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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:

<http://janesprobablyknitting.blogspot.com/>

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