

Colorful Socks

Designed by Kristin Nicholas

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Sizes

Child's Large, Woman's Extra Small, Woman's Average (Man's Average). The finished circumference of the socks is 6½ (7¼, 8, 9").

Materials

Yarn: **Nashua Handknits Julia**

(50% Wool, 25% Alpaca, 25% Mohair; 93yd/85m per 50g ball)

Colors Used:

1 skein each of 3 colors

Sock One:

Color A Sock Rib - Marine Seas NHJ.1590

Color B Heel Flap - Spring Green NHJ.5185

Color C Foot of Sock - Pretty Pink NHJ.8141

Needles: One set size 6 and 7 double pointed needles or size to obtain gauge.

Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

Gauge

Stockinette Stitch knit in the round, 20 sts and 24 rows = 4" on larger needles.

Take time to save time and check your gauge.

PATTERN STITCHES

2 x 2 Rib in the round: (Over a multiple of 4 sts)

All rounds: K2, p2.

Stockinette Stitch in the round: All rounds: Knit all sts.

With Color A and 2 double pointed needles on larger needles, CO 32 (36, 40, 44) sts loosely. Loosely – loosely – if the cast-on isn't loose, you won't be able to fit it over your ankle. And a tight cast-on is a terrible thing to live with and wear.

Distribute the sts onto 3 needles taking care not to twist the sts –

For child's: 10 (11, 11) sts

For woman's extra small: 12(12,12) sts

For woman's average: 13 (13, 14) sts

For man's average: 14 (15, 15) sts

on each needle.

Join the stitches by forming the 3 needles with the sts into a triangle. Orient all the sts so that they are facing the same direction and are not twisted (the braided cast on edge goes in the same direction all the way around the triangle).

Beg knitting in the round in 2 x 2 rib. After the first 2 rounds, double check that your cast-on isn't twisted. Align all the stitches so the cast-on is below the needles. If it isn't twisted, continue. If it is twisted, rip it out and begin again.

When the rib meas 3" change to smaller needles (this will make the ankle fit snugger). Work until the rib meas 6 (6½, 7, 8)" excluding the rolled edge.

Change to Color B and begin the heel:

Split the sts in half to shape the heel. Arrange half of the sts – 16 (18, 20, 22) sts – onto one needle. (Hold the rem sts on 2 needles for the instep – you'll add them back in later. If you find the 2 needles too bothersome, slip these sts to a stitch holder or scrap of yarn.)

With Color B, beginning with the wrong side, beg heel stitch. (Heel stitch makes a fabric that is double thick so that the heel won't wear out as quickly as plain knitting).

Row 1 (WSR): K1, p to last st, k1.

Row 2 (RSR): K1, *k1, sl 1 taking care not to tighten the yarn behind the slipped st too much (which will make a ridge);* rep bet *s; end k1.

Repeat these 2 rows until heel flap meas 1½" (2, 2¼, 2½") and you have ended with a RSR.

SHAPE HEEL

Row 1 (WSR): P 11 (12, 13), p2 tog, p1, turn.

Row 2 (RSR): Slip first st, k5, sl1, k1, pss0, k1, turn.

Row 3: Slip first st, p6, p2tog, p1, turn.

Row 4: Slip first st, k7, sl1, k1, pss0, k1, turn.

Row 5: Slip first st, p8, p2tog, p1, turn.

Row 6: Slip first st, k9, sl1, k1, pss0, k1, turn.

Cont working until 12 sts remain.

Work a RSR if you did not end with one.

INSTEP

This is the point where you join the old sts from the ribbing to the heel sts. Using Color C and the needle the heel sts are on, pick up in knit st 10 (12, 12, 13) sts along the edge of the heel flap– you'll be working up towards the leftover main sock sts. With a second needle, work all the sts that were left on hold – 16 (18, 20, 22) sts. With a third needle, PU 10 (12, 12, 13) sts along the other edge of the heel flap, then work the first 6 (6, 6, 6) sts of the heel flap. You will continue working on these sts now and shape the instep using Color C.

Work 1 round plain.

Shape Instep: Work until 3 sts rem on first needle, k2tog, k1; work across next instep needle plain; at beg of next needle, K1, sl, k1, pss0 at beg, then work to end of needle. Work next round even without decreases. Cont working these two rounds until 32 (36, 40, 44) sts. Work on these sts until piece meas 6 (6½, 8, 8½)" from back of heel (where the slip sts began forming the heel). Remember to end your rounds at the middle of the heel. You'll have about 1¼ (1¾, 2, 2¼)" left to shape the toe. If you need to adjust the length of the foot, do it just before the toe shaping by making it shorter or longer.

TOE SHAPING

Change to Color C. Work until 3 sts rem on first needle, k2tog, k1; K1, sl1, k1, pss0 at beg of next needle, work across until 3 sts remain and k2tog, k1; K1, sl1, k1, pss0 at beg of third needle and work until the end of the round. Work one round plain. Continue in this manner decreasing every other round and working every second round plain until about 12 (12, 12, 16) sts rem. Place the sts from the first and third needles onto one needle. Graft the toe sts together. Weave in ends