

Toe-up Socks With a Difference

A toe-up sock that features gusset increases on the bottom of the foot instead of on the sides.

Wendy D. Johnson

Size: Medium: 8.25" around

Gauge: 8 stitches and 12 rows per inch in stockinette stitch

Needles: 2 US size 0 (2mm) circular needles (see note below) 16" or longer, or size to attain gauge

Yarn: Fingering weight sock yarn (approximately 350 – 400 yards)



Abbreviations:

K – knit

K2TOG – knit 2 together

KFB – knit in the front and back of the next stitch

M1 – make one

P – purl

P2TOG – purl 2 together

PFB – purl in the front and back of the next stitch

PSSO – pass slipped stitch over

SL – slip

SSK – Slip one stitch, then slip the next. Insert left needle into the front loops of the slipped stitches and knit them together from this position (through the back loops)

W&T – Wrap and turn. Bring yarn to front of work between needles, slip next stitch to right-hand needle, bring yarn around this stitch to back of work, slip stitch back to left-hand needle, turn your work to begin working back in the other direction.

YO – yarnover

Note:

When you work the “make 1” increases for the toe and the gusset, you can do a lifted increase, or knit in the front and back of a stitch, whichever you prefer. I prefer the “knit in the front and back of a stitch” method – I find it makes a neater increase with no hole.

Toe:

Using a toe-up cast-on method like the Turkish, Figure-8, or Judy’s Magic cast-on, cast on a total of 32 stitches –16 on each needle. Knit across the stitches on each needle once. On the next round increase 4 stitches thusly:

Needle 1: K 1, M1, knit until the last stitch, M1, K1

Needle 2: K 1, M1, knit until the last stitch, M1, K1

Then knit a round without increasing.

Repeat these 2 rounds until you have a total of 64 stitches: 32 on each needle.

Note: If you prefer a pointier toe, you can cast on fewer stitches, but be sure to increase until you have 32 stitches on each of the two needles.

Knit until approximately 3" shy of the total length of the foot.

Create the Gusset:

Round 1: Knit across Needle 1. Needle 2: (sole stitches): K16, increase 1 stitch by picking up and knitting the bar between the 16th and 17th stitch, twisting as you knit, K16. (33 stitches total)

Round 2 and all even numbered rounds: Knit all stitches.

Round 3: Knit across Needle 1. Needle 2: (sole stitches): K15, (KFB) twice, K16. (35 stitches total)

Round 5: Knit across Needle 1. Needle 2: (sole stitches): K15, (KFB) K2, KFB, K16. (37 stitches total)

Round 7: Knit across Needle 1. Needle 2: (sole stitches): K15, (KFB) K4, KFB, K16. (39 stitches total)

Continue in this manner until you have 55 stitches total on Needle 2, end after an even round. Work across the stitches on Needle 1.

Turn the Heel:

You will now work back and forth on the stitches on Needle 2 and will not knit the stitches on Needles 1 while turning the heel. Turn heel as follows:

Row 1: (RS) K 37, KFB, K1, W&T

Row 2: P 22, PFB, P1, W&T

Row 3: K 20, KFB, K1, W&T

Row 4: P 18, PFB, P1, W&T

Row 5: K 16, KFB, K1, W&T

Row 6: P 14, PFB, P1, W&T

Row 7: K 12, KFB, K1, W&T

Row 8: P 10, PFB, P1, W&T

Needle 2 now holds 63 stitches, having just completed a wrong-side row. On the right side, knit to the end of Needle 2, knitting each wrap together with the stitch it wraps. Work across instep stitches on Needle 1.

Heel flap: Work back and forth on heel stitches:

Row 1 (RS): K 47 (knitting each wrap together with the stitch it wraps), SSK, turn

Row 2: SL 1, P 31, P2TOG, turn

Row 3: [SL 1, K 1] 16 times, SSK, turn

Repeat Rows 2-3 until all side stitches have been worked, end having worked row 2. Needle 2 now holds 33 stitches.

Begin working in the round again, decreasing 1 stitch in the middle of Needle 2.

When your sock is 1 inch short of the desired leg length, work in K1 P1 ribbing for 1 inch. Bind off very loosely in rib.

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