

Pinstripe Socks UnPattern

Too Much Wool (Cassandra Thoreson)

Yarn – anything you please

Needles – any needles that work with your yarn

Gauge – knitter's choice

Size – it all depends on the above

Cast on 64 sts, using needles larger than what you will use to knit the sock. My default is .5mm larger. Alternately, you can cast onto two needles held together, using your chosen needle size.

Cuff

Row 1: K3, *P2, K2* around, end with K3

Row 2: knit all stitches

Repeat the above two row cuff pattern for as long as you like, until you get bored, or until cuff is desired length.

Leg

Row 1: K3, *P2, K6*, end round with K3

Row 2: knit all stitches.

Repeat rows 1-2 until leg is desired length. End with Row 2.

[Alternately – you could, if you wanted to, continue the cuff pattern down the leg. But that's an awful lot of knit/purl patterning, and could get tedious. I suggest following the above directions.]

Heel Flap

Rearrange stitches for heel as follows:

Arrange the first 32 sts of the round onto a needle for the heel. Leave the other stitches alone until after the heel flap. They will be turned into a foot later on.

Knit heel flap:

Row 1 (RS): *slip 1 st (purlwise), K1*, repeat across heel sts

Row 2: (WS): slip 1, purl across

Repeat these 2 rows until heel flap is a length that pleases you. My default heel flap is 4 rows beyond half the number of sts in the heel flap itself. (i.e., for a 64 st sock, the 32 st heel flap will be 18 slipped sts, or 36 rows, long). Your mileage and gauge using slipped sts may vary. Please adjust according to your personal preferences for length of heel.

Turn Heel

When ready to turn heel, please proceed with the following:

K18, ssk, K1, turn

Slip1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn

Then...

Row 1: slip1, knit to within one st of gap, ssk, k1, turn

Row 2: slip1, purl to within one stitch of gap, p1, turn

When you're done, and have used up all of the stitches in the heel flap, you should have 18 sts left. If you don't, you probably did something wrong and should rip and start over again.

Gusset:

Knit across heel sts, pick up and knit (through the back loop/TBL) sts along the first side of the heel flap for the gusset. If I have 18 slipped sts in the heel flap, I pick up that number **plus two**, to avoid any gaps. In other words, 20 sts picked up for a 36 row/18 slipped-stitch heel flap.

Knit across sts for foot. NB: this is Row 1 of foot patterning:

Choice #1: you can continue the K3, *P2, K6*, K3 patterning of the cuff on the foot. But personally, I don't always like having those purl stitches stuck inside my shoe, so my preference is the following...

Choice #2 (which should really be choice #1...): K3, P2, K22, P2, K3

Choice #2 gives you a simple, elegant side decoration of purl sts running down the foot. There's also less purling to think about. The choice is yours, but I'm all in favor of #2.

On second side of heel flap, pick up and knit TBL the same number of sts you picked up and knit on the first side.

Now, knit half the number of heel sts you had left (after turning the heel) onto the needle with the second side of the heel flap. This will be the new beginning of a round.

Decrease/shape gusset:

Row 1: Gusset part 1: knit to 3 sts before the end of the gusset sts, K2tog, K1

Foot: knit foot sts in pattern, which should be plain-old knit across (32 sts)

Gusset part 2: K2, ssk, knit to end.

Row 2: knit across gusset sts (no decreases), knit foot in pattern (choice #1 or #2, but stick with your choice), knit across gusset sts (no decreases).

In other words, your first row will have decreases for the gusset, and be row #2 (plain, no purling) of the foot pattern. Your non-decrease rows for the gusset will be the simple purl patterning across the foot. Decrease gusset/plain foot, no decrease/foot pattern. Very easy to remember.

Foot

When gusset sts are decreased to the point where you have the original number of sts cast on (that would be 64), you will continue the foot patterning down the length of the foot. It's just a two row pattern, so this should be easy at this point in the sock.

Toe

Continue foot in pattern until it makes sense to stop purling. Personally, I don't like to have purl sts too close to the toe. I usually stop any pattern by the time the sock gets to the base of my pinky toe. Your toes, however, may be configured differently than mine, so this is a personal choice.

Decreasing for the toe:

Different people have different preferences here. Some like spiral decreases, some like paired/mirrored decreases. Some like to graft/kitchener stitch their toes at the end, while others prefer decreasing down to 8 sts and gathering it all up at the end.

The way I like to do it (paired and mirrored decreases with a gathered toe):

Decrease alternate rows (1 row w/decrease, one row w/out) until there are 8 sts left on each needle. After that, decrease every row until 8 sts remain (2 on each needle if you're using 4 needles). Cut yarn and weave the end in through the 8 remaining sts. Pull tightly and weave in ends.