



## TYRO

by Huan-Hua Chye

From *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*:  
"Ty"ro\, n.; pl. Tyros. [L. tiro a newlylevied soldier, a beginner.] A beginner in learning; one who is in the rudiments of any branch of study; a person imperfectly acquainted with a subject; a novice."

I've knit countless large and complicated non-sock objects over the years, as well as sockish things such as slippers and baby booties (and, of course, some single socks here and there). However, up until I made up this pattern, I had never finished a single pair of socks, so I was a total sock novice, a sock tyro\*. Hence, this sock pattern is written for beginning sock knitters like

me, who may be experienced with other aspects of knitting such as simple lace knitting, provisional cast-ons, knitting in the round, and reading charts, but appreciate being walked through the sock pattern step by step.

The lace pattern is a modified version of a mostly-stockinette wave pattern from *The Big Book of Knitting Stitch Patterns*, expanded to work with the desired stitch count, and mirrored for one foot so the waves flow in opposite directions on the two feet. The sock is worked toe-up, using a short-row heel and toe following the directions in Priscilla Gibson-Roberts' *Simple Socks: Plain and Fancy*.

So what was it that finally got me through two matching, adult-sized socks in fingering weight yarn?

- 1) the fun of learning short-row heels, and the excitement of seeing if my mirrored stitch pattern would actually work out on the second sock
- 2) the sheer watercolor beauty and soft



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\* I really hope this phrase makes it into a New York Times crossword puzzle one day.

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- handle of my brand-new skein of Malabrigo Sock in Indiecita, a Monet-like colorway of mixed pastel blue, green, lavender, and gold, and last but not least,
- 3) the prospect of trying to make it through a Wisconsin winter without any wool socks to keep my feet warm at 20 degrees below zero.

Nota bene: like most of my free patterns, this hasn't been test knit by anyone except yours truly, so between this fact and my inexperience with sock knitting, there's a good chance something is wrong in here somewhere—if so, please let me know! Anyway, it works to the best of my knowledge, and the socks are a fast, simple, and pretty knit. I hope you enjoy the pattern.

### **SIZE**

Women's Small/Medium

### **FINISHED MEASUREMENTS**

To fit woman's size US 6.5 feet, 8.5 inch circumference. Finished sock circumference approximately 8 inches. Finished length of foot approximately 8 inches. Finished ankle length approximately 8 inches from heel to cuff.

### **MATERIALS**

Malabrigo Sock Yarn [100% superwash merino wool; 440 yd/402 m per 100 g skein]; color: Indiecita; 1 skein. I used about 60 grams total.

1 set of five US #1.5/2.5 mm double-point needles

About 1 yard of fingering-weight waste yarn for provisional cast-on  
Tapestry needle

### **GAUGE**

32 sts/48 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch



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**PATTERN NOTES**

**Tyro Lace Pattern—Left Foot**

									14
λ								○	13
									12
	λ							○	11
									10
		λ						○	9
									8
			λ					○	7
									6
				λ				○	5
									4
						λ		○	3
									2
							λ	○	1

**Tyro Lace Pattern—Left Foot**

**Written Directions**

Round 1: YO, ssk, k6  
 Round 2 and all other even-numbered rounds: Knit.  
 Round 3: YO, k1, ssk, k5  
 Round 5: YO, k2, ssk, k4  
 Round 7: YO, k3, ssk, k3  
 Round 9: YO, k4, ssk, k2  
 Round 11: YO, k5, ssk, k1  
 Round 13: YO, k6, ssk  
 Repeat rounds 1-14.

**Tyro Lace Pattern—Right Foot**

									14
○								∧	13
									12
○							∧		11
									10
○						∧			9
									8
○				∧					7
									6
○			∧						5
									4
○		∧							3
									2
○	∧								1

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## Tyro Lace Pattern—Right Foot

### Written Directions

Round 1: K6, k2tog, YO

Round 2 and all other even-numbered rounds: Knit.

Round 3: K5, k2tog, k1, YO

Round 5: K4, k2tog, k2, YO

Round 7: K3, k2tog, k3, YO

Round 9: K2, k2tog, k4, YO

Round 11: K1, k2tog, k5, YO

Round 13: K2tog, k6, YO

Repeat rounds 1-14.

### Symbol Key

Read both charts from right to left on every row.

	Knit
○	YO
∧	SSK (I slip the first stitch knitwise, the second stitch purlwise, and knit both stitches through the back loop)
∧	K2tog

### PATTERN

Using a provisional cast-on, CO 32 sts. (You don't have to use a fancy unzipping provisional cast-on—instead, if you like, you can simply cast on using any method you like with the waste yarn, and later carefully cut the waste yarn at intervals and remove it.) Divide these stitches evenly across 2 needles (16 stitches per needle) and use a third needle to knit back and forth across needles 1 and 2.

### Short-Row Toe/Short-Row Heel

Note: the same method is used for working both the toe and the heel, so these instructions will be followed at both places in the sock foot.

**Right side (RS):** Knit to 1 stitch before the end of the work (i.e. 31 stitches). Turn your work, leaving the last stitch unworked.



**Wrong side (WS):** As shown in the photo, work a backwards yarn over (BYO) by bringing the yarn *over* the right needle *towards you* as you bring the needle up to purl. Purl to 1 stitch before the end. Turn your work, leaving the last stitch unworked.

At each end of your work, you should see one stitch, then a gap. The stitch between the gap and the rest of the stitches is formed from the YO (or backwards YO) you made, and will be knit together with the stitch on the other side of the gap to close up the gap so your toes/heels come together smoothly, without holes.

\***RS:** YO. Knit to 2 stitches before the gap. Turn. (On the first row, this will be 3 stitches before the end of the needle.)

**WS:** BYO. Purl to 2 stitches before the gap. Turn. (On the first row, this will be 3 stitches before the end of the needle.)\*

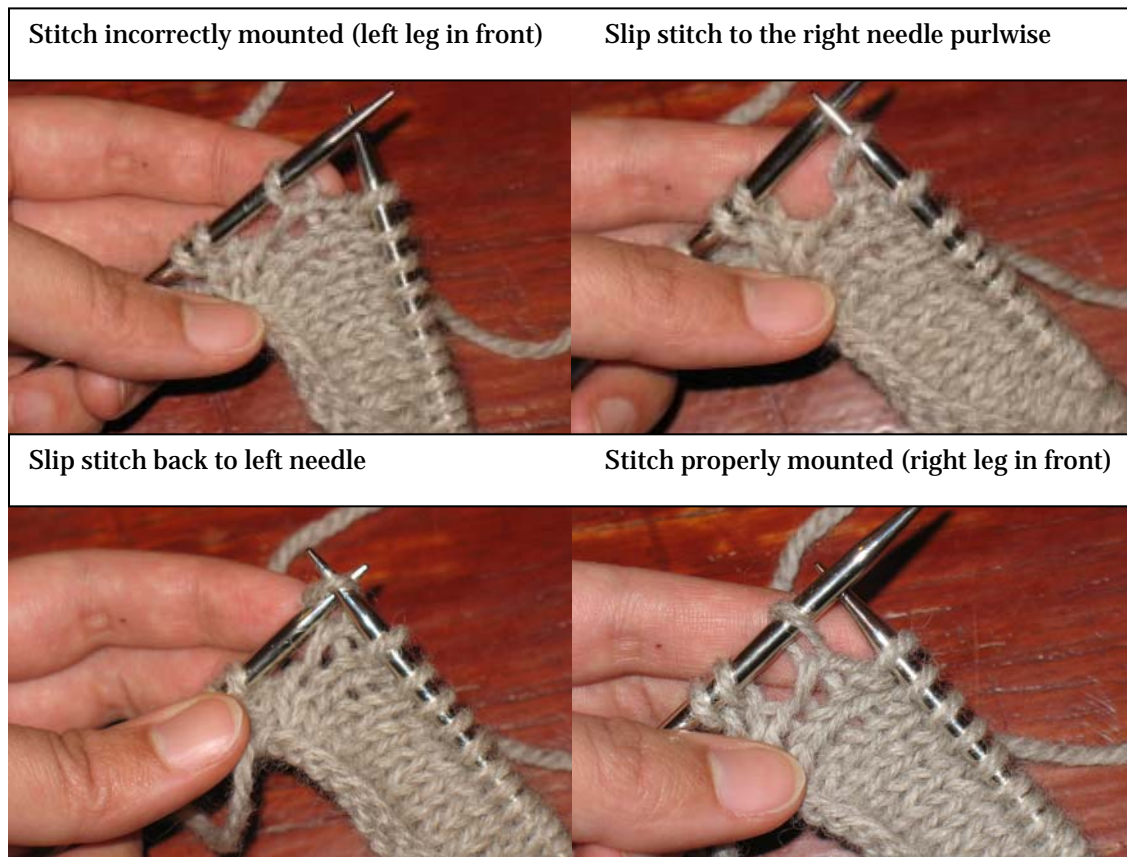
Repeat from \* to \* until you have 12 stitches left between the gaps on either end of the needles.

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**A general note:** The correct “stitch mount” (seating of a stitch on the needles) is with the right leg of the stitch in front of the needle, closest to you. Depending on which way you wrap your yarn during YOs, some of your stitches may be seated incorrectly (left leg of the stitch in front). If this is the case, you will need to correct the stitch mount of these stitches before working them. Slip the stitch to the right needle purlwise, and then back to the left needle, placing the point of the right needle through the front of the loop so the right leg ends up in front of the needle and the left leg in back.



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On the next row (this should be a RS row), YO, then knit until 1 stitch before the first gap you encounter. Correct the stitch mount of the next stitch, then knit it together with the next stitch on the left needle (knitting together one stitch from before the gap, one stitch from after the gap). Turn.

BYO, purl to 1 stitch before the next gap you encounter. Slip, slip, purl (SSP) as follows: Slip the next two stitches to the right needle knitwise. Slip them back onto the left needle purlwise. Purl these two stitches together through the back loop. Turn. (See “Working the SSP decrease” at the end of this file if you need an illustration.)

\*YO, knit until 1 stitch before the next gap. Correct the stitch mount of the next two stitches, then k3tog (knitting together 2 stitches from before the gap, 1 from after the gap). Turn.

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BYO, purl until 1 stitch before the next gap. Slip, slip, slip, purl as follows: Slip the next 3 stitches to the right needle knitwise. Slip them back to the left needle purlwise. Purl these 3 stitches together through the back loop. Turn.\*

Repeat from \* to \* until you have worked all the stitches on both the knit and the purl sides. You will have yarnovers at the beginning and end of your work.

### **Foot**

After completing the short-row toe, remove the waste yarn from your provisional cast-on and place these stitches onto your other two DPNs (DPNs #3 and #4). 64 sts total. You are ready to start working the foot in the round.

**Note:** I find it helpful to place a stitch marker on Needle #1, after the end of the first lace repeat (8 stitches) to keep track of which needle it is. The beginning of the round still starts at the beginning of Needle #1.

Knit up until the last stitch on Needle #2. Slip the last stitch (a YO) from Needle #2 onto Needle #3, correcting the stitch mount as you do so. Knit it together with the next stitch, then work until the last stitch on Needle #4.

Slip the first stitch (a YO) from Needle #1 onto Needle #4 and ssk these two stitches together. (Slip first stitch knitwise, second stitch purlwise, slip them both back to the left needle and knit them together through the back loop.)

\* Work Tyro Lace Pattern on Needles #1 and #2. On Needles #3 and #4, knit.\* Continue from \* to \* until the foot is the desired length, minus about two inches. (For a women's US size 6.5/European size 37 foot, I worked 3 repeats of the Tyro Lace Pattern.)

Work across needles 1 and 2 in Tyro Lace pattern (this round should be an odd-numbered round), then work the **short-row heel (same as the short-row toe)** over Needles #3 and #4.

### **Ankle**

Begin working the Tyro Lace Pattern on all 4 needles, in the round. If you stopped working the stitches from the foot partway through the lace pattern, you will need to pick up again where you left off in the pattern (rather than starting over at Round 1 of the lace pattern). Since the last round you worked across the instep was one of the odd-numbered rounds of the lace pattern, the next round will be an even-numbered round (knit stitches only).

Work in the Tyro Lace pattern up until the last stitch on Needle #4. Slip the last stitch (a YO) from Needle #4 onto Needle #1, correcting the stitch mount as you do so. Knit it together with the next stitch, then work until the last stitch on Needle #2.

Slip the first stitch (a YO) from Needle #3 onto Needle #2 and ssk these two stitches together. (Slip first stitch knitwise, second stitch purlwise, slip them both back to the left needle and knit them together through the back loop.)

Continue in the Tyro Lace Pattern until ankle is desired length, minus about an inch.

\*K2, p2\* around. Repeat from \* to \* for 10 rounds total.

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Bind off using a stretchy technique such as the sewn bind-off or the following:  
K1, \*k1, slip two stitches back to left needle, k2tog,\* rep from \*.

Work the same for the second sock, using the other version of the Tyro Lace pattern for the other foot.

### **FINISHING**

Weave in yarn ends and lightly block socks to even out the stitches.

### **WORKING THE SSP DECREASE**

Slip stitch knitwise (slip 2<sup>nd</sup> stitch same way)

Slip both stitches purlwise to left needle



Purl these two stitches together through the back loop (enter stitches from left and behind)



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