Peace Socks

Wendy D. Johnson



Size: Small, Medium, Large, 7.5 (8.25, 9)" around **Gauge:** 6.5 stitches and 9 rows per inch in stockinette stitch

Needles: 2 US size 2 (2.75mm) circular needles (see note below) 16" or longer, or size to attain gauge **Yarn:** Sport weight sock yarn (approximately 240 – 280 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

PSSO - pas slipped stitch over

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)

TBL - through 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

Lace Chart

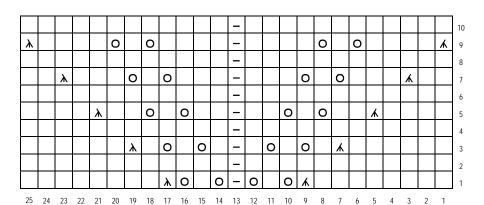


Chart Key

_ K

o YO

∡ K 3 TOG

λ K 3 TOG TBL

Note:

When you work the "make 1" increases for the toe and 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.

Toe:

Using Judy's Magic Cast-on, (or another toe-up cast-on method like the Turkish Cast-on), cast on a total of 26 stitches – 13 on each needle. Work the stitches as described in your cast-on method and on the next round increase 4 stitches thusly:

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Needle 1: K 1, M1, knit until the last stitch, M1, K1
Needle 2: K 1, M1, knit until the last stitch, M1, K1
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Repeat these 2 rounds until you have a total of 50 (54, 58) stitches, 25 (27, 29) stitches on each needle.

Start the lace pattern:

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Needle 1: K 0 (1, 2), work the lace chart over the next 25 stitches, K 0 (1, 2) Needle 2: Knit across.
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Work the foot until you reach the point where your foot connects to the ankle, or approximately $2 - 2 \frac{1}{2}$ " shy of the total length of the foot.

Create the Gusset:

Round 1: Work across Needle 1 (the instep stitches) in the lace pattern, on Needle 2: (sole stitches): K1, M1, knit across to the last stitch, M1, K1.

Round 2: Work across Needle 1 (the instep stitches) in the lace pattern, on Needle 2 knit all stitches.

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until you have 43 (47, 51) stitches Needle 2. On the last Round 2, increase 1 stitch in the center of the sole stitches for a total of 44 (48, 52) stitches on Needle 2.

Work in pattern across the stitches on Needle 1.

Turn the Heel:

You will work back and forth on the stitches on Needle 2 and will not work the stitches on Needle 1 while turning the heel. On Needle 2, turn heel as follows:

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K 25 (27, 29), SSK, K 1, turn
SL 1, P 7, P2TOG, P 1, turn
SL 1, K 8, SSK, K 1, turn
SL 1, P 9, P2TOG, P 1, turn
SL 1, K 10, SSK, K 1, turn
SL 1, P 11, P2TOG, P 1, turn
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Continue in this manner until all the stitches are worked and you have 26 (28, 30) stitches on the needle. Resume working in the round and on the first round, decrease 1 stitch in the center of Needle 2 for a total of 25 (27, 29) stitches on Needle 2. Making sure that you are starting in the right place on the chart so that it corresponds with the chart on Needle 1, work across Needle 2 in the same manner as described for Needle 1.

Work in pattern until your sock is 1 inch short of the desired leg length, then work in K1 P1 ribbing for 1 inch as follows. Bind off very loosely in rib.

References for Creating Toes for Toe-Up Socks

For an online article on different techniques for creating toes for toe-up socks, see my article in the Winter 2002 edition of Knitty, *Tip Top Toes*: http://www.knitty.com/issuewinter02/FEATtiptoptoes.html

For a good tutorial on the Turkish cast-on, see this article from misocrafty: http://misocrafty.squarespace.com/journal/2006/1/30/turkish-cast-on-tutorial.html

For Judy's Magic Cast-on (my personal favorite), see: http://www.persistentillusion.com/blogblog/index.php?page_id=500

Bind-offs for Toe-Up Socks

In the pattern, you are directed to bind off very loosely. There are several ways to achieve this.

One way is simply to use a needle a couple of sizes larger than the one used to knit the sock.

Another method is Elizabeth Zimmermann's Stretchy Sewn Cast-off. There is a nice tutorial for this method on the Socknitters website here: http://www.socknitters.com/toe-up/lessonsix.htm

Yet another method is a variation of a Russian bind-off. This is the one I use most of the time. I execute it thusly:

K2, slip these 2 sts back to the lefthand needle, K2TOG, *K1, SL 2 sts on righthand needle back to the lefthand needle, K2TOG *. Repeat from * to *.

I've seen it stated that you work it in purl all the way around, or in knit all the way around. When I am doing a ribbed cuff on a sock, I do the bind-off in ribbing, so I knit the knits and purl the purls. When it comes to working the 2 stitches together, I work it knit or purl, depending on what the second stitch of the two is.

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