

Temptation Top-Down Socks



Wendy D. Johnson

These socks are knit from the top-down with an interesting heel construction – a slipstitch heel that is worked in reverse of the heel in my toe-up sock pattern. If you don't want to have to count the rows as you knit the heel flap or pick up gusset stitches along the flap, this is the heel for you: no counting rows, no picking up stitches.

Sizes: Medium (Large) 8.25" (9.25") around

Gauge: 8 stitches and 12 rows per inch

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

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: This pattern is written for using 2 circular needles. You can easily work it on dpns by dividing the stitches over 4 needles.

Cast on 66 (74) stitches: 33 (37) on each needle. Work in rib for an inch, or length desired.

Begin working in stockinette stitch (knit every round) or whatever stitch pattern you desire for 6 inches, or desired length of leg.

Create the Heel and Gusset:

Note: When you work the “make 1” increases for 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.

Round 1: Work across Needle 1 (instep stitches) in stockinette stitch or your pattern. Needle 2: (heel stitches): K1, M1, [SL 1, K 1] 15 (17) times, SL1, K1, M1.

Round 2: Work across Needle 1 in stockinette or your pattern. Needle 2: (heel stitches): Knit all stitches.

Round 3: Work across Needle 1 (instep stitches) in stockinette or your pattern. Needle 2: (heel stitches): K1, M1, K1 [SL 1, K 1] 15 (17) times, SL1, K1, M1, K1.

Round 4: As Round 2

Round 5: Work across Needle 1 (instep stitches) in stockinette stitch or your pattern. Needle 2: (heel stitches): K2, M1, K1 [SL 1, K 1] 15 (17) times, SL1, K1, M1, K2.

Round 6: As Round 2

Continue in this manner, increasing 1 stitch on each side of the 33 (37) heel stitches, until you have 55 (61) stitches total on Needle 2.

Turn the Heel:

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

Row 1: (RS) K 37 (41), KFB, K1, W&T

Row 2: P 22 (24), PFB, P1, W&T

Row 3: K 20 (22), KFB, K1, W&T

Row 4: P 18 (20), PFB, P1, W&T

Row 5: K 16 (18), KFB, K1, W&T

Row 6: P 14 (16), PFB, P1, W&T

Row 7: K 12 (14), KFB, K1, W&T

Row 8: P 10 (12), PFB, P1, W&T

Needle 2 now holds 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.

Now decrease the gusset stitches as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K 47 (52) (knitting each wrap together with the stitch it wraps), SSK, turn
Row 2: SL 1, P 31 (35), P2TOG, turn
Row 3: SL 1, K 31 (35), SSK, turn

Repeat Rows 2-3 until all side stitches have been worked, end having worked Row 2. Needle 2 now holds 33 (37) stitches.

Now work straight down the foot until approximately 1½ -- 2 inches shy of the total length of the foot.

Toe:

Decrease as follows:

Needle 1: K 1, SSK, knit until the last 3 stitches, K2TOG, K1

Needle 2: K 1, SSK, knit until the last 3 stitches, K2TOG, K1

Then knit a round without decreasing.

Repeat these 2 rounds until you have a total of 13 (15) stitches on each needle.

Note: If you prefer a pointier toe, you can decrease down to fewer stitches.

Graft the remaining stitches together and weave in all ends.

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