

Argyle Socks

by Connie L. Mallette



Size

Adult

Finished Measurements

Leg Circumference: 9 3/4"

Length from top edge to top of heel: 11"

Materials

Brown Sheep Company WILDFOOTE (1 3/4oz/50g, 215yd/196m, 75% washable wool/25% nylon): 2 skeins MC, 1 skein each (A), (B), and (C) in colors of your choice

Heel reinforcing yarn (optional)

One set size 2 (2.75mm) 7" double pointed needles or size needed to obtain correct gauge

One pair size 2 (2.75mm) 10" straight needles (or a size 2 circular needle if you prefer).

10 yarn bobbins per sock, if you plan to knit your cross lines

St holders

Tapestry needle

Gauge

7 sts and 8 rows = 1"

To save time, take time to check gauge.

Construction Notes

When changing colors always pick the new color up under the color you are dropping. This ensures the two yarns will be linked and no holes will appear at the point you change colors. Each diamond of color has its own bobbin. The cross-line threads are wrapped with the diamond color, the cross-line st worked, then the diamond color is picked up again. Care must be taken to watch the chart carefully when a cross-line crosses from one diamond to the next. The patterned portion of the sock is worked flat on 10" straight needles or by

working back and forth on a 16" circular needle. The foot is worked on 4 dpns. This pat provides for working the single st cross lines as the sock is knit. If you prefer, the cross lines may be worked with duplicate st on the finished sock. Before beginning, wind 2 bobbins each of MC, A and B, and 4 of C for the cross-lines.

Sock

With MC and straight needles, CO 68 sts. Work in k1, p1 ribbing for 2", dec 1 st on last row.

Set up Argyle pat: Row 1 (RS): Join A, k1, join MC, k15, join C, k1, join C, k1, (cross lines), pick up MC, k15, join B, k1, join MC, k15, join C, k1, join C, k1 (2nd set of cross lines), pick up MC, k15, join A, k1.

Beg with row 2 of chart, continue to work in St st through Row 72.

Leaving a 4" long end for weaving, cut yarns of all but the center cross-line bobbins, and the MC bobbin in center of instep.

Divide sts: place first and last 17 sts on holders to work heel flap after the instep pat is complete.

Pick up C at beg of needle, k1, join MC, k15, join B at center of row, k1, pick up the existing MC, k15, pick up C, k1. Work rem chart rows. Place completed instep on holder.

Heel Flap

Place both sections of heel flap sts from holders on a single needle. Join MC and reinforcing strand (if using) held together. Work heel tab in Cushion st as follows. Slipping sts

Designer Notes

Argyle socks present a classical use of the technique of Intarsia. In simple geometric blocks, areas of color are each knit from a single strand of yarn creating a multicolored pat with a minimum of stress. Yarn is wound around bobbins that keep each color readily available for use. With practice you can follow the progression of your pat almost without watching the chart. However, for knitters new to the joys of argyles we recommend a magnetic board and marking ruler or a post-it note underlining the current row on the chart.

The general technique is the same for a child's sock. Select your child's favorite colors from your stash of fine yarns and create a miniature pair for a toddler or young child. Be sure you get a yarn that has 75% wool and 25% nylon. 100% wool is lovely but children go right through the heels in no time. Heel and toe reinforcing nylon is also recommended.

(cont. on pg. 78)

(cont. from pg. 77)

purlwise wyib. Always k the last st of RS rows.

Row 1: Sl 1, (k1, sl 1) across row, ending with k1.

Row 2: Sl 1, p to end of row.

Row 3: Sl 1, (sl 1, k1) across row, k last st.

Row 4: Sl 1, p to end of row.

The cushion st staggers the knitted and slipped sts on RS rows so the heel doesn't have a ridged feel when wearing. As you work, notice that the sts knit in the previous RS row are slipped in the current row and vice versa.

Repeat these 4 rows until heel tab measures 2 1/2", ending with a WS.

Turn Heel: Row 1 (RS): Sl 1, k20, ssk, k1, turn,

Row 2: Sl 1, p9, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 3: Sl 1, k10, ssk, k1, turn,

Row 4: Sl 1, p11, p2tog, p1, turn...

Continue in this manner, inc the number of sts worked in the center by 1 st each row before the dec, and slipping the first st after each turn as the new row is started. When all sts have been worked, cut both yarns leaving a 4 to 5" end to be worked in during finishing.

Heel Gusset

With MC and straight needle and RS facing, pick up and k 17 sts along right edge of heel flap, k across heel sts, pick up and k 17 sts along the second side of the heel tab. P 1 row. Next and every RS row: K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. P 1 row. Rep these 2 rows until 34 sts rem.

Joining instep and heel: It is usually wise at this point to sew the instep sts to the heel gusset to be sure they match. If necessary knit additional rows on the heel gusset without dec until there is a one to one match of rows on both sides of the seam.

Divide sts between 3 dpn as follows:
Needle #1: 17 sts starting at center of heel.

Needle #2: 33 sts of instep,

Needle #3: 17 sts to the center of heel. With RS facing k all sts, joining the foot of the sock in a circle. Work even until sock measures, 2 1/2" less than desired length when measured from center of heel to needle.

Toe

Dec Rows: Needle #1: Knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; Needle #2: k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; Needle #3: k1, ssk, k to end of rnd.

K one rnd even.

Continue alternating plain and dec rows until toe measures 2 1/2" above first dec, ending with Needle #1.

Place all sts from bottom of foot on one needle. Holding two needles parallel, close toe with Kitchener st. Weave ends, sew rem seams using care to match pat along center back seam.

