

Wise Hilda's Basic Ribbed Sock

More interesting and better fitting than a plain sock, but not so interesting that you have to pay attention.

This design was developed as a solution to two problems: socks with a plain stocking-stitch leg can fall down, and I find k1/p1 ribbing very tedious.



SIZES & FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Choose a size with a finished sock circumference about an inch smaller around that the measurement of your ankle/ball of your foot

Size	XXS	XS	S	M	L
Women's Shoe Size	5-7	7½-9	9½-11	12+	
Men's Shoe Size			4-7	7½-9	9½-11
Sock circumference	7	7.5	8	8.5	9
Leg length	6.5	7	7.5	8	8
	Adjustable to preference				
Foot length	8.5	9	9.5	9.5	10
	Adjustable to fit				

MATERIALS

100 gm/400m fingering weight sock yarn

I recommend a wool and nylon blend for best wear

1 set 2.5mm/US #1.5 needles

DPNs, two circulars or a long circular as you prefer

GAUGE

32 sts & 44 rounds = 4 inches/10cm square in St St

METHOD

Cuff

Using your preferred stretchy method, cast on 56 (60, 64, 64, 68) sts. Distribute sts across needles as you prefer and join for working in the round. Note or mark start of round.

Ribbing Round: [K3, p1] around.

Repeat Ribbing Round until sock measures 17 (18, 20, 20, 20) cm/6.5 (7, 8, 8, 8) inches, or desired length to top of heel.

Turn Heel

This portion is worked flat.

Heel flap row 1 (RS): K27 (27, 31, 31, 35) stitches onto one needle and turn so that WS is facing. Put rem 29 (33, 33, 33) sts on a holder or group together on a single needle. Turn so that WS is facing.

Heel flap row 2 (WS): Slip 1, p26 (26, 30, 30, 34), turn.

Heel flap row 3 (RS): Slip 1, k26 (26, 30, 30, 34), turn.

Heel flap row 4 (WS): Slip 1, p26 (26, 30, 30, 34), turn.

Repeat the last two rows 9 (10, 11, 11, 12) more times. RS is facing for next row.

Heel turn row 1 (RS): Knit 18 (18, 21, 21, 23) sts, ssk, turn.

Heel turn row 2 (WS): Slip 1, purl 9 (9, 11, 11, 11) sts, p2tog, turn.

Heel turn row 3 (RS): Slip 1, knit 9 (9, 11, 11, 11) sts, ssk, turn.

Heel turn row 4 (WS): Slip 1, purl 9 (9, 11, 11, 11) sts, p2tog, turn.

Repeat last two rows until all sts have been worked. 11 (11, 13, 13, 13) sts remain, and RS is facing.

Re-establish Round and Create Gusset

Gusset setup: Knit all heel sts. Using that same needle, pick up and knit 15 (16, 17, 17, 18) sts along selvedge edge at side of heel, using slipped sts as a guide. With a new needle, work *in rib pattern* across the 29 (33, 33, 33, 33) sts of instep – those sts that you’d set aside on the stitch holder. Using another new needle, pick up and knit 15 (16, 17, 17, 18) sts along selvedge edge at other side of heel, using slipped sts as a guide. Work 6 (6, 7, 7, 7) sts from the first needle, to the center of the heel.

The beginning of the round is now at the center of the heel. If you’re working on two circulars or magic loop, place a marker in this position.

There should be 20 (21, 23, 23, 24) sts between the start of the round and the start of the instep, 29 (33, 33, 33, 33) stitches on the instep, and 21 (22, 24, 24, 25) between the end of the instep and the end of the round. 70 (76, 80, 80, 82) sts total. Rearrange the stitches if you need to. If you’re working on dpns, those first 21 (22, 23, 23, 25) sts should be on your first needle, the instep sts on your second needle, and the other 21 (22, 23, 23, 25) sts on the third. If you’re working on two circulars or magic loop, the instep sts should be on one needle, and the other stitches on a second needle, with a marker for the start of the round at the mid-point.

From here on in, the 29 (33, 33, 33, 33) instep sts will be worked in the rib pattern, and the gusset and sole will be worked in stocking stitch – that is, knitting every round.

Decrease Gusset

Gusset setup round: K5 (5, 6, 6, 6), ktbl 15 (16, 17, 17, 18), work across the instep sts in pattern as established, ktbl 15 (16, 17, 17, 18), k to end of round.

Gusset decrease round: K to 2 sts before instep, k2tog, work across instep in pattern, ssk, k to end of round. 2 sts decreased.

Following round: K to instep; work across instep in pattern; k to end of round.

Repeat these last two rounds until you have 27 (27, 31, 31, 35) sts on the sole; 56 (60, 64, 64, 68) sts total.

Foot

Work even in patt as set until foot measures 17 (18, 19, 19, 21) cm/6.5 (7, 7.5, 7.5, 8.5) inches, or 6 cm/2.25 inches less than total desired foot length.

Shape Toe

From here on in, you’ll work entirely in stocking stitch. Rearrange the sts so that you’ve got 28 (30, 32, 32, 34) on the sole and 28 (30, 32, 32, 34) on the instep. If you’re working on two circulars or magic loop, you will have the same number on each needle; if you’re working on DPNs, divide the stitches of the sole evenly across two needles.

Toe Decrease Round: Knit to three stitches before start of instep, k2tog, k1; k1, SSK; k to 3 sts before end of instep, k2tog, k1; k1, ssk, k to end of round.

Work 3 rounds even.

Work a *Toe Decrease Round* followed by 2 even rounds, twice. [6 rounds total]

Work a *Toe Decrease Round* followed by 1 even round, three times. [6 rounds total]

Work *Toe Decrease Rounds* only until 8 stitches remain.

Cut yarn, draw through the final stitches and tighten.

To block, wash the socks. Weave in ends.

GLOSSARY

K tbl: Knit the stitch through back loop

Slip 1: On RS rows, slip purlwise with yarn in back; on WS rows, slip purlwise with yarn in front.

SSK: slip 2 sts, one by one, knitwise, insert left needle into the *fronts* of these two slipped sts, and knit them together.

This Pattern is excerpted from Kate’s book “**Custom Socks: Knit to Fit Your Feet**” – The book includes top down and toe up instructions for 12 sizes and 9 gauges, a full lesson sock knitting – lots of tutorials and guidance – and 12 patterns of different types, most offered in both top down and toe up versions.

