

Jeans Socks



Jean's Socks

Level of difficulty: intermediate but a simple starting point for your first pair! These are socks (!), but apart from a little practice in using three needles, none of the pattern requirements are difficult. They are knitted down from the top

These socks can be knitted in 4-ply and Aran yarns and do not require specialist sock yarns.

You can make one pair of walking boot socks and a much thicker pair of Welly Boot socks. Either design can be knitted a bit shorter to use as bed socks or slipper socks.

If you have never knitted a sock before, the heel instructions in particular may not make a great deal of sense, but if you do as indicated, the heel will turn! There are many videos and tutorials on-line and our favourite sock book is probably Nancy Bush's Folk Socks (published by Interweave Press) which gives history, techniques and patterns.

Measurements

As given, the instructions and quantities are for a medium adult sock around 23cm (9 inches) long in the foot which is about UK 6-8, EU 38-40 in shoe sizes. The socks can be made to measure, but we have suggested 20cm (8 inches) as a suggestion for the leg part of the walking boot socks and 33cm (13 inches) for the Welly Boot version, which has only a small cuff turnover - but you can lengthen or shorten to suit! The foot can be made to measure as well - you just need to measure the length of the foot and then allow about 10cm (4 inches) for the heel and toe parts to give you the middle length to make.

Materials:

Walking Boot socks: 150g Blacker Yarns 4-ply Knitting yarn - you can use a mohair or alpaca blend, which should be slightly more hard wearing, or just wool - take your pick! Note: you can probably get away with using only 2 balls of yarn if you reduce the length of the leg to 15cm (6 inches) but this only works for a medium-sized foot:

1 set 2.75 mm double point needles,
1 pair 3.25 double point needles

Welly Boot socks: 200g Blacker Yarns Aran Knitting yarn
1 set 4 mm double point needles, 1 pair 3.25 double point needles

Tension Sample

Walking socks: 10cm (4 inches) x
10cm (4 inches) = 28 sts x 36 rows
using main rib pattern
Welly Boot socks: 10cm (4 inches) x
10cm (4 inches) = 10 sts x 13 rows
using stocking stitch
Adjust needle size to give required
tension

Abbreviations

st, sts = stitch, stitches
k = knit p = purl
sl = slip one stitch knitwise/purlwise
according to pattern
tog = together
pssso = pass slip stitch over stitch just
worked
tbl = knit through the back of the
loop
stocking stitch = normally one row
knit, one row purl but because you
are knitting around the three needles
in turn, all the sts will be knitted
graft off = cast off the stitches
together - can use a third needle to
make this a bit easier

Method:

Kitchener Stitch

This is a method of sewing together stitches at the toe of a sock invisibly (and without a raised seam to rub on toes) by weaving the yarn between the two rows to emulate a row of stitches. There are excellent instructions on Wikipedia, many knitting websites and also Youtube videos on this. It is entirely logical and best not to think too hard when doing it, just do each pair of stitches one at a time. Some people remind themselves of the correct sequence by saying knit, purl, purl knit for the bit between * and * below.

Using a large needle and spare yarn or a tail from the work just done (from the end of the stitches on the back needle), and holding together two needles in parallel with an equal number of stitches on each, start off by bringing the yarn through the first stitch on the front needle as if to purl, leaving the stitch on the needle. Then take the yarn through the corresponding back stitch as if to knit, again leaving that stitch on the needle. *Now bring the yarn back and through the same front stitch as already threaded, but this time as if to knit and slip this stitch off the needle. Next take the yarn through the next front stitch as if to purl, again leaving the stitch on the needle and then go to the first back stitch and bring the needle through as if to purl and slip that stitch off, then through the next back stitch as if to knit, leaving it on the needle.
* Now repeat from * to * until all the stitches are used.



This is an OPEN COPYRIGHT PATTERN for the use of Blacker Yarns and Blacker Designs customers. It can be freely adapted and reproduced without permission, used to make items for sale or knitting kits. Use is restricted to bona fide customers or licensees of Blacker Yarns and Blacker Designs and to yarns made by The Natural Fibre Company.

Jean's Socks

Reinforcing heels and toes

Some people wear out their heels, some their toes and some both! To reinforce the heel and toe area there are two main options: either add in a second strand of finer yarn (a strong sewing cotton or nylon works well) or carefully darn through the stitches after completing the sock.

There is also a special stitch called Heel Stitch, done over 2 rows starting with right side facing, the first of which is [*sl 1 purlwise, k1* all across] and the second of which is [sl 1 purlwise, then purl across]. This makes a subtle ribbed effect and a denser fabric (also you can count your heel flap rows since each of the slipped stitches represents 2 worked rows).

Walking Boot Socks (make 2)

Cast on 90 sts quite loosely using 3.25 mm needles, with 30 on each of 3 needles, using Continental or long-tail cast-on

Change to 2.75 mm needles and work a welt of 10cm (4 inches) in k1, p1, rib, (or k2, p1 if preferred)

Change to 3.25 mm needles and start rib pattern for leg: *k3, p2* and repeat from * to * until sock measures 20cm (8 inches) from the start of the pattern

Next round: knit, decreasing evenly to 56 sts (19 on each of 2 needles and 18 on the third)

Then work 9 rounds in stocking stitch (ie knit all stitches)

Divide for heel: k14, slip last 14 sts of round (from third needle) onto other end of the working needle, making 28 sts for heel and placing remaining 28 sts on two needles for instep

Heel flap (knitted back and forth):

Row 1: sl 1 purlwise, purl to end

Row 2: sl 1 purlwise with yarn behind, knit to end

Repeat until 17 rows have been knitted

Heel turn (knitted back and forth):

Row 1: k19, sl 1, k1, pssso, turn

Row 2: sl 1, p10, p2 tog, turn

Row 3: sl 1, k10, sl 1, k1, pssso, turn

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 five times, then row 2 once

Next row: sl 1, k to end to complete the heel, leaving 14 sts

Instep:

Pick up and knit 13 sts along the right side, then knit the 28 sts left on the 2 needles for the instep, then knit 13 sts up left side to make 68 sts including the 14 from heel flap and continue in the round on 3 needles.

Slip the last 7 sts from the last round on to the left hand needle. Then arrange stitches so there are 21 sts each on needles 1 and 3, 26 sts on needle 2

Continue in stocking stitch:

Round 1: k19, k2tog, k26, sl 1, k1, pssso, k19

Round 2 and 3: knit

Round 4: k18, k2tog, k26, sl 1, k1, pssso, k18

Repeat rows 1-4 until 56 sts remain (3 times), to make 15 sts on needles 1 and 3, 26 sts on needle 2

Then continue until desired foot length is reached: but remember this is the foot, with heel in place so allow for the toe which will make it about 5cm (2 inches) longer

Shape toe:

Round 1: k11, k2tog, k2, sl 1, k1, pssso, k22, k2tog, k2, sl 1, k1, pssso, k11

Round 2 and every alternate Round: knit

Round 3: k10, k2tog, sl 1, k1, pssso, k20, k2tog, k2, sl1, k1, pssso, k10

Continue these rounds, reducing steadily until 24 sts remain

Split the 24 sts into 12 on each of 2 needles and graft off the stitches or preferably finish using Kitchener stitch



Welly Boot Socks (make 2)

Note: these socks fit snugly on a 38cm (15 inch) calf. If you need something larger, cast on additional stitches (refer to tension for the number needed) and then steadily reduce for more rows once you have completed the welt/turnover.

Cast on 52 sts quite loosely, using 4 mm needles, with 17 on the first 2 needles and 18 on the third, using Continental or long-tail cast-on

Change to 3.25mm needles

Welt: work 10cm (4 inches) in rounds in k1, p1, rib, (or k3, p1 rib, as preferred - to use k2, p1 rib you need to reduce by 1 st and only cast on 51 sts), decreasing 1 st in last round to leave 51 sts. If you want a full turnover, make this section 20cm (8 inches) long.

Leg: next round: change to 4mm needles, decrease by k2tog at beginning of round and k2togtbl at end of round
Then work 4 rounds in stocking stitch (ie knit all stitches)
Repeat these 5 rounds twice (or more if you cast on more stitches), making 45 sts, then continue in stocking stitch to 33cm (13 inches) or the leg length required

Divide for heel: k11, slip last 12 sts of round onto same needle, making 23 sts for heel and placing remaining 22 sts on two needles for instep

Heel flap (knitted back and forth):

This is an OPEN COPYRIGHT PATTERN for the use of Blacker Yarns and Blacker Designs customers. It can be freely adapted and reproduced without permission, used to make items for sale or knitting kits. Use is restricted to bona fide customers or licensees of Blacker Yarns and Blacker Designs and to yarns made by The Natural Fibre Company.

Jean's Socks

Row 1: sl 1, purl to end
Row 2: sl 1, knit to end
Repeat until 9 more rows have been knitted, then make row 1 again (total 12 rows)

Heel turn (knitted back and forth):

Row 1: k13, sl 1, k1, pssso, turn

Row 2: p4, p2tog, turn

Row 3: k5, sl 1, k1, pssso, turn

Row 4: p6, p2tog, turn

Continue until all sts are on one needle.

Next row: k7, leave sts on left needle

Instep:

Slip instep sts onto one needle to give you a spare needle
Using the spare needle, k6, pick up and knit 12 sts from side of heel, then using a second needle knit across 22 instep sts, then using the third needle pick up and knit 11 sts along other side, k7, to make 58 sts

Continue in stocking stitch:

Round 1: knit

Round 2: first needle: knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1, second needle: knit, third needle: k1, k2tog tbl, knit to end
Repeat rounds 1-2 until 44 sts remain (14 rounds in total)
Then continue until desired foot length is reached: but remember this is the foot, with heel in place so allow for the toe which will make it about 5cm (2 inches) longer

Shape toe:

Row 1: first needle: k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1, second needle: k1, k2tog tbl, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1, third needle: k1, k2tog tbl, k to end

Row 2: knit

Repeat these rows 4 times until 24 sts remain

Split the 24 sts into 12 on each of 2 needles and graft off the stitches or preferably complete using Kitchener Stitch

Care advice: Hand wash in cool water using a liquid wool wash. Spin dry. Do not tumble dry. Spread on a towel, hand pressing garment to shape and correct size. Store folded. If in doubt, dry clean or phone us!



*This is an OPEN COPYRIGHT PATTERN for the use of Blacker Yarns and Blacker Designs customers.
It can be freely adapted and reproduced without permission, used to make items for sale or knitting kits.
Use is restricted to bona fide customers or licensees of Blacker Yarns and Blacker Designs
and to yarns made by The Natural Fibre Company.*