

Thistle Lace Socks



by Margie Dougherty, Half Moon Bay Knits

Knit toe up with a reverse Dutch heel using two 24" long circular needles

Gauge: 32 stitches, 46 rounds over 4 inches/10 cm. with stockinette stitch in the round

Size: Women's Medium (easily adjustable)

Circumference: 8 inches before blocking

Length: adjustable

Note: Lace knitting is looser than stockinette, so I have used fewer stitches than normal for this sock. Feel free to add a few stitches to each side if needed (or lose a few). Try on your sock toe at several stages to make sure it's not too small or too big, but JUST RIGHT. There is a built in area to add or remove stitches in the pattern.

Yarn: Cherry Tree Hill Supersock Solid, 1 skein (420 yds./384 m, 4 ozs./113 gms.), or another fingering weight sock yarn of your choice (approximately 350 - 400 yards will be required, depending on the intended recipient's shoe size)

Needles: 2.5 mm (US 1.5) needles

Note: You can use 5 DPN's, 2 circs or Magic Loop, your choice, but I have written the pattern using the methods & terminology for knitting on two circular needles. This design divides the total number of stitches into 2 groups: instep (top of the foot) and sole (bottom of the foot). You will either divide each group over 2 dpns, place the whole group on 1 of your 2 circular needles, or on half of your long circular (for Magic Loop).

Pattern Directions: Using waste yarn and one circular needle, provisionally cast on 12 stitches. Purl one row, knit one row, and purl one row back and forth (stockinette). Remove the waste yarn and place the live stitches onto the second needle (24 stitches). Join to knit in the round, and place a marker (PM). *K1, M1, K10, m1, k1*, & repeat

between *'s across the first 12 stitches you knit. One round is complete (28 stitches). Knit one round plain, and continue to knit in rounds, alternating increase and plain rounds, until you have 56 stitches on the needles.

Note: If you want to use another toe up cast on, like Judy's Magic Cast On or the Turkish cast on, feel free. You can also knit a short row toe cup. Knit your choice of toe style until the sock toe has a total of 56 stitches. If you prefer a less pointy toe, you can cast on more stitches at the beginning, making sure to increase only until you have 28 stitches on each of the 2 needles (or each part of the toe.)

Add one more increase on the next round (57 stitches total). The instep pattern is worked over 29 stitches, so make sure these are all on one needle (if using two circs) or on two DPN's if using that method. Place a marker (PM) at each end of the 29 instep stitches. The toe cup should measure about 1 3/4" in length at this point. Begin knitting following the instep chart pattern, keeping the sole stitches in stockinette (knit every round).

Round one of the instep: Knit the 29 stitches of instep chart row 1, PM, then knit 28 stitches plain (sole stitches). The chart is presented as if it is knit in the round, so knit each row from right to left (although it is symmetrical).

Alternate pattern: I've also charted an alternate design with lacy side panels, which has a total of 31 stitches instead of 29, for a slightly larger sock, or for a sock knit at a smaller gauge. Please email me if you want the alternate chart. My first pair was knit with stockinette side panels. (The purl stitches at stitch 4 and 26 define the actual lace knit panel.)

Knit the sock foot keeping 29 instep stitches in the instep chart pattern and the 28 sole stitches in stockinette (knit every round.) Knit the foot until it measures approx. 3" less than your total foot length. **Note:** *If your foot is longer or shorter than a size 8US women's shoe size, or your row gauge is different than mine, you may need to adjust this measurement. I've found [this pattern](#) to be helpful for figuring out how soon to start the gusset increases.*

Begin the gusset increases by making a YO just before the first marker and immediately after the second marker at each side of the instep stitches on every other round, while following the chart pattern on the instep stitches. If you wish, you can place a different marker just before the first YO and after the second YO to denote the wing stitches. These stitches will eventually be decreased away when you knit the heel flap, leaving just the sole stitches on the bottom of the foot.

plain round, after reaching your total, increase 4 stitches evenly (I use the lifted increase) in each wing area, to allow for a higher instep and a slip stitch heel pattern. (97 stitches, 29 on the instep and 68 on the sole.) You should be ending either with round 14 or 28 of the charted pattern, but if you don't, don't fret too much. Just make sure you write down exactly which round you finished before beginning the heel turn.

In other words: Knit the chart section, following whichever round you are on. Slip the marker (SM), knit the 16 wing stitches, increasing 4 stitches evenly in this area, SM, knit 28 sole stitches, SM, knit the 2nd section of 16 wing stitches, increasing 4 stitches evenly in this area, SM, knit the charted instep stitches, SM, knit 20 wing stitches, and begin the heel cup/turn as follows:

You will now work back and forth on the stitches on needle 2 (sole stitches) and will not knit the stitches on needle 1 (instep) while turning the heel. The heel cup (and the heel flap itself) is knit in the slip stitch variation called "Eye of Partridge", which I like to use to give this area extra cushiness and added strength. It is a 4 row variation of the standard "heel stitch" slip stitch pattern, and is slightly denser, so it needs some extra wing stitches to accommodate its shorter row height.

Turn the heel as follows, knitting on just the 28 heel stitches, not on any of the wing stitches:

Row 1 (RS) *K1, SL1* 13X, end K1, W&T

Row 2: P26, W&T (1 wrapped stitch on each side of the heel turn)

Row 3: (RS) *K1, SL1* 12X, end K1, W&T

Row 4: P24, W&T (2 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Row 5 : (RS) *K1, SL1* 11X, end k1, W&T

Row 6: P22, W&T (3 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Row 7: (RS) *K1, SL1* 10X, end k1, W&T

Row 8: P20, W&T (4 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Row 9: (RS) *K1, SL1* 9X, end k1, W&T

Row 10: P18, W&T (5 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Row 11: (RS) *K1, SL1* 8X, end k1, W&T

Row 12: P16, W&T (6 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Row 13: (RS) *K1, SL1* 7X, end k1, W&T

Row 14: P14, W&T (7 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Row 15: (RS) *K1, SL1* 6X, end k1, W&T

Row 16: P12, W&T (8 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Row 17: (RS) *K1, SL1* 5X, end k1, W&T

Row 18: P11, W&T (9 wrapped stitches on each side of the heel turn)

Heel Flap

You will now begin to knit the wing stitches, decreasing them away one by one and knitting a faux "heel flap" in the process. No more picking up gusset stitches!

Needle 2 (sole) now holds 68 stitches, having just ended a wrong-side row. On the right side, knit to the end of the heel stitches, knitting each wrap together with the stitch it wraps. As you come to each wrapped stitch, conceal the wrap by lifting the wrap over the stitch with the tip of your needle, and K2TOG TBL. (CW) End the last CW by K3TOG TBL with the first wing stitch. Turn your work.

Working back and forth on the sole stitches:

Foundation Row: SL1, P18, then purl across the remaining wrapped stitches, concealing each wrapped stitch by lifting the wrap over the wrapped stitch and purling it together with the stitch it wrapped. End by P3TOG, when the third stitch is the first "wing" stitch on this side of the heel cup. Turn.

Row 1: SL1, *K1, SL1* 13X, end SSK, turn

Row 2: SL1, purl across, end P2TOG, turn

Row 3: SL1, K1, *K1, SL1* 12X, end K1, SSK, turn

Row 4: repeat row 2

Repeat rows 1-4 until all of the side stitches have been worked and end having worked row 2. or 4. Needle 2 now holds 28 stitches, as it did originally.

Place a marker to denote the beginning of the round, and begin working in the round again. Work the stitches on needle 1 (instep) as established in chart pattern. Work the lace pattern over needle 2 (sole) as you did on needle 1, ensuring that you start at the right place on the chart so that it corresponds with the chart on needle 1. The leg of the sock will have side panels knit in seed stitch. Do not knit stitch 29 on the sole needle, since it does not exist. This will ensure that the seed stitch panels match up. Knit the leg of the sock in pattern for as long as you wish, ending with round 14 or 28 of the charted pattern.

Finishing

When your sock is 1.5" (3.75cm) short of the desired leg length, work in k2, p2 baby cable ribbing (or another rib pattern) for 1.5" (3.75cm)., increasing or decreasing one or two stitches if needed to make the repeat work for your ribbing choice. Bind off very loosely in the rib pattern of your choice.

Here another lacy rib pattern that I used.:

Eyelet Rib:

Round 1: *YO, SSK, K1, P2*, repeat between *'s to end of round

Round 2: *K1, K2TOG, YO, P2*, repeat between *'s to end of round

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 for pattern

Abbreviations

CW - conceal the wrap of a stitch that was previously wrapped (see pattern for how to)

K - knit

K2TOG - knit 2 together

K3TOG TBL - knit 3 stitches together, through the back loop of each stitch

KFB - knit in the front and back of the same stitch

M1 - make one stitch (a type of increase).

In this pattern, M1 means to make a lifted increase.

P - purl

P2TOG - purl 2 stitches together (also P3TOG, same thing but with three stitches) to decrease

PM - Place a stitch marker between two stitches on the needle: to indicate the beginning of a round or another indicator

PSSO - pass the slipped stitch over

SL - slip a stitch (without working it)

SM slip a marker, to keep it in its proper position, while knitting before and after the marker

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 - knit or purl by inserting your needle tip into the back loop of the stitches, instead of through the front loop as is usual.

W&T - wrap and turn. On the knit side: Bring yarn to front of work (as if to purl) between needles, slip next st to right-hand needle, bring yarn around this st to back of work, slip st back to left-hand needle, turn work to begin working back in the other direction. On the purl side: Bring yarn to back of work (as if to knit) between needles, slip next st to right hand needle, bring yarn around this st to front of work, slip st back to left hand needle, turn work to begin working back in the other direction.

YO - yarn over: Bring the working yarn to the front of the work, knit the next stitch.

This makes a hole, and increases the stitch count if there is no corresponding decrease.