

WILDFLOWER SOCKS

by fawn pea | f.pea designs

Sizes

size: women's XS-S (M-L, XL)

The stitch pattern makes these socks work up a little tight. If you have wider feet or are unsure about the sizing, go up a size.

Measurements

XS-S: 7-inch circumference

M-L: 8-inch circumference

XL: 9.5-inch circumference

Gauge

7.5 st/in in stockinette stitch

Materials

1 skein Lorna's Laces
Shepherd Sock, 430 yd / 100 g
per skein (shown in "Gold Hill"
colorway)

size US 1 DPN's or 40-inch
circulars if you prefer the
Magic Loop method (or size to
achieve gauge)

stitch markers

tapestry needle



The days are becoming short and gray - just the time to knit up some bright socks that make you want to dance! These socks are named for the "wildflower purl" stitch pattern (from Barbara Walker's *Second Treasury of Knitting Patterns*). The stitch pattern is easy to memorize and very forgiving - if you do make a mistake, it will be practically invisible, especially with variegated yarn. If you do use



Pattern Notes

wildflower purl stitch pattern

Rnd 1 - 3: Knit

Rnd 4: K5, *[P3 tog, leave these stitches on the needle, YO, P the same 3 st tog again, then slip them from the needle, K5.]
Repeat from * to end.

Rnd 5-7: Knit

Rnd 8: K1, Repeat from * above to end.

Yarn Ideas

The beauty of these socks is how well the stitch pattern shows off variegated yarn. The down side is, pretty stitch patterns like this one are totally lost in self-stripping yarn. Please do yourself a favor and don't try to knit these socks in self-stripping yarn. Choose a solid or variegated yarn instead. Here are a few suggestions:

Cascade Yarns Heritage Paints (75% merino, 25% nylon) 437 yards / 100 grams

Rowan Fine Art (45% wool, 25% nylon, 20% mohair, 10% silk) 437 yards / 100 grams

Blue Moon Fiber Arts Socks that Rock Lightweight (100% merino wool) 405 yards / 146 grams

Mountain Colors Crazyfoot (90% Merino, 10% Nylon) 425 yards / 100 grams

variegated yarn, you will get an impressionist effect of single-color "wildflowers" on a multi-colored background. Self-stripping yarn is not recommended for this project.

You can re-size these socks to fit any wearer, just keep in mind that the stitch pattern requires a multiple of 8 st when knit in the round.

Starting at the Top

Using 2 needles held together, CO 56 (64, 72) st.

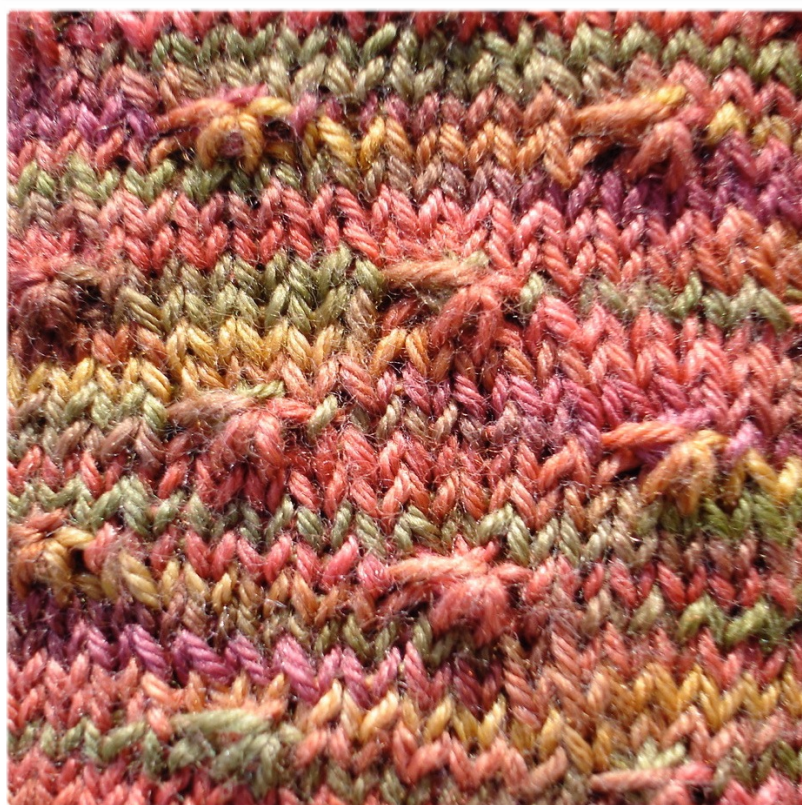
Divide evenly across 3 DPN's. Place M for knitting in the round.

Join yarn and knit in K1, P1 rib until sock measures 1.5 inches from CO edge.

Change to wildflower purl stitch pattern. Knit in patt until sock measures 7 1/2 (8) inches (or desired length) from CO edge. End with rnd 8 of st pattern.

Heel Flap

K 13 (16), turn work, Sl 1, P 27 (31, 35). Place rem st on 2 DPN's to hold for later. You will now knit the heel flap with the 28



(32, 36) st on needle one (your st marker should be in the middle of these).

R 1: *Sl 1, K1. Rep from * to end. Turn work.

R 2: Sl 1, P to end.

Repeat these two rows until you have knitted 28 (32, 36) heel flap rows. There will be 14 (16, 18) selvedge st.

Turn the Heel

R1: Sl first st, K 14 (16, 18). SSK, K1, turn work.

R2: Sl 1 purl-wise, P4 (5, 6), P2tog, turn.

R3: Sl 1 purl-wise, K to 1 st before gap, SSK (1 st from each side of gap), K1 turn.

R4: Sl 1 purl-wise, P to 1 st before gap, P2tog, P1, turn.

Rep rows 3 and 4 until all heel flap st have been worked, ending with a WS row. 16 (18, 20) st rem.

Note: If you are knitting the smaller sock size, your stitch marker is a little off-center. As you knit back across, just move your marker over so that there are 8 st on each side of it. This will make your life a little easier during the decreases that are coming up.

Heel Gusset

K across all heel st, and with the same DPN, pick up and K 14 (16,18) selvedge st along the heel flap. Using another DPN, K across the 28 (32, 36) instep st you were holding. With a third needle, pick up and K 14 (16, 18) selvedge st up the other side of the heel flap and K across heel to marker. Now you're back to knitting in the round, beginning at the center back of the heel.

Important Aside...

Now that you're back to knitting in the round, you will be knitting in the stitch pattern again - in fact, you have just completed rnd 1 of the pattern. While making the decreases in the heel gusset, I prefer to knit the heel section in stockinette st, and the instep section in the pattern. Use stitch markers to make this easier - on your next knitting round, place a marker at the end of the heel gusset st, knit across the instep st, and then place another marker at the start of the heel gusset st. It's also a bit easier if these markers are a different color from your first marker, which marks the beginning of the round.

Back to the knitting...

Important Notice

This is a free pattern and you are welcome to use it for all the non-commercial purposes you like.

However, you may not reproduce this pattern to sell, and you may not sell what you make with it. You may donate what you make with it to charity, and you may use it for charity fundraisers only if 100% of the proceeds are donated to the charity (and by charity I don't mean your kid's college fund). Thanks for understanding!

Pattern Support

Need help? Check out the Free Pattern FAQ on my blog: bit.ly/freepattFAQ

Still stumped? Send me an email: f.pea@airpost.net

Let's Be Friends



Heel Decreases

Next rnd: Knit to 3 st before end of needle 1, K2tog, K1. [This is a good time to place that marker I mentioned above]. K in patt across instep st on needle 2. [Again, here's where you would place the other marker]. K1, SSK, K to end of needle 3. 2 st decreased.

Knit one round without decreasing, taking care to follow the st patt along the instep st.

Continue decreasing 2 st every other rnd in this manner, maintaining the patt in the instep st, until 56 (64, 72) st rem.

Foot

Now you can resume your stitch pattern throughout the whole sock as you did before getting to the heel. You may need to move your primary stitch marker back to the actual beginning of the rnd to get your stitch pattern lined up right. Work even in patt until sock measures 6.5 (8, 8.5) inches from heel, or approximately 2 inches less than your desired overall foot length.

Toe

You are all done with the wildflower purl so you can just forget about it now and knit the toe in regular old stockinette st as you start decreasing. If you still have those other two stitch markers on there, you're going to move them around a little.

Knit one rnd in st st as follows: K 14 (16, 18), PM, K 28 (32, 36), PM, K to end. Now your markers are properly placed for the toe decreases.

Rnd 1: K to 3 st before M, K2tog, K1, sl M, K1, SSK. Knit to 3 st before next M, K2tog, K1, sl M, K1, SSK. K to end. 4 st decreased

Rnd 2: Knit.

Continue decreasing 4 st every other rnd in this manner until 28 (32, 36) st rem.

Now decrease 4 st on every rnd until 8 st rem.

Graft the remaining toe st using Kitchener Stitch.

Weave in your loose ends, and then make another one just like the first!