Sprinkletoes ©
52 Stitch Sock Pattern a.k.a. Toddler Socks

by Nancy Wilson

Here's a basic knitting pattern for toddler socks using fingering weight yarn. For a smaller size, check out my 48 Stitch Sock pattern which was the original pattern for sport weight yarn producing an adult-sized sock. But you can use small needles and fingering yarn to produce a much smaller sock!



Yarn needed: one skein of superwash fingering weight sock yarn. For the fun sock pictured above, use a mini-skein to create contrasting cuffs, heels, and toes. I used: Oink Pigments Targhee Sock in colorway Roy G Pig, and a mini-skein from a set of Leading Men Fiber Arts Show Stopper Gradients in colorway Starlet.

Materials needed: Size 2.25 (US 1) double pointed needles (or circular needles for Magic Loop/2-circulars, or Flexi-Flips—my fave), and a tapestry needle.

Stitching notes: To make this sock, you should be familiar with basic "in-the-round" sock knitting on double pointed needles, OR be able to change the pattern up in your head so you can use magic loop, two circular needles, or Flexi-Flips®. Also the words "round" and "row" can get confusing. "Round" means you're working the entire sock circle; "row" means you're on a back and forth part, (heel flap and short rows to turn the heel).

Gauge over Stockinette: 16 stitches = 2 inches, per inch. Row/round gauge is not vital, but mine measures at 22 rounds = 2 inches. Make a swatch, change needle sizes if necessary, or use sock yarn that you know your gauge in stockinette.

Stitches Glossary
Stockinette Stitch: Knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side.
2 x 2 Rib: K2, P2 (used on the cuff)
Stockinette: Knit every round (used on the leg and instep)
K2tog: (slants to the right): Knit two stitches together
SSK: (slants to the left): Slip two stitches, one at a time, to right needle as if to knit, put back on left needle, and then knit through the back (used on heel, gusset, and toe)
SL1: Slip one stitch with the working yarn held to the back (used on the heel gusset)

Begin Knitting

KNIT THE CUFF

Cast on 52 stitches with the contrasting color, divide on 3 or 4 needles (your preference), join in the round (put some kind of marker if you want), and work in 2 x 2 rib for 11 rounds.

KNIT THE LEG

Leg Rounds: Change to main color and continue the k2p2 ribbing pattern for leg (I knit 36 rows of the main color). It measures 4" from the cast-on edge, ending at the beginning of round. Leave main color attached.

HEEL FLAP

Heel will be worked *back and forth* on the first 24 stitches of round. (I usually use half the stitches for the heel but decided to make the heel a little slimmer for a toddler.) Work reinforced heel with contrasting color as follows:

Row 1: (Right Side) K3, *SL1 (purlwise), K1*, repeat between *'s across row until 3 stitches remain. Knit the last 3 stitches

Rows 2 & 4: (Wrong Side) K3, purl until 3 stitches remain, and knit these last 3 stitches. This forms a cute little garter stitch edge for the sock.

Row 3: (Right Side) K3, *K1, SL1 (purlwise)*, repeat between *'s across the row until 3 stitches remain, K these last 3 stitches.

Continue knitting rows 1 – 4 back and forth until heel is almost a square (for this yarn weight, my sock has about 22 rows.) End with a Row 1 or Row 3 depending on how long you are making the heel.

TURN HEEL (short rows)

K 3, P10, P2tog, P1, turn your work (8 stitches remain unknit—be cool…ignore them!)

Slip 1st stitch, K3, SSK, K1, turn your work (8 stitches remain unknit on this side. This number will decrease by 2 every time you turn your work as shown in parentheses below.)

Slip 1st stitch, P4, P2tog, P1, turn (6)

Slip 1st stitch, K5, SSK, K1, turn (6)

Slip 1st stitch, P6, P2tog, P1, turn (4)

Slip 1st stitch, K7, SSK, K1, turn (4)

Slip 1st stitch, P8, P2tog, P1, turn (2)

Slip 1st stitch, K9, SSK, K1, turn. (2)

Slip 1st stitch, P10, SSK, P1, turn (0)

Slip 1st stitch, K11, SSK, K1, do not turn, and 14 heel turn stitches remain.

SET UP FOR GUSSET:

Needle 1: Go back to where you left the main color. Take an empty needle, and move 7 of the heel stitches to it. Then, as the right side of the heel (right side of the heel which happens to be on the left side of the sock) faces you and where the working yarn is, pick up 11 stitches along one side of the heel. Now this needle has 18 stitches on it. Let's call this "Needle 3" because it's holding what we will now call the last stitches of the round. (At this point, the round will begin in the middle of the insole bottom of foot)—see sock anatomy on my blog: http://nancyknit.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/basicribbedsockoctupdate.pdf

Needle 2: On another needle pick up 11 stitches along the left side of the heel (left side of the heel which is on the right side of the sock), then knit across the remaining 7 heel stitches. Now you're at the beginning of a round

Needle 3: Continue in the ribbing pattern across 28 instep stitches (see link above to be clear on the parts of a sock).

Below I show how to set up on FlexiFlips® in pictures only…no written instructions, except that the instep stitches are all on one needle, and the gusset and insole stitches are on the 2nd needle with a marker in the middle of the needle to mark the beginning of the round.





GUSSET

Round 1: K stitches on Needle 1, continue in pattern across Needle 2, K stitches on Needle 3.

Round 2 (Decrease 2 stitches): K all stitches on Needle 1 until 3 stitches remain, K2tog, K1. Continue in pattern across Needle 2. On Needle 3 K1, SSK, knit to end of round.





FOOT

Continue working Rounds 1 & 2 above until 12 stitches remain on Needles 1 & 3, with 28 stitches on Needle 2.

Work down the foot, working all stitches in stockinette stitch until 1 ¼ inches less than desired length. My socks measured 3 inches from the stitches picked up at the side of the heel. Place one stitch from each end of Needle 3 onto Needles 1 & 2 so that each half of the sock has 26 stitches

TOE (all stockinette)

Round 1 (Decrease round): Needle 1: Knit to the last three stitches, K2tog, K1; Needle 2: K1, SSK, Knit to the last three stitches, K2tog, K1; Needle 3: K1, SSK, knit to the end of the needle (end of round).

Round 2: Knit the next round.

Repeat these two rounds until 16 stitches total remain.

Use needle 3 to knit stitches on needle 1 so that there are now 8 stitches on needle 2 and 8 stitches on needle 3.

Cut the yarn, leaving a 12” tail. Hold needles parallel to each other and do the Kitchener stitch. There are many YouTube videos on this. Skillfully weave in the loose ends and knit the other sock!

© Nancy Wilson Designs