

Basic *Baby* Sock Pattern using Magic Loop method

Using size 0, 1, or 2 (2, 2.25, 2.5, 2.75 or 3.0 mm) needle 32" or longer (for first time Magic Loop users, a longer needle is preferred). Gauge: 8 or 9 sts per inch.

Uses approximately 16 grams of sock yarn – less than 80 yards.

Cuff:

Cast On 40 sts. To make sure the cast on edge is loose enough, cast on over both needles using the long-tail cast on.

Slide stitches onto cable and **divide** in two (20 sts). Pull out a loop so that there are 20 sts on either side of the loop.

Step 1: Slide sts back to needles and hold with needles pointed to your right. Yarn will be coming from your back needle. Being careful not to twist stitches, pull out the back needle (being also careful not to pull so far you lose your loop between your two groups of 20 sts) and begin stitching the front 20 stitches in ribbing. (k2,p2).

Step 2: When you reach the end of the first 20 sts, turn the needles to point right again. Slide needles onto stitches. The ones you just worked will be in back and the unworked stitches in front. Again, make sure your stitches are not twisted, pull out the back needle and work (k2,p2) across the front stitches.

One round has now been completed. You will need to be careful about twisting for the first 3 to 5 rows and then your sock will start to hang properly. Your beginning of row is where your cast on tail is hanging or you can add a stitch marker to that side to help remind you where to count rows. Note also that your yarn needs to be coming up between the two needles as you begin stitching. Not doing so may result in an accidental yarn over which will add an extra stitch at the end. If this happens and you don't realize it until you find an extra stitch, examine the stitch to be sure the rest line up and this is just an inadvertent Yarn over, and then just drop it off the needle.

Continue ribbing for 16 rows.

Leg:

For the leg switch to all stockinette (knit every stitch) and work 20 rounds.

Heel flap

The heel flap is worked on only half the stitches. I usually do the heel on the first part of the round.

Row 1: *Slip 1, k1* , repeat between * across the row. Turn, leaving the front of the sock unworked.

Row 2: Slip 1, p across the row. (Note: only slip the first st, unlike the knit row where you slip every other stitch.) Turn.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 six more times and then repeat row 1 once more. 15 rows total. You will now be ready to start a purl row.

Heel Turn:

Row 1: (WS) S1, P11, p2tog, p1

Row 2: S1, k5, ssk, k1

Row 3: Sl, p to 1 st before gap, p2tog, p1

Row 4: S1, k to 1 st before gap, ssk, k1

Repeat rows 3 & 4 until no more stitches. The last two rows you may only be able to p2tog or ssk and not have an extra stitch to work. Don't worry. That's normal.

Gusset

You are now working in the round again

Pick Up Rnd: (place ring marker),

pick up 9 sts on side of heel, (7 on side, 2 in gap),
adjust magic loop to knit across front of sock, knit
front of sock, adjust for back of sock and then
pick up 9 sts along other side of heel (place ring
marker), knit to center back of heel. Place beginning of row marker.

<p>Ring markers are to help if you need to recount when picking up stitches and to make sure you are decreasing correctly when you are interrupted.</p>
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Rnd 2: Knit across back, knitting across picked up stitches. You may need to reorient stitches as you go if they were twisted when they were picked up. 3 sts before the last picked up st, k2tog, k1.

Knit across front. When starting back, k1, ssk, knit to center back.

Decreasing

Rnd 1: (Decrease Rnd) Knit across back to last 3 sts; k2tog, k1.

Knit across front. When starting back, k1, ssk, knit to center back.

Rnd 2: Knit around.

Repeat Rows 1 & 2 until there are only 20 stitches on each side.

During the decreasing process, you may wish to periodically check at the end of a dec rnd if you have the same number of stitches between the ring markers and the edge of the back. If you find a discrepancy, don't panic. If you can't determine where you went wrong, just decrease again on the side you have too many stitches on the next row. No one will know but you – and whoever you whine to in frustration.

Foot: Knit even in stockinette for 20 rows.

Toe

Rnd 1: Back of sock: K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts on back, k2tog, k1. Repeat on front of foot.

Rnd 2: Knit around.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until you have 12 sts left per side. Then work Rnd 1 three more times. You will have 6 sts per side. Graft with Kitchner stitch the front stitches to the back.

Adjustments: For larger babies & toddlers, increase cast on stitches by 4 or 8 sts. (Do k1,p1 rib on 44 sts); do more rows on foot. If you add to the heel flap pick up more stitches. To turn heel on Row 1, purl to two stitches past the center of heel before your p2tog. All other instructions remain the same.

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