

# Cakewalk Socks

by the [Knitting Pirate](#)

These simple socks are a piece of cake to knit - thus the name! They fit snugly thanks to the ribs, and would make a great gift for anyone. The ribbing continues down the back of the heel flap, and there's no break in the purl 'gutter' between the leg and the foot of the sock.

Heel and toe numbers are provided for three different sizes.



**SIZE:** M [L, XL]

**FINISHED MEASUREMENTS:** To fit a foot that's 8.5 [9.25, 10] inches around at widest point. The ribbing is stretchy and quite forgiving, so erring on the small side is all right.

**YARN:** Cascade Heritage or any fingering-weight yarn you like. Both sample socks were knit using Cascade Heritage Paints. The royal blue sock uses the "Isle of Skye" colourway, and the green socks were knit in "Teal Mix."

**GAUGE:** 36 stitches = four inches/10 cm (9 spi)

**AND ALSO:** five US 1/2.25mm double-point needles or size needed to get gauge, darning needle.

## **CUFF**

Loosely cast on 64 [72, 80] stitches onto four needles. Join, being careful not to twist, and work in twisted rib (\*ktbl, p1\* around) for twenty rounds, approximately two inches.

## **LEG**

Switch to ribbing pattern (\*k3, p1\* around) and work until the leg is six inches long, or your desired length.

## **HEEL FLAP**

The heel flap will be worked over 33 [37, 41] stitches, beginning and ending with a purl stitch. Set aside 31 [35, 39] stitches for the instep. Using a purl stitch on the selvedge will give a continuous look to the ribbing pattern all the way down the heel. Slipping the first stitch with the yarn in front (on RS rows) and in back (on WS rows) keeps the slipped stitch open to make it easier to pick up gusset stitches later.

Row 1: slip 1 wyif, \*k3, p1\* to end.

Row 2: slip 1 wyib, \*p3, k1\* to end.

Repeat these two rounds until you have a total of 32 [36, 40] heel flap rows.

## **HEEL TURN**

Row 1: k19 [21, 23], ssk, k1, turn

Row 2: slip 1, p7, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 3: slip 1, k8, ssk, k1, turn

Row 4: slip 1, p9, p2tog, p1, turn

Continue in this manner (working one more stitch each row) until all stitches have been worked, ending on a purl row. Slip 1, knit across. 21 [23, 25] stitches remain.

## **GUSSETS**

With a new needle (Needle 1), pick up 16 [18, 20] stitches, one through each slipped stitch on the edge of the heel flap. To avoid a gap at the top of the gusset, also pick up two stitches in the row below, one each through the left and right legs of the stitches next to the heel flap and the instep stitches.

Knit in ribbed pattern across the instep stitches on Needles 2 and 3.

With a new needle (Needle 4), pick up two stitches in the row below, one each through the left and right legs of the stitches next to the instep stitches and the heel flap. Then pick up 16 [18, 20] stitches, one through each slipped stitch on the edge of heel flap. With the same needle, knit to the center of the heel stitches. Slip the other half of the heel stitches onto the first needle. You will now have:

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

the instep stitches across Needles 2 and 3; and

the second group of picked-up 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 purled together, and will then be added back to the instep stitches.

Needle 1: k to last 2 stitches, p2tog (see note below)

Needles 2 and 3: work across in ribbing pattern

Needle 4: p2tog onto the end of Needle 3, then on Needle 4, k to end

*NOTE:* Shifting the first purl stitch from the beginning of Needle 2 to the end of Needle 1 will help to avoid ladders between needles, but don't count the purl stitch as belonging to Needle 1 while you're working the gusset decreases – remember that it belongs to the instep stitches.

Gusset Round 1 -

Needle 1: Knit  
Needles 2 and 3: work in ribbing pattern.  
Needle 4: Knit

Gusset Round 2 -

Needle 1: k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1  
Needles 2 and 3: work in ribbing pattern  
Needle 4: k1, ssk, k to end

Repeat those two rounds until 64 [72, 80] stitches remain. After the decreases, you will have 31 [35, 39] sole stitches in stockinette (Needles 4 and 1), and 33 [37, 41] ribbed instep stitches (Needles 2 and 3), beginning and ending with a purl stitch.

## **FOOT**

Work the ribbing pattern on the instep and stockinette stitch on the sole, until the foot of your sock is two inches shorter than the total length of your foot.

## **TOE**

If you shifted the first purl stitch from Needle 2 to Needle 1, shift it back now so that all the instep stitches are on Needles 2 and 3. In the first round of decreases, stitches are removed from the instep only, so that there are the same number of sole and instep stitches.

Needle 1: Knit  
Needle 2: k1, ssk, knit to end  
Needle 3: k to last three stitches, k2tog, k1  
Needle 4: Knit. 62 [70, 78] stitches remain.

Toe Round 1 -

Knit one round even.

Toe Round 2 -

Needle 1: k to last three stitches, k2tog, k1.  
Needle 2: k1, ssk, knit to end.  
Needle 3: k to last three stitches, k2tog, k1.  
Needle 4: k1, ssk, knit to end.

Repeat the two toe rounds until 18 [22, 24] total stitches remain. (Try the sock on as you get towards the end to get an exact length.) Knit to the end of Needle 1. Place all sole stitches onto one needle, all instep stitches onto a second needle, and graft the end of the toe. Weave in any loose ends and enjoy your new socks!

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