

Basketry Socks by Diane Psota



Hint: Please read the entire pattern before casting on. There are two sizes, the small in regular print, and the larger in parenthesis. You might want to highlight the variation which applies to your sock.

Hint: This pattern should be easy for new sock knitters. However, I cannot teach you every technique needed to knit this pattern. Go to the Internet and search for Magic Loop, Long Tail Cast On, Drop Stitch Join, Picking Up Stitches, or any other technique you need to learn or refresh.

Materials: 2 (3) skeins Kroy FX Sock Yarn

*Hint: For smaller size, two skeins will make a pair of socks with 9 ½ inch length and 7 inch width foot and a 7 inch tall leg from cuff to beginning of heel flap. If any of those measurements exceed those numbers, purchase another skein. **Larger size shown in parenthesis will give you approximately ¾ inch wider sock.***

One 40 inch needle, size per your gauge

Gauge:

The size of the needles may generate a different gauge than below. Use the appropriate gauge for the circumference of your foot—see **Simple way to size** below:

on US size 2 (2.75 mm) needles = 8 stitches per inch to fit a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ (8 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$) inch foot circumference,

on US size 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ (3.0 mm) needles = 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ stitches per inch to fit a 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ (8 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$) inch foot circumference,

on US size 3 (3.25) needles = 7 stitches per inch to fit a 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 10) inch foot circumference.

Simple way to size: While you are bearing weight on your foot, measure the circumference of your foot at the widest point (usually the ball of the foot), subtract one inch so sock fits snugly, divide remainder into 54 stitches, and see which number of stitches per inch you need.

Using Long Tail Cast On, cast on 55 (61) stitches over two needles using Magic Loop (please check Internet for videos of the Magic Loop Cast On), and join with a drop stitch join--moving first stitch on first needle next to last stitch created on second needle, slipping the last stitch over the first stitch and dropping it, then moving the first stitch back to the first needle--leaving 54 (60) stitches. Place marker at beginning of row. Arrange 30 stitches for both sizes on first needle and 24 (30) stitches on the second needle with a Magic Loop pulled out between each group of stitches.

Cuff rows 1 – 13: *K tbl, P1* across row.

Hint: add or subtract rows from cuff so colors change at rows 1 and 2 and rows 7 and 8 so basket weave looks best.

Leg rows: Stitch Guide for Basket Stitch:

Rows 1 - 2: Knit

Rows 3 – 6: *K1, P4, K1*

Rows 7 – 8: Knit.

Rows 9 – 12: *P2, K2, P2*

Knit rows 1 through 12 five times, and then repeat rows 1 – 6 again. You may add or subtract repeats, but always end after row 6.

Heel Flap: Knit first stitch and move that stitch back to the previous needle. For the smaller size only, knit across 28 and move the last stitch on the first needle to the second needle. (For the larger size, knit across 29 stitches, then 5 stitches from the second needle for a total of 34 stitches). Turn and work heel on the 28 (34) stitches just worked. The stitches on this first needle start and end with 4 purl stitches on previous pattern rows.

Row 1: *Sl 1, Purl across next 27 (33) stitches.

Row 2, *Sl 1, K1* across.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until there are 28 (34) total rows.

Turn Heel: For both sizes:

Row 1: (wrong side) Sl 1, Purl 14 (17), P2tog, P1, Turn.
Row 2: Sl 1, Knit 3, SSK, K1, Turn,
Row 3, Sl 1, Purl 4, P2tog, P1, Turn.
Row 4: Sl 1, Knit 5, SSK, K1, Turn,
Row 5: Sl 1, Purl 6, P2tog, P1, Turn.
Row 6: Sl 1, Knit 7, SSK, K1, Turn,
Row 7: Sl 1, Purl 8, P2tog, P1, Turn.
Row 8: Sl 1, Knit 9, SSK, K1, Turn,
Row 9: Sl 1, Purl 10, P2tog, P1, Turn.
Row 10: Sl 1, Knit 11, SSK, K1, Turn,
Row 11: Sl 1, Purl 12, P2tog, P1, Turn.
Row 12: Sl 1, Knit 13, SSK, K1, Turn,
(For larger size only, Row 13, Sl 1, P14, P2tog, P1, Turn,
Row 14: Sl 1, Knit 15, SSK, K1, Turn,
Row 15: Sl 1, Purl 16, P2tog, P1, Turn,
Row 16: Sl 1, K 16, SSK.)

You will have a total of 16 (18) stitches for the heel.

Count your heel stitches and pull a Magic Loop between the 8 and 9 (9 and 10) stitches.

Foot rows: Stitch Guide for Basket Stitch:

Rows 1 - 2: Knit
Rows 3 – 6: *P4, K2,* P4
Rows 7 – 8: Knit.
Rows 9 – 12: P1, * K2, P4,* K2, P1.

Gusset: Using the left needle, pick up the outside loop of the slipped stitch chain on the edge of the heel flap. Pick up 15 – 16 * (17 – 18) stitches with your left stitches needle along the heel flap and knit through the back loop with your right needle.

Place marker, then pick up 1 stitch in the corner and purl it through the back loop. This purled stitch becomes the first stitch in the Basket Stitch pattern. Knit half way across the instep stitches -- 13 stitches -- in pattern as per the Foot Rows: Stitch Guide for Basket Stitch above (row 1).

Pull out second Magic Loop between stitches 13 and 14, and knit the rest of the instep stitches in pattern per row 1. Pick up one corner stitch and purl through the back loop of the corner stitch. This stitch becomes the last stitch in the Basket Stitch pattern. Place marker. The Basket Stitch will be worked on the instep between the markers.

Pick up a total of 15 – 16 * (17 – 18) stitches with your left stitches needle and knit through the back loop of the rest of the stitches with your right needle. Knit 8 (9) heel stitches to next Magic Loop. The center of the heel stitches becomes the beginning of each row.

Hint: It is best to pick up as many stitches as possible and not leave gaps along the side of the heel flap so there are no holes in the side of your socks. You can always add another repeat of the gusset decrease rows to end up with the proper number of stitches.

* If 15 (16) stitches were picked up on one side of the heel flap and 16 (17) stitches on the other, knit the two picked up stitches next to the marker together through the back loop on the side with the extra stitch. If both sides have the same number of stitches picked up, there is no need to do this decrease.

Decrease rows:

Row 1: Knit across heel and gusset stitches, slip marker (sm), knit across instep stitches in pattern, sm, knit across the rest of the row.

Row 2: (Decrease row) Knit heel and gusset stitches until 3 stitches before first marker, K2tog, K1, slip marker (sm). Knit across instep stitches in pattern, sm, K1, SSK, knit across the rest of the row.

Repeat until 56 (60) stitches remain. There are 14 (16) gusset stitches and 14 instep stitches on each needle.

Bottom of heel will look like this after gusset is complete:





Foot: For smaller size, knit across sole stitches to marker, remove marker and pull out a Magic Loop. Knit across instep stitches, removing Magic Loop in the instep stitches but pulling out a Magic Loop at the end of the instep stitches and before the sole stitches—28 stitches on each needle. (For larger size, knit across sole stitches to one stitch before the stitch marker and pull out the Magic Loop, knit one stitch, remove the marker, knit across instep stitches, remove the marker, knit one stitch, and pull out a Magic Loop—30 stitches on each needle). You will have a Magic Loop or the needle tips at both sides of the foot.

Continue to knit in pattern on the instep stitches and knit all the sole stitches until the foot is 2 inches shorter than then length of your foot, ending on row 6 or 12. If necessary, knit 1 to 6 rows between the end of row 6 or 12 so the difference between the sock foot and your foot is 2 inches. End at the beginning of the instep. This foot edge—beginning of the instep—becomes the beginning of the row.

Toes:

Row 1: (Decrease row) K1, SSK, knit across instep stitches until 3 stitches remain, K2tog, K1. Repeat the decreases on the sole stitches.

Row 2: Knit all stitches on instep and sole.

Hint for fitting your toes: If your toes are pointy, this design will fit you well. If your toes are more straight across, knit more stockinette rows after the pattern and before the decreases. Stop decreasing when the toes of your sock match the shape of your toes. Always try on your socks before you Kitchener the stitches together!

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until 20 (24) stitches remain, 10 (12) on each needle, ending with row 1. Kitchener toe stitches together. Please see Internet videos for the explanation you can follow or check your favorite sock book for instructions.

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