

Eleanora Stocking Pattern

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Yarn: Halcyon Yarns Silk, 2/12, hand dyed using a period method for the 16th c. with cochineal and tannic acid. www.halcyonyarn.com A pair of stockings required ~ 1220 yard of 2/12 silk.

Needles used: Size 00 dpns for the cuff and 000 dpns for the rest of the stocking.

Gauge: 12 stitches/ 20 rows = 1"

This pattern was made to fit a 5'10" woman with size 10 regular feet. When I knit this pattern I did not turn it after completing the cuff and essentially knit it inside out. You can choose to turn your work after completing the cuff, it won't make any difference except the garter rib will have the knit side prominent instead of the purl side. I personally think the knit side is more attractive, but the purl side out is how the original stockings are worn. I also chose to continue the pattern into the foot, which you may choose to omit. Keeping the pattern constant creates a garter rib across the bottom of the foot, which some may find uncomfortable but I don't notice. It's easy enough to knit the heel flap on the 39 stitches in a Slip 1, Knit 1/ Slip 1 purl back and then shape the heel pocket as one would a Dutch Heel. The decorative bands will be intact in the instep and one can knit the sole of the foot in stockinette, which will be quicker. You can still finish the stocking with a round toe, or a wedge toe. There are a lot of ways to customize this pattern to your preferences.



Cuff: The cuff pattern is based on a repeat of 12. For my calf (~15") I cast on 168 stitches on the size 00 needles and joined to work in the round the 55 rows of the **Stocking Cuff Chart**. In the final round (purl row of the chart) I decreased 8 stitches evenly and changed to size 000 needles to begin the leg pattern. To adjust for your leg you can go up or down by 12 or you can change your needles/ yarn for a custom fit.

Leg: The leg consists of 3 design elements: a garter rib (7 stitches), a horizontal rib (9 stitches) and a rice stitch (9 stitches). I refer to these bands by name throughout the pattern and the rice and rib bands are labeled on the chart. The leg was started in the center of a rice stitch band to help hide the join when working in the round. (**See Leg Chart**) I worked in the established pattern until the stocking measured roughly 5" from the base of the cuff. (5" of leg pattern ~ 25 repeats). You can make this measurement longer or shorter based on your own measurements.

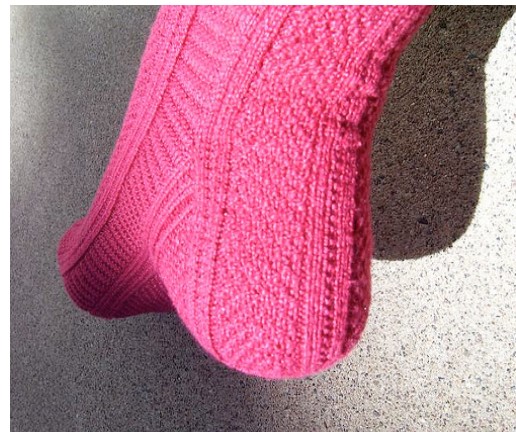


Shaping the leg: When the leg reached the desired length I started shaping. I decreased 1 stitch on either side of center stitch (which was kept in garter) every 4 rows; 2 stitches removed every 4 rows. I continued decreasing until the center rice panel, 2 garter rib panels, 2 horizontal rib panels and 1 garter rib panel was eliminated. 112 stitches remained with a garter rib panel traveling down the center back. I continued knitting the leg until it measured 14 1/2" from the base of the cuff ~ 66 pattern repeats. Adjust the length of the leg to suit your needs.

Heel Flap: The heel is worked across 39 stitches. The garter rib in the center back of the leg, the 2 rice bands on either side and the 2 garter ribs that flank that, with a purl stitch on each end. The heel flap is worked in the established pattern, slipping the first stitch in each row, until it measures ~ 2 ¼" in length or there are roughly 25 slip stitches on the heel flap.

Turning the heel: Starting on the right side, P24 (except for the garter band, which should be worked in it's pattern throughout the entire heel flap), P2 Tog P1 turn, slip 1 K10 K2 tog k1 turn, continue in this pattern knitting or purling 2 tog over the gap until 25 stitches remain.

Gusset: The gusset is worked in rice stitch with 3 bands of garter rib (one on each end and one in the center). At the end of the decreasing for the gusset you will be left with a rice band of 9 stitches on either side of the garter rib, which is the size of the rice stitch band in the chart. If you need more room for your foot you could leave more stitches in this area and make the rice bands on the bottom of the foot wider.



Gusset Row 1: Purl across the 25 stitches of the heel flap (Continuing the garter rib band in the established pattern in the center of the bottom foot). You will pick up and work 25 stitches along the heel flap in P1, K1 stopping 7 stitches before the instep, work those as follows P1, K2, P1, K2, P1 (first row of the Garter Rib). Work the stitches in the instep in the established pattern and pick up and work 25 stitches in the heel flap as follows: P1, K2, P1, K2, P1. (K1, P1) repeat to the end of the heel flap and across the base of the heel. Work 1 half of the garter rib band in the established patten (P1, K2). 148 stitches total. 73 stitches on the instep needle/s and 38 stitches on the 1st needle (the center back stitch of the garter rib is on the first needle) and 37 stitches on the 3rd needle.



Gusset Row 2: Needle #1, K3, P1, work in K1, P1 to match row #1 until you get to the last 7 stitches, P1, K5, P1. Work the instep stitches in the established pattern on needle #2. Needle #3, P1, K5, P1, work in K1, P1 to match row one.

Gusset Row #3: Needle #1 P1, K2, P1 and then K1, P1 the opposite as what was knit in the first 2 rows (you are creating a rice stitch pattern in the gusset) until you get to the last 9 stitches on Needle #1. Decrease 1 stitch using SSK. Knit the garter rib band as follows P1, K2, P1, K2, P1, work across instep stitches in established pattern. Needle #3: P1, K2, P1, K2, P1 decrease 1 stitch using K2Tog, continue in K1 P1 pattern the opposite of rows 1 and 2.

Gusset Row #4: Needle #1 K3, P1 and then K1, P1 to match row 3 to the last 7 stitches, P1, K5, P1. Needle #2: Work in established pattern. Needle #3: P1, K5, P1 then K1, P1 to match row 3 to the last 3 stitches, P1, K2.

You will decrease 2 stitches in the gusset section every other row until you have 112 stitches remaining .

Foot: Continue the foot in the established leg band pattern until it reaches the desired length. I have size 10 feet so I knit until the foot measured roughly 8 ¼" or 95 pattern repeats from the base of the cuff.

Round toe: I knit a round toe, which is what I believe was used on the original stocking. I started by decreasing the first and last stitches in the horizontal rib and rice stitch bands. 14 stitches decreased every 4 rows. Continue decreasing the rib and rice bands, the final decrease will involve incorporating the purl stitch on either side of the garter rib: slip 1 purl wise, P2Tog and pass the slipped stitch over. You now have 7 garter ribs, 42 stitches. Next row: Decrease 2 stitches in each garter rib as follows, P1, K2 tog, repeat, 14 stitches decreased 28 stitches remain. Next row, K2 tog, repeat, 14 stitches remain. Next row, K2tog, repeat, 7 stitches remain. Thread tail through remaining stitches, pull close and secure.

Hand wash and lay flat to dry.

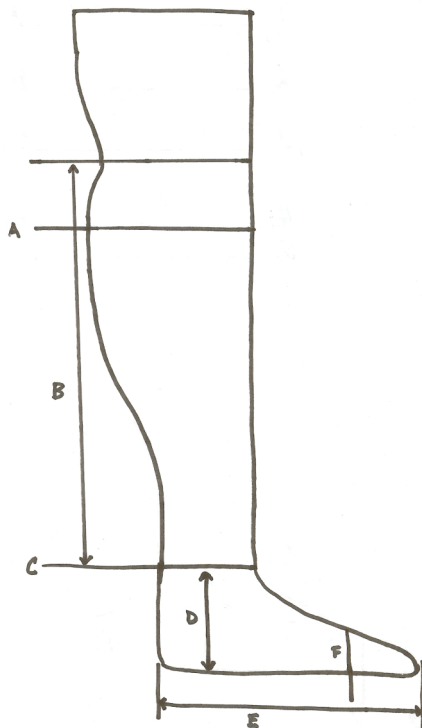
The stockings are worn with garters, which are secured just under the knee and the decorative cuff is folded over. I made simple garters using finger loop braiding.



Fitting your own legs:

Take the following measurements.

- A: The circumference around the largest part of the calf
- B: The length from the bend at the back of the knee to the top of the ankle.
- C: The circumference of the ankle.
- D: The length from the ankle to the ground.
- E: The length of the foot.
- F: The circumference of the foot at the widest part.



Next determine the gauge of the yarn that you are using. Cast on enough stitches so that you can fit the calf measurement with a negative ease of 1 ½-2 inches or whatever you are comfortable with. Knit the cuff portion of the stocking to whatever length you wish and then start the leg portion of the stocking and knit until it measures 5-6 inches, now you will begin your shaping. Subtract the amount that you have knit for your leg from measurement B, you will have this space to decrease your stitches so that you have the desired amount for your ankle. For example: I start with 160 stitches and I need 100 stitches to fit my ankle and foot. I need to reduce 60 stitches. If I start the decreases and my leg measures 5" and the length B needs to measure 14", I have 9 inches to decrease 60 stitches. In this example I decreased 2 stitches every 4 rows, but you can decrease in whatever manner works for your measurements. It appears that the ankles on surviving stockings were not as tailored as we are accustomed to so it's ok for it to be baggy. Once your leg is the desired length shape your ankle using whatever technique you prefer ending with the same number of stitches that you started with. In period a Dutch Heel or Garter Heel is a common method for turning a heel. Knit the foot until it is the desired length and then shape the toe using whatever method you prefer.

Charted by Giovanna 5-16-08

cast on edge

55 rows

k=Knit
p=Purl
\= K2tog
Sl= Slip Slip Knit
0=Yarn over

32 stitch repeat

4 row repeat

Starting stitch for center back

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