

Elizabeth's Toe Up, Afterthought Heel Sock
by
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MAKE SOME SOCKS FOR CHARITY!!! (You might mention where you got it from, though – we all like a little credit sometimes!)

Materials: 4-6 oz worsted weight yarn (more or less – if you like long socks, you'll need the higher amount, natch)
Size 5 (3.75mm) double pointed needles(dpn) – set of 4 (or size to make a fabric YOU like – go bigger if you like a less tight fabric. I wouldn't go smaller, but that's just me.)
Stitch Marker to mark beginning of round (rnd).
Tapestry needle – for weaving in those pesky ends.
Two short (8-10”) pieces of waste yarn, worsted weight works best for this.

NOTE: You can do this with ANY yarn, really, just be sure to use an appropriate needle for the yarn! I am giving the directions for worsted weight, because that's what I make the most of. This seems like a lengthy pattern/process but it really goes MUCH faster than this makes it look – once you make a few, you won't need the pattern at all, honest!

Directions:

Cast on 6 sts.

Knit across these sts, then with a 2nd dpn, knit across the bottom of the sts you just knit (the cast on edge.) You should now have 12 sts, 6 on each ndl, facing each other.

With a new ndl, knit across half of the sts on the 1st ndl. Place marker at start of next ndl to mark beginning of round (rnd). You should now have 3 ndls with sts on them: 3 on ndl 1, 3 on ndl 2, and 6 on ndl 3. You will now be working in rounds.

Now begin toe increases:

Rnd 1:

Needle 1: K to last 2 sts, knit in front & back of next st (kfb), K1.

Needle 2: K1, kfb, K to last 2 sts, kfb, K1.

Needle 3: K1, kfb, K to end.

(NOTE: If you prefer, you may M1 instead of KFB. M1 by making a tight, backwards loop on the right hand needle. This increase is less “obvious” looking than the KFB increase. You would increase just before the last st on ndl1, & just after the 1st st on ndl 2 &3...Your choice!)

Rnd 2: Knit

Repeat these 2 rnds until desired # of sts is reached – try it on to make sure! If you're making it for a gift or a charity project, approx. 24 sts for toddler size, 32 for child, 40 for average adult, 48 for large adult. Now knit on those foot sts until 1.5” short of total desired foot length. (Approx. the length from the back of your heel to the end of your big toe.)

Next Round:

Knit across ndl1. WITH PIECE OF WASTE YARN, knit across half of the foot sts (If you have 40sts, knit across 20, for example). Now go back and knit them again with the main yarn. Tuck the ends of the waste yarn inside the sock, and finish rnd with main yarn.

Now continue to knit until sock is 2" less than desired length. Switch to K2, P2 ribbing, or your favorite ribbing for those last 2". Bind off. The sock is ALMOST done – now on to that heel! You're basically just going to make a toe – it's the same shaping, just decreasing instead of increasing! If you hate grafting, I will give directions for a round or bull's eye heel at the end...here we go:

Remove the waste yarn, and place the sts on two dpns, facing each other. One needle will have an extra stitch, but it'll work out ok, I promise. Now starting at a corner:

Knit across needle one. Pick up two or 3 sts in the corner, so you won't have a hole!

With 2nd ndl, Knit across next ndl of sts, BE SURE TO PICK UP THE SAME # OF STS IN THE 2nd CORNER!

Now we've got to get those sts onto 3 dpns:

1st ndl: K1, SSK, K to center of needle.

With a new dpn, K to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1.

With a new dpn, work across second needle as follows: K1, SSK, K to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1. Place marker for beg of rnd.

Knit one rnd plain, making sure to decrease 1 st to get rid of that extra stitch! Now just decrease:

RND 1:

Needle 1: K1, SSK, K to end.

Needle 2: K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1.

Needle 3: K1, SSK, K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1.

RND 2: K around

Keep that up until the heel is to your liking, making sure you end up with an even # of sts!

Then split the sts evenly on 2 dpns and graft, or kitchener, if you will, the heel closed!

Bull's Eye (Round) Heel Option:

Arrange the heel sts on 3 dpns and knit one rnd.

Now work 1 row of decreases (I do K2 tog, K 8, 6 or 4, depending on what comes out even. Next dec rnd, it'd be K2tog, K 7, 5, or 3 – one less each time) followed by one row of plain knitting, until you are down to 8-12 sts, your preference. Cut yarn, weave through remaining sts, fasten off, weave in ends. NO Kitchener stitch! YAY!