

## Scrap Buster Socks

Designed to use up all the scraps of yarn left after knitting several pairs of socks. The stripe sequence can be as random or as regular as you choose, but using one strong plain or semi-plain colour for the heels and cuffs does help to make the colours look planned. The socks also look good using just two colours or one plain colour.

The pattern is very stretchy and will fit most ladies' feet. If your foot is very narrow cast on 56 stitches and work the heel over 28 stitches. If your foot is very wide, or for a man's foot, cast on 72 stitches and work the heel over 36 stitches.



I like my socks to be matching pairs, not 'fraternal twins' and I prefer using double pointed needles to circulars so I use two sets of double points and work a stripe of one sock followed by the same colour stripe on the other one. You may prefer to use two circular needles or one long circular with 'magic loop' technique.

I always divide self patterning yarns into two balls and ensure that both balls start at the same place in the colour sequence before knitting and so my left overs are in pairs of balls. This means that even with long colour repeat yarns the pairs of stripes will match.

### Leg pattern

Using NC

Round 1: (K2, P2) 16 times  
Round 2: (K2, P2) 16 times  
Round 3: (T2, P2) 16 times  
Round 4: (K2, P2) 16 times

### Flap pattern

Using NC

Row 1: S1, (K2, P2) 7 times, K2, P1 turn  
Row 2: S1, (P2, K2) 7 times, P2, K1 turn  
Row 3: S1, (T2, P2) 7 times, T2, P1 turn  
Row 4: S1, (P2, K2) 7 times, P2, K1 turn

## Materials and Gauge

Requires about 70 gms or 280 metres/300 yards 4 ply/fingering sock yarn.

A decent size swatch is as big as half a sock, so I rarely make swatches for socks, especially when using up scraps. A variety of yarns will each produce a different gauge, but this averages out and the twisted rib pattern is very stretchy.

I knit to a fairly average tension and get a gauge over stocking stitch (stockinette) of 32 sts = 10cm/4inches using 2.25mm needles. If you know that you are a tight knitter use 2.5mm or if you know you knit loosely use 2.00mm.

If you are working with very small balls of yarn it is helpful to know that 3.5 metres is sufficient for one four round stripe plus 15-20cm/6-8 inches either end for tails. A little more in the gusset area or if working a larger size.

### Cuff:

Using a stretchy method and MC cast on 64 stitches. My preference is thumb method of long tail which is easy to work knit-wise or purl-wise and so match the ribbing to follow.

Join for working in the round and work 12-15 rounds in K2, P2 rib. Place end of round marker.

### Leg:

Work in Leg pattern until leg is about 15cm/6 inches long, ending on a 4th round, but do not work the last purl.

*Tip - I use 6 inch double point needles and use one of them as a guide.*

### Heel flap:

Work Flap pattern for 8 stripes, ending on row 4. For a high instep work nine stripes.

### Turn heel:

Using NC (colour required for the next stripe on leg/instep)

Row 1: S1, K17, SSK, K1, turn

Row 2: S1, P5, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 3: S1, K6, SSK, K1, turn

Row 4: S1, P7, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 5: S1 K8, SSK, K1, turn

Row 6: S1, P9, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 7: S1 K10, SSK, K1, turn

Row 8: S1, P11, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 9: S1 K12, SSK, K1, turn

Row 10: S1, P13, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 11: S1 K14, SSK, K1, turn

Row 12: S1, P15, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 13: S1 K16, SSK, turn

Row 14: S1, P17, P2tog, turn

### Gusset:

S1, K18, pick up and knit 17 (19)sts along side of flap, place marker, pattern 32 sts across instep, place marker, pick up and knit 17 (19)sts along other side of flap, place end of round marker.

Round 1: Work even, knitting sole and gusset stitches and maintain rib pattern on instep

Round 2: K until 2 sts before marker, SSK, sm, pattern 32,sm, K2tog, K to end of round

Repeat last two rounds until 64 sts remain.

### Foot:

Work without shaping until foot reaches to the base of the big toe and end of little toe (2½ inches or 6cm short of required length) ending on a round 4,

**Toe:**

This toe suits my pointy shaped foot and doesn't need to be grafted together with Kitchener stitch. I make one sock with left leaning decreases and one with right leaning decreases, but wear them on either foot. If you have a blunter shaped foot start the toe 2 inches/5cm short of the required length and work one less plain round between each decrease round; or substitute your favourite toe.

**Toe Sock One**

Using MC knit one round  
 Next round: (K6, K2tog) 8 times  
 Knit 6 rounds  
 Next round: (K5, K2tog) 8 times  
 Knit 5 rounds  
 Next round: (K4, K2tog) 8 times  
 Knit 4 rounds  
 Next round: (K3, K2tog) 8 times  
 Knit 3 rounds  
 Next round: (K2, K2tog) 8 times  
 Knit 2 rounds  
 Next round: (K1, K2tog) 8 times  
 Knit 1 round  
 Next round: K2tog 8 times  
 Cut yarn and thread through remaining sts and pull tight.

**Toe Sock Two**

Using MC knit one round  
 Next round: (SSK, K6) 8 times  
 Knit 6 rounds  
 Next round: (SSK, K5) 8 times  
 Knit 5 rounds  
 Next round: (SSK, K4) 8 times  
 Knit 4 rounds  
 Next round: (SSK, K3) 8 times  
 Knit 3 rounds  
 Next round: (SSK, K2) 8 times  
 Knit 2 rounds  
 Next round: (SSK, K1) 8 times  
 Knit 1 round  
 Next round: SSK 8 times  
 Cut yarn and thread through remaining sts and pull tight.

**Completion:**

Darn in all ends. Make second sock and wear with pride.

**Hints for changing colours**

For me the least laborious method is to work until about five stitches before the change then fold the yarn back in a loop about 5cm/2 inches from the work. Loop the new yarn through the loop and fold back. Knit with doubled old yarn (for about five stitches) and then with doubled new yarn for about five stitches. Leave both ends at the back of the work and when completed just snip the ends which are already secure.

This method is akin to a Russian join but without the faff of threading ends into a yarn needle.

**Abbreviations**

**K** = knit      **P** = purl      **S** = slip  
**SSK** = slip, slip, knit (left leaning decrease)  
**K2tog** = knit two stitches together (right leaning decrease)  
**P2tog** = purl two stitches together  
**T2** = twist 2 stitches - knit 2 together but do not drop from left needle, then knit 1 into first of those two stitches and drop both from needle.  
**st** = stitch      **sts** = stitches  
**sm** = slip marker  
**MC** = main colour  
**NC** = new colour