 1. Turn, sl 1, and purl 39 [47] stitches (all the stitches on Needles 1 and 4).

Knit heel flap in rib pattern -

Row 1: sl 1, (k6, p2 across) to last stitch, p1

Row 2: sl 1, (p6, k2 across) to last stitch, k1

Repeat until there are a total of 36 heel flap rows.

HEEL TURN

Knit 24 [30] stitches, SSK, k1, turn.

Slip 1, purl 9 [15], p2tog, p1, turn.

Slip 1, knit 10 [16], SSK, k1, turn.

Slip 1, purl to one stitch before gap, p2tog across gap, p1, turn.

Repeat until all stitches have been worked, ending on a purl row. 24 [32] stitches remain.

Knit across to end of Needle 1.

GUSSETS

With a new needle, pick up 19 stitches, one through each slipped stitch on the edge of heel flap. To avoid a gap at the top of the gusset, also pick up two stitches in the row below, through the purl bumps of the stitches between the heel flap and the instep stitches.

Work in rib pattern across the instep stitches, Needles 2 and 3.

With another new needle, pick up two stitches in the row below, through the purl bumps of the stitches between the heel flap and the instep stitches. Then pick up 19 stitches, one through each slipped stitch on the edge of heel flap. With the same needle, knit to the center of the heel.

Slip the other half of the heel stitches onto the first needle. You will have:

half of the heel stitches and the first group of picked-up gusset stitches on Needle 1;

the ribbed instep stitches across Needles 2 and 3;

and the second group of gusset stitches and the second half of the heel stitches on Needle 4.

Decreasing -

In the first decrease round, the extra picked up stitches will be taken care of and put into the instep.

Needle 1: Knit to last 2 stitches, p2tog. Slip this new stitch to the start of Needle 2.

Needle 2 and 3: Work across in rib pattern. Purl the first two stitches on Needle 4 together onto the end of Needle 3.

Needle 4: Knit.

Now, the regular decrease rounds.

Gusset Round 1 -

Needle 1: Knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1.

Needles 2 and 3: Work across in rib pattern.

Needle 4: K1, SSK, knit to end.

Gusset Round 2 -

Knit even around.

Decrease every other round until 80 [96] stitches remain: 38 [46] sole stitches and 42 [50] ribbed instep stitches.

INSTEP

Work around in rib pattern until sock measures 2 inches less than total foot length.

TOE

Slip one purl stitch from the beginning of Needle 2 to the end of Needle 1. Slip one purl stitch from the end of Needle 3 to the beginning of Needle 4. There will be 20 [24] stitches on each needle.

Toe Round 1 -

Needle 1: Knit to 3 sts from end, k2tog, k1.

Needle 2: K1, SSK, knit to end.

Needle 3: Knit to 3 sts from end, k2tog, k1.

Needle 4: K1, SSK, knit to end.

Toe Round 2 -

Knit one round even.

Repeat the two toe rounds until 20 [28] total stitches remain. Place stitches on two needles and graft together. Weave in loose ends and enjoy your new socks!

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