Spontaneous Socks

A basic sock pattern that is knit toe up using the magic loop method with a short row heel and a traditional 2x2 ribbed cuff. This pattern is designed to be easy to knit and fits fantastic! This basic design will allow variegated and speckled colorway to really shine! The pattern is for an average ladies' size foot, but modifications can easily be made to make the pattern fit your foot perfectly.

Skills needed: Knit & Purl, wrap and turn short rows, k2tog, p2tog, Judy's Magic Cast On, magic loop knitting

Materials:

Ontheround Signature Sock Yarn, 80/20 superwash merino/nylon, fingering weight, 410 yards

24 or 36" Size 1 (2.25 mm) circular needles

Sock Ruler or Ruler

Tapestry Needle

Gauge:

My sock gauge varies between 7-8 stitches per inch depending on what brand needle I am using. Focus on getting the fit you want and less on the specific gauge.

Abbreviations:

K2tog – knit 2 stitches together

P2tog – purl 2 stitches together

w&t – wrap and turn

K1fb – Knit 1 front and back

Techniques:

To do a wrap and turn knitwise, knit to the stitch you will wrap and turn, bring the yarn to the front between both needles, slip the stitch to your right needle purlwise, bring the yarn back, skip the stitch back to the right needle knitwise and turn your work.

To do a wrap and turn purlwise, purl to the stitch you will wrap and turn, bring the yarn to the back between both needles, slip the stitch to your right needle purlwise, bring the yarn back, slip the stitch back to the right needle knitwise, and turn your work.

To pick up the wrapped stitch knitwise, knit to the wrapped stitch and pick up the wrap from front to back and put it on the left-hand needle, then knit it into the original stitch.

To pick up the wrapped stitch purlwise, purl to the wrapped stitch and pick up the wrap from back to front and put it on the left-hand needle, then purl it into the original stitch.

Cast on:

Using Judy's Magic Cast on method, cast on 32 stitches divided evenly between both needles (16 sts on each needle).

Toe Increases:

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: K1fb, knit to last stitch on the first needle, k1fb, k1- repeat on the second needle.

Continue working row 1 and 2, 7more times- 64 stitches

Continue knitting in the round until your sock measures approximately 7 ¼ - 7 ½ " from the toe.

Short Row Heel:

The heel is knit back and forth only on the second needle (32 stitches) using a basic wrap and turn short row method.

Knit the stitches on your first needle.

Knit to the last stitch on your second needle, w&t, purl back to the first stitch on the second needle, w&t. Knit to the stitch before the previously wrapped stitch, w&t, purl to the stitch before the last wrapped stitch, w&t.

Continue knitting/purling and wrapping and turning before the previously w&t stitch until you have 8 w&t stitches along both sides of the heel flap, and 16 stitches in-between.

Now you are going to work back and forth along the heel picking up each wrap and turn as you go.

After you pick up and knit the first w&t, turn your work to purl, slipping the first stitch (the w&t stitch). Purl back to the first w&t stitch, picking up the wrap purlwise and knitting it into the original stitch, turn your work to knit back slipping the first stitch.

Continue picking up w&t's, turning and slipping stiches until every w&t has been knit. You should have to knit across the second needle one more time.

Before going back to needle one to continue knitting in the round, pick up a stitch in between the needles and pass it to the left needle. Knit the picked-up stitch and the first stitch on the first needle together. This is to help close the gap that the heel created. Knit across the first needle to the last stitch, slip the stitch to the right needle, pick up a stitch from in-between the two needles and knit them together.

Resume knitting in the round across all 64 stitches until the leg of your foot is the desired length. I usually knit the leg of the sock to match the length of my foot right to the toe, just for easy measurement.

Cuff:

K2p2 ribbing around for 12 rows.

Bind Off:

You can use whatever your favorite bind off is for this sock, just make sure it is loose. I use a traditional bind off by using a needle two sizes bigger to ensure that I do not bind off too tightly. A tubular bind off is also very stretchy, though I find it to be too much work for my liking.

Finishing:

Sew in the ends at the cuff and the toe, soak your socks in warm water until they are completely saturated, then remove excess water by spinning out or rolling up in a towel. Lay your socks flat to air dry. Sock blockers are optional, and not necessary.

Modifications:

I encourage you to make modifications to this pattern so that your finished product fits your foot perfectly, as that is how I came to this design myself. I like a nice snug sock that won't spin or slouch. Modification you make could include adapting the amount of stitches you cast on, the number of stiches you increase for a smaller or larger foot. You could also could add more ribbing or a different stitch pattern. The sky is the limit, just have fun!

Helpful Links:

Magic Loop https://www.purlsoho.com/create/magic-loop/

Judy's Magic Cast On http://knitty.com/ISSUEspring06/FEATmagiccaston.html

Wrap and Turn https://www.purlsoho.com/create/short-rows/

Tubular Bind off https://www.purlsoho.com/create/long-tail-tubular-bind-off/