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Socks for Little Witches

(ages 5-7 years)



Pattern designed and written by Ann Kingstone
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and Emma Wigworthy (Hogwarts Sock Kit Swap character)

General Notes:

Yarn:

50g (220-250yards/ 200-230m) of any fingering/4ply weight sock yarn of approximately 19-22 wraps per inch

Needles:

Set of 5 2.5mm sock needles

One long 3mm needle for casting on

Tension

32 stitches and 44 rounds = 4" (10cm) in stocking stitch before blocking

Abbreviations:

K = Knit

P = Purl

SSK = slip next two stitches knitwise then knit them together from the right hand needle

K2tog = knit two stitches together as though they are one stitch

P2tog = purl two stitches together as though they are one stitch

YO = yarn over

Instructions:

Cuff:

Cast on 56 stitches using the 3mm needle. Knit onto four sock needles, placing 14 stitches on each needle. Join for knitting in the round, being careful not to twist the stitches, and work 10 rounds of single (K1,P1) or double (K2P2) rib. The socks pictured have a double rib cuff.

Leg:

Change to stocking stitch, decreasing 6 stitches in the first round to get an appropriate stitch count for the leg pattern - K7, K2tog around.

Work the pattern as follows:

Rounds 1-3: Knit.

Round 4: K2, (YO, SSK, K8) repeat bracketed instruction to last 8 stitches, YO, SSK, K6.

Round 5: Knit.

Round 6: (K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, K5) repeat bracketed instruction to end.

Round 7: Knit.

Round 8: As round 4.

Rounds 9-11: Knit

Round 12: K7, (YO, SSK, K8) repeat bracketed instructions to last 3 stitches, YO, SSK, K1.

Round 13: Knit.

Round 14: (K5, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK) repeat bracketed instruction to end.

Round 15: Knit.

Round 16: As round 12.

Work this 16 round pattern twice before splitting the stitches for the heel flap.

Heel flap:

The next 25 stitches form the heel flap. Set aside the latter 25 stitches of the round, which will be the instep stitches. Knitting the heel flap will be easier if these stitches are held on waste yarn or lockable stitch holders.

Knit the heel flap stitches back and forth in stocking stitch, slipping the first stitch of each row purlwise, until the heel flap measures two inches, finishing with a purl row.

Turn heel:

Starting with a knit row K14, K2tog, K1, turn (8 stitches are left unworked).

Next row: Slip first stitch purl-wise, P4, P2tog, P1, turn.

Then work the remainder of the heel turn as follows:

Row 1: Slip first stitch purlwise, knit to one stitch before the gap created by the turn of the previous row, K2tog, K1, turn.

Row 2: Slip first stitch purlwise, purl to one stitch before the gap created by the turn of the previous row, P2tog, P1, turn.

Repeat these two rows until all the stitches from the heel flap have been worked.

Shape gusset:

Return the instep stitches to 2 double pointed needles, ready for working after picking up the first set of gusset stitches as follows:

Knit across all the heel stitches, changing needles after the first 8. With the needle holding the latter half of the heel stitches (those last to be worked) pick up and knit 13 stitches from the edge of the heel flap beyond them. It is best to pick up the back strand of the edge stitch, though you may need to pick up and knit some front strands also to make up the correct number of picked up stitches. The edge stitches should be twisted as they are picked up in order to avoid holes where the heel flap joins the gusset. It is also wise to pick up a strand from between the instep stitches and heel flap stitches, twisting this also, to avoid a hole occurring here (this should be the 13th stitch to be picked up).

Change needles and knit across the instep stitches, noting that the instep pattern is worked as the leg pattern commencing from round 9, then change needles again, and pick up 13 stitches down the other side of the heel flap, including the strand between the instep stitches and the heel flap stitches as before, and again twisting all strands as you knit them, with the same needle knit across the first half of the heel stitches.

Taking the next needle as needle 1 the remainder of the gusset shaping is worked as follows...

Round 1: knit all stitches from needle 1, knit across needles 2 and 3 (instep stitches) in eyelet pattern as set, knit all stitches from needle 4.

Round 2: knit to the last 3 stitches on needle 1, K2tog, K1. Knit across needles 2 and 3 (instep stitches) in eyelet pattern as set. On needle 4 K1, SSK, knit across remaining stitches.

Repeat these 2 rounds until the stitch count has reduced to 50 stitches again.

Foot:

Continue knitting the sole stitches and working the eyelet pattern on the instep stitches until the foot measures the required length from the back of the heel, remembering that the toe will add approximately 1 and a half inches to the overall foot length. Knit two rounds plain (i.e. discontinue the rib pattern).

Toe:

Work the following 2 rounds until 26 stitches remain...

Round 1: On needle 1 knit to the last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1. On needle 2 K1, SSK, knit across all remaining stitches. On needle 3 knit to the last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1. On needle 4 K1, SSK, knit across all remaining stitches.

Round 2: Knit all stitches.

For the remainder of the toe omit round 2, working round 1 only until 14 stitches remain. Knit across the stitches on needle 1. Place all stitches from needles 2 and 3 onto 1 needle, and all stitches from needles 1 and 4 onto 1 needle (7 stitches on each of 2 needles). Break off the yarn leaving a 12 inch tail. Thread this onto a darning needle and Kitchener the remaining stitches together.

Finishing:

Weave in all ends, first using the end at the top of the cuff to join together the first and last stitches of the cast on so that the cast on edge becomes 1 continuous round. Block on sock blockers or iron under a damp cloth.

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