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## Karenina Socks



*These socks were inspired by antique gilded glass tree ornaments. The stitch pattern is adapted from Russian Stitch by Barbara Walker. As I knit these rich, opulent socks I have been listening to Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy with images of the harsh Russian landscape contrasted by lavish interiors decorated with Faberge Eggs in my mind's eye. Who else to name them for but this most celebrated sock knitter from literature?*

## Pattern Notes

These socks will fit an average sized woman's foot.

The two colour pattern is formed using a slip stitch mosaic so that only one strand is used at a time. It is a great introduction to colour work and ingeniously creates a vertically orientated pattern from stripes worked horizontally.

## Materials

50g main (purple) and 50g contrast (gold) sock yarn.  
Set of four 2.25mm double pointed needles (or size to get gauge)  
Blunt tapestry/darning needle

## Abbreviations

MC – main colour (purple)  
CC – contrast colour (gold)  
CO – cast on  
St – stitch(es)  
K – knit  
P – purl  
K2tog – knit 2 st together  
P2tog – purl 2 st together  
SSK – slip, slip, knit (slip 2 st from left needle to right needle and knit through both stitches)  
Sl Slip stitch to other needle without knitting it.  
Sl wyb Slip stitch to other needle without knitting it with yarn behind the stitch. (note: pass yarn to back of work, slip stitch to other needle then pass yarn to front of work to continue purling.)  
M1 Make 1 stitch by lifting the bar between the stitches and knitting into the back of it.

## Gauge

Approximately 7 st – 1 in (2.5 cm) using stocking stitch

## Pattern

With CC CO 60 st very loosely (over 2 needles). Make sure that you leave a reasonable tail of yarn as the cast on edge will be folded over and sewn down to form a picot edge at the end. Divide stitches evenly onto 3 needles and start working in the round.

## Cuff

K 10 rows  
Next row (K2tog YO) repeat to end  
K 1 row  
Change to MC  
K 9 rows

Note – if you loathe sewing in ends as much as I do, don't bother to cut off the CC while knitting the outside of the cuff. Twist the yarns a couple of times at the beginning of the row if you want but it will be covered up when you sew down the cuff.

With CC K1 row P1 row  
With MC K2 rows

Russian stitch leg pattern commences as follows:

Row 1 CC (K4 Sl1) to end  
Row 2 CC (P4 Sl1 wyb) to end  
Rows 3 and 4 MC (Sl1 K4) to end  
Rows 5 and 6 as rows 1 and 2  
Rows 7 and 8 with MC K3 (Sl1 K4) to last stitch K1.

Continue in pattern until work is 7 inches, (17 cms) or desired length ending with CC

## Heel Flap

Using MC K15, turn work  
P29 p2tog, turn work.  
You will be working back and forth on these stitches

Note: The stitch is decreased so that the instep pattern is worked over 29 stitches and remains symmetrical.  
Rearrange stitches so that there are 15 and 14 stitches on the two 'fallow' needles respectively and 30 on the working needle.

Proceed as follows:  
Row 1 (Sl1 K1) Repeat to end  
Row 2 Sl1, p to end

Repeat these 2 rows 14 times (15 times in total).

## Turn the heel

Starting on right side:  
Sl1, K16, SSK, k1, turn  
Sl1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn  
Sl1, k to 1 st before gap, ssk, k1, turn

Sl1, p to 1 st before gap, p2tog p1, turn  
Continue working like this until all st are  
worked and you have 18 st left on this  
needle.

### **Gusset** (start on RS )

**Needle 1** – Transfer half the st from heel  
flap to new needle, then pick up and k 16 st  
from one side of heel flap

**Needle 2** – work in pattern for instep as set  
for leg

**Needle 3** – Pick up and k 16 st from other  
side of heel flap, then k remaining st from  
heel flap.

Next row

Knit until last 3 st on needle 1, k2tog, k1.

Knit needle 2 according to instep pattern. K1  
st on needle 3, then ssk, and knit the rest of  
the stitches.

Knit 1 round.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 15 st  
left on each of needle 1 & 3.

Then continue to work until you reach  
desired foot length allowing 5 cm/2 1/2 in  
for toe shaping by measuring the sole.

At the end of the instep pattern on the last  
row, M1 (3osts on needle)

### **Cunning adjustment!**

I have worked out a little adjustment that  
evens up the sole and the instep as the  
slipstitch fabric comes up slightly shorter  
than stocking stitch and would otherwise  
give the finished sock a bit of a 'turned up  
toe' when off the foot. I put in four short  
rows on the instep before the toe shaping  
which even things up a bit. I did it like this,  
starting at the beginning of the row at the  
mid sole position:

Row 1 Needle 1 K15

Needle 2, K to 2 stitches before the end of  
the needle, wrap next stitch and turn.

Row 2 Needle 2, p to 2 stitches before the  
end of the needle, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 3 Needle 2, k to 3 stitches before the  
end of the needle, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 4 Needle 2 p to 3 stitches before the  
end of the needle, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 5 Work straight across needles 2 and 3

picking up wraps as you come to them  
Row 6, K, picking up remaining wraps as  
you come to them.

60 stitches remain as follows:

Needles 1 and 3, 15 stitches

Needle 2, 30 stitches

### **Toe Shaping**

Needle 1 – k until last 3 st. k2tog, k1.

Needle 2 – k1, ssk, k until last 3 st, k2tog, k1.

Needle 3 – k1, ssk, k to end

Knit one round.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 16st  
on needle 2 and 8st on each of needles 1 & 3.

Repeat Row 1 until 4 st remain on needle 2  
and 2 st on each of needles 1 and 3.

Graft toe using kitchener stitch & weave in  
any loose ends. Sew cast on edge to the  
inside of the lower set of purl bumps to form  
the folded cuff.

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Jane Lithgow December 2007

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Follow her knitting and spinning adventures  
here:

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