



## Banyan Tree Socks

Designed by Debbie O'Neill  
Exclusively for  
The Loopy Ewe



Banyan trees are large, leafy trees in the fig family that grow aerial prop roots – above-ground roots extending from the leafy tops down, sometimes joining into the main trunk.

**Sizes:** Women's small (medium, large), leg circumference approximately 7 (8.25, 9.5)" unstretched. Sample shown in size medium.

**Materials:**

- 2 skeins The Loopy Ewe Solid Series (100% superwash merino; 2oz; 220yds) or similar fingering weight yarn. Sample shown in color Celery.
- 1 set of size US0 (2.0mm) double point knitting needles (or size required for gauge)
- Cable needle
- Tapestry needle

**Gauge:** 34 sts and 52 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch. For additional sizes, try working at 32 or 36 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch.





Heel: Work the next 29 (35, 39) sts continuing in the established Roots pattern by working row 1. These 29 (35, 39) sts are the heel flap. The remaining 31 (35, 41) sts will be the instep sts and will be worked later. Turn work to begin working the heel flap.

Work the heel flap by repeating rows 1-4 of the Roots pattern, slipping the first stitch of every row, until there are 16 (18, 20) chain stitches along each edge of the heel flap.

To turn the heel:

Row 1: K 17 (20, 22), ssk, k1. Turn work.

Row 2: Sl 1, p 6, p2tog, p1, turn.

Row 3: Sl 1, k to 1 st before gap, ssk, k1, turn.

Row 4: Sl 1, p to 1 st before gap, p2tog, p1, turn.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until all stitches from the heel flap have been worked – 17 (19, 22) sts remaining.

Gusset: Knit the first 8 (9, 11) heel stitches onto one needle. Knit the remaining 9 (10, 11) onto another needle. The gusset and sole are worked in stockinette stitch. With this second needle, pick up and knit 16 (18, 20) sts along the right side of the heel. With an empty needle, work across the 31 (35, 41) instep sts by continuing in the established Roots pattern. With the remaining needle, pick up and knit 16 (18, 20) sts along the left side of the heel, then work across the remaining heel sts. You should now have 9 (10, 11) heel stitches plus the right gusset stitches on needle 1, the instep stitches on needle 2, and the left gusset stitches plus the remaining 8 (9, 11) heel stitches on needle 3.

Round 1: Knit the sts on needle 1 to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. Work across the instep sts on needle 2 in the established Roots pattern. At the beginning of needle 3, k1, ssk, knit to end.

Round 2: Work evenly in pattern – stockinette stitch on the sole stitches, established pattern on instep.

Repeat these 2 rounds until you have 60 (70, 80) sts remaining – 15 (18, 20) sts on needle 1, 31 (35, 41) sts on needle 2, and 14 (17, 19) sts on needle 3.

Foot: Continue working the established pattern (stockinette on sole stitches, established pattern on the top of the foot) until foot measures approximately  $1\frac{3}{4}$  (2,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ )" less than the desired foot length.

Toe: Work the toe stitches in stockinette stitch.

For the size small and the size large only, work one round as follows: Knit to the end of needle 1. Begin needle 2 with k1, ssk. Work to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. Knit to the end of round – 58 (78) sts rem. Knit one round even.

For all sizes, work the toe as follows:

Round 1: Work to 3 sts away from the end of needle 1, k2tog, k1. Begin needle 2 with k1, ssk. Work to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. Begin needle 3 with k1, ssk. Knit to end of needle.

Round 2: Knit round plain.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 26 sts remaining – 13 sole sts and 13 instep sts. Knit the sole sts onto one needle. Graft the toe closed using the Kitchener stitch.

Make a second sock. Weave in all ends. Wash and block if desired.