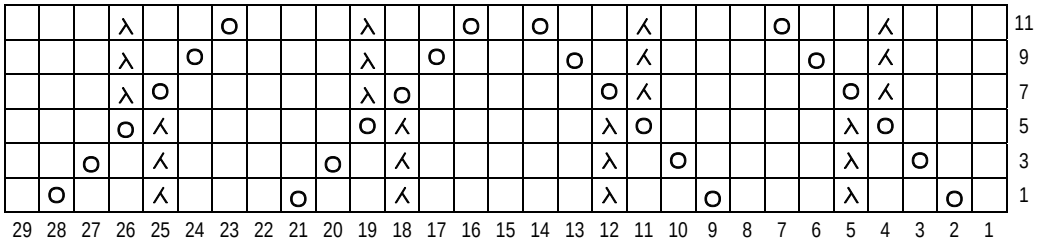
Halcyon Socks

Wendy D. Johnson

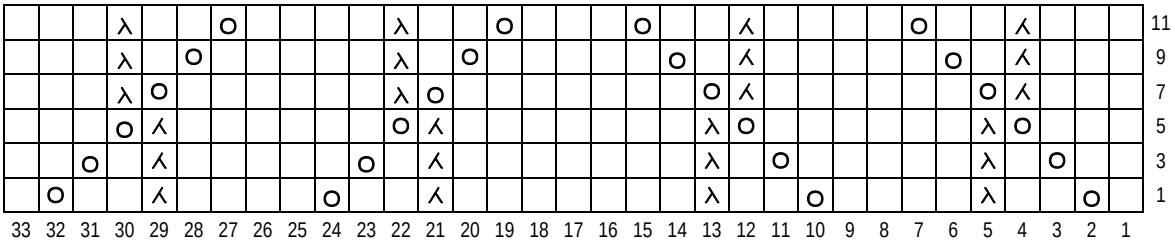
Size: Small (Medium, Large): 7.25” (8.25”, 9.25”) around
Gauge: 8 stitches and 12 rows per inch in stockinette stitch on smaller needles
Needles: 2 US size 0 (2mm) circular needles (see note below) 16” or longer, or size to attain gauge
Yarn: Fingering weight sock yarn (approximately 350 – 400 yards)

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)
TBL – through back loops
W&T – Wrap and turn. Bring yarn to front of work between needles, slip next stitch to the right needle, bring yarn around this stitch to back of work, slip stitch back to the left needle, Turn your work to begin working back in the other direction and slip the wrapped stitch unworked from the left to right needle
YO– yarnover

Pattern Chart Small



Pattern Chart Medium



Pattern Chart Large

				λ			O						λ			O				O			ʎ						O			ʎ					11
				λ		O							λ		O						O		ʎ							O		ʎ					9
				λ	O								λ	O								O	ʎ								O	ʎ					7
				O	ʎ								O	ʎ								λ	O								λ	O					5
			O		ʎ							O		ʎ								λ		O							λ		O				3
		O			ʎ						O			ʎ								λ			O						λ			O			1
37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Chart Key

	K
O	YO
λ	SSK
ʎ	K2tog

Notes:
This pattern is written for two circular needles. You can convert it to dpns by dividing the stitches over 4 dpns.

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.

(The pattern repeat for this chart is 12 rows. Note that only odd-numbered rows are shown on the chart – even numbered rows are all plain knit.)

Toe:
Using the Turkish Cast-on method, (or another toe-up cast-on method like the Judy’s Magic Cast-on – see reference list at the end of the pattern), cast on a total of 26 (30, 34) stitches – 13 (15, 17) 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 58, (66, 74) stitches: 29 (33, 37) on each needle.

Note: If you prefer a pointier toe, you can cast on fewer stitches, but be sure to increase until you have 29 (33, 37) stitches on each of the two needles.

Start the lace pattern: On Needle 1. Work the first row of the appropriate chart for the size you are making over the next 29 (33, 37) stitches. Knit across Needle 2.

Continue in this manner, working as many repeats of the chart as necessary until approximately 3” shy of the total length of the foot.

Create the Gusset:
Round 1: Work across Needle 1 in the lace pattern. Needle 2: (sole stitches): K1, M1, knit across to the last stitch, M1, K1.
Round 2: Work across Needle 1 in the lace pattern. Needle 2: (sole stitches): Knit all stitches.
Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until you have 49 (55, 61) stitches total on Needle 2. Work across Needle 1 in pattern.

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) K33 (37, 41), KFB, K1, W&T
Row 2: P 20 (22, 24), PFB, P1, W&T
Row 3: K 18 (20, 22), KFB, K1, W&T
Row 4: P 16 (18, 20), PFB, P1, W&T
Row 5: K 14 (16, 18), KFB, K1, W&T
Row 6: P 12 (14, 16), PFB, P1, W&T
Row 7: K 10 (12, 14), KFB, K1, W&T
Row 8: P 8 (10, 12), PFB, P1, W&T

Needle 2 now holds 57 (63, 69) 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 in the lace pattern.

Heel flap: Work back and forth on heel stitches on Needle 2:
Row 1 (RS): K 42 (47, 52) (knitting each wrap together with the stitch it wraps), SSK, turn
Row 2: SL 1, P 27 (31, 35), P2TOG, turn
Row 3: [SL 1, K 1] 14 (16, 18) times, SSK, turn

Repeat Rows 2-3 until all side stitches have been worked, end having worked Row 2. Turn your work and knit across, decreasing 2 stitches evenly on this row. Needle 2 now holds 27 (31, 35) stitches

Begin working in the round again. Work the stitches on Needle 1 as established above. Work the lace pattern over Needle 2 as you did on Needle 1, ensuring that you are starting in the right place on the chart so that it corresponds with the chart on Needle 1. 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.

References for Creating Toes for Toe-Up Socks
For an online article on different techniques for creating toes for toe-up socks, see my article in the Winter 2002 edition of Knitty, *Tip Top Toes*: http://www.knitty.com/issuewinter02/FEATtiptoptoes.html

For a good tutorial on the Turkish cast-on, see this article from misocrafty:
http://misocrafty.squarespace.com/journal/2006/1/30/turkish-cast-on-tutorial.html

For Judy's Magic Cast-on (my personal favorite), see:
http://www.persistentillusion.com/blogblog/index.php?page_id=500

Bind-offs for Toe-Up Socks
In the pattern, you are directed to bind off very loosely. There are several ways to achieve this.

One way is simply to use a needle a couple of sizes larger than the one used to knit the sock.

Another method is Elizabeth Zimmermann's Stretchy Sewn Cast-off. There is a nice tutorial for this method on the Socknitters website here: http://www.socknitters.com/toe-up/lessonsix.htm

Yet another method is a variation of a Russian bind-off. This is the one I use most of the time. I execute it thusly:

K2, slip these 2 sts back to the lefthand needle, K2TOG, *K1, SL 2 sts on righthand needle back to the lefthand needle, K2TOG *. Repeat from * to *.

I've seen it stated that you work it in purl all the way around, or in knit all the way around. When I am doing a ribbed cuff on a sock, I do the bind-off in ribbing, so I knit the knits and purl the purls. When it comes to working the 2 stitches together, I work it knit or purl, depending on what the second stitch of the two is.

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