

Blasted Toe Socks



These socks are knit in two pieces: from the ball of the foot down to the toes, then from the ball of the foot to the cuff, and I used the Magic Loop method throughout so that I could put both socks on the same needle and knit them 2-at-once after I got all the toes done. Knitting both socks at the same

time is a great method for people (like me) who get distracted and/or don't take notes well - your socks are guaranteed to have the same length!



As you're knitting your toes, remember: not all toes are the same! I made these for my sister, whose toes are similar to my own. I wrote up this pattern because toes are like fingers: they don't grow out of the same row. I used my past experience with gloves to create a pattern that lets you knit toes on different rows! Make sure you keep the waste yarn in each toe until you're happy with it, because that will let you try the socks on as you go along. If my stitch counts are incorrect, you can adjust for a more perfect fit.

Materials

- At least 450 yards of sock yarn. I used 1 skein of [Fearless Fibers SOCK yarn](#) (100% superwash merino, 4 oz, 550 yards) in the colorway "Kildare" and had plenty left over. Plan on using about 225 yards per sock, since the toes use up more yarn.
- 2mm (size 0 US) circular needle (or DPNs, if you prefer)
- Darning needle
- Crochet hook
- Waste yarn (make sure it's a different color from your working yarn!)

Begin the toe-making!

Waste yarn

Each foot is started separately (I don't start knitting both socks at once until the toes are done). Begin with a crochet cast-on:

Using waste yarn, crochet a loose chain of over 60 stitches, then pick up and knit 60 stitches into the bump on the back of the chain stitches. Join in the round, careful not to twist, and knit 6 rounds. You're going to be putting the sts for all your toes on waste yarn first.

Pinky toe

On the 6th round, put the last 5 stitches on waste yarn. Then put the next 5 sts on waste yarn. These are for the pinky toe (5 sts on top of the foot, 5 sts on the bottom).

Fourth toe

Join in the round again and knit 2 rounds with the remaining 50 sts. Again, put the last 5 sts of this second round and the first 5 sts of the next round on waste yarn. This is for the fourth toe.

Middle toe & Second toe

CO 2 sts, then join in the round and knit for 1 full round. Then knit around and put the last 24 sts on waste yarn (last 12 sts of this round and first 12 sts of the next round). This gives you 12 sts for each of the middle and second toes.

Big toe

Thread waste yarn through the remaining 18 sts, but don't take them off your needles. This way, if you want to make adjustments to the big toe, you can rip back to this point safely.

Knit 'em up

If you make any changes to these instructions to improve the fit of your toe socks, take good notes. That way the feet will match!

Big Toe

You have 18 sts for your big toe on the needles. Join in the round and knit around, evenly increasing by 8 sts. Knit these 26 sts plain for 19 rounds (or to fit).

Decreases:

*Dec 1 st on each end of each needle (total of 4 sts decreased)

K 1 round plain*

Rep the two rounds between * 3 more times. There should be 10 sts left for the big toe.

Arrange on 2 needles (if you're not using Magic Loop) and graft using Kitchener Stitch.

Second Toe

Attach yarn, pick up and knit 2 sts at the base of the Big Toe, then pick up and knit 6 sts on one needle, 6 sts on the next, then pick up and knit another 2 sts from the base of the Big Toe. You should have 16 sts for the Second Toe: 8 sts on each needle (Magic Loop).

Knit 17 rounds straight.

Knit 1 decrease round (dec 1 st on each end of each needle) for a total of 12 sts, 6 on each needle. Graft together with Kitchener Stitch.

Middle Toe

Attach yarn, pick up and knit 1 st from the base of the Second Toe, then pick up and knit 6 sts on one needle, 6 sts on the next, then pick up and knit 1 st from base of Second Toe. You should have 14 sts: 7 sts on each needle (again, Magic Loop).

Knit one round, increasing one st on each needle so that there are 8 sts on each needle.

Knit 10 rounds straight.

Knit 1 decrease round (2 sts per needle again) for a total of 12 sts, 6 on each needle. Graft with Kitchener Stitch.

Fourth Toe

Attach yarn, pick up and knit 2 sts from base of Middle Toe. Pick up and K 5 sts from waste yarn. On next needle, M1, then pick up and knit 5 sts from waste yarn, then pick up and knit 1 st from base of 3rd toe. You should have a total of 14 sts (7 on each needle).

Knit 10 rounds plain.

Dec 1 st on each end of each needle (total of 4 sts decreased)

K 1 round plain

You should now have 10 sts (5 on each needle). Graft with Kitchener Stitch.

Pinky Toe

Attach yarn, pick up and knit 2 sts from base of Fourth Toe. Pick up and knit 5 sts from waste yarn. Next needle: pick up and knit remaining 5 sts from waste yarn, then pick up and knit 2 sts from base of Fourth Toe. You should have 7 sts on each needle.

Knit 9 rounds plain.

Next round: dec only the first and last sts of the *round* (not each needle) (6 sts rem on each needle).

K 1 round plain .

Graft remaining 12 sts together with Kitchener Stitch.

Make sure your toes fit, and then do it all one more time!



The hard part is over with! Go get a drink, stretch, pat yourself on the back, and admire your handiwork (toesiwork). If you're familiar with knitting toe-up socks, we're almost in familiar territory.

If you're not OK with knitting both socks at once on the same needle, that's fine. You can do yours one at a time. I'm giving instructions for doing both socks at once, though.

Get your stitches on your needles



You should now have two matching little toe hats like the one above (yay!). Turn one over, so that the big toes are next to each other. Locate the beginning of the round where your two ends of waste yarn meet. Pick up 30 sts on one sock, then 30 sts on the other. Pull your needle through so that these sts are resting on cable, then using the same needle, pick up the remaining 30 sts on each sock. If you have two balls of yarn, you can now begin to

knit your socks by attaching the end of each ball of yarn to each sock. If you just have one ball of yarn, attach the outside end to one sock and the inside end to the other.

Since you arranged your socks with the big toes next to each other, you can try them on as you knit them.

For this pair of socks, I used short row heels. My preferred method for deciding when it's time to start the heel is trying the sock on, and when the top of the sock is $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" longer than the top of my foot (it bunches up a little), and the bottom of the sock is between 1 and 2" short of the edge of my heel, then I start my heels. My other favorite heel is the afterthought heel, which goes in the same place. You can also use a toe-up version of the flap-and-gusset heel, but the spacing for that is different (I believe. I've never successfully tried one).



After you knit your heels, keep going until your socks measure as long as you want. Do some ribbing at the top (k2, p2 is my favorite, but you might prefer twisted rib or something snazzier) and cast off very loosely. You might want to use a [sewn cast-off](#) or a [Russian bind-off](#) to ensure that your cuff is super-stretchy. For these socks, I just used a regular bind-off and did it veeerry loosely. Since then, the Russian bind-off has become my favorite.