

Socks of Hideousness



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Ok, the socks themselves aren't actually hideous, but the colourway of the yarn is. Dull orange and pea soup green. These socks are definitely candidates for the dyepot! I found the yarn in my stash and hope it was a real bargain. Can't imagine why else I would have bought it....

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You'll need about 440 yards (400 meters) of sock weight yarn (my socks fit a ladies' US 9.5 shoe size and I had yarn left over). I used Yarn Tree House's *Melody* in colour # Y23 (I give you this information in the spirit of sharing; use it as you will). Gauge over stockinette stitch is 10.5 sts and 14 rows /1" (2.5 cm) using 2.25mm (US 1) double-pointed needles (use needle size required to get gauge).

Instructions

Directions between asterisks are to be repeated across the row or round.

Cast on 72 stitches, dividing them into 18 stitches on needle 1, 36 stitches on needle 2, and 18 stitches on needle 3. (I cast on one extra stitch on needle 3 and knit it together with the first stitch on needle 1 to make a smoother join).

Work K2, P2 ribbing in the round for 2" (5 cm).

Work 5" (13 cm) of pattern as follows, ending with round 8:

Round 1 - 4: K4, P2 to end of round

Round 5 - 8: K1,*P2, K4*, ending K3

Make heel flap: working only on needles 1 and 3, work the next 31 rows as follows (ending on row 3):

Row 1: Slip 1 stitch, K to end

Row 2: *Slip 1, P1*

Row 3: Slip 1, K to end

Row 4: Slip 1, P2, *Slip 1, P1*, ending P1

This gives you a sort of inside-out eye of partridge heel. The pattern on the right side of the sock is less obvious than with the usual eye of partridge stitch, but still has the reinforcement of the slipped stitches.

Shape heel: Slip 1, P2, P2 together, P1, turn.

Slip 1, K1, K2 together, K1, turn.

Slip 1, P1, P2 together, P1, turn.

Slip 1, K1, K2 together, K1, turn.

Slip 1, P1, P2 together, P1, turn.

Continue in this manner until all heel stitches have been worked (24 stitches remain).

Pick up 16 stitches from the side of the heel flap, placing them on needle 1.

Work stitches across needle 2 in established pattern (starting with row 1).

Pick up 16 stitches from the side of the heel flap on needle 3, and knit 12 stitches from needle 1 onto needle 3. Both needles 1 and 3 should now have 28 stitches.

For the rest of the foot until you start the toe, work needle 2 in 8-round pattern stitch. Knit on needles 1 and 3.

Decrease instep:

Round 1: Needle 1: knit to last three stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1. Needle 2: work in established pattern. Needle 3: knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit to end of needle.

Round 2: Needle 1: knit. Needle 2: work in rib pattern. Needle 3: knit.

Work these two rounds until 18 stitches remain on needles 1 and 3.

Foot: continue working 8-round pattern on needle 2 and knit on needles 1 and 3 without further decreases until foot measures about 2" (5 cm) less than desired length of foot, ending needle 2 pattern on either round 4 or round 8.

Toe shaping:

Round 1: Needle 1: knit to last 3 stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1. Needle 2: knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit to last three stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1. Needle 3: knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit to end.

Rounds 2 to 4: Knit without decreasing.

Round 5: Repeat round 1.

Rounds 6 and 7: Knit without decreasing.

Round 8: Repeat round 1.

Rounds 9 and 10: Knit without decreasing.

Round 11: Repeat round 1.

Round 12: Knit without decreasing.

Repeat rounds 11 and 12 a total of three times.

Round 17 to end: Repeat round 1 until a total of 16 stitches remains. Knit 4 stitches on needle 1 onto needle 3 if you are going to Kitchener graft or three-needle bind-off the toe closed. You will have 8 stitches on each of two needles.

Close the toe as you prefer; I turn the sock inside out and work a three-needle bind-off. Sew in any yarn ends.

Repeat for the second sock.