



# MAY YOUR DAYS BE MERRY

by Pauliina Karru



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This is a recipe for knee-high vanilla socks.

**About the recipe:** My feet are small and on the narrower side (EUR 36-37, US 6.5) and this is how I did these socks to fit my feet. They are not super tight on me on the foot part, so the pattern could work for someone with slightly larger/wider feet too as written. I've added notes to where to add more stitches to customize it to your feet, but note that these modifications have not been tested.

## Materials:

- Yarn: MC: about 15 g of fingering weight sock yarn for toes and heels. C1-C24: 24 x 5 g miniskeins of fingering weight sock yarn (12 for each sock).
- Needles: 2.25 mm / US 1 dpns or size needed to obtain gauge.

## Gauge:

24 sts x 26 rnds = 10 cm x 10 cm / 4" x 4" in stockinette stitch knit in the round after blocking.

## Size:

The recipe as written will fit a shoe-size EUR 36-37 / US 6.5.

## Notes:

The socks are knit toe up.

The recipe is written for dpns, but is adaptable to other methods of sock knitting.

The leg portion is meant to be tight fitting so the socks will stay up.

## Recipe

### TOES

CO 16 sts (8 sts per needle) using Judy's Magic Cast On in MC (the color you want to use for your toes and heels).

**Rnd 1:** Knit.

**Rnd 2:** \*K1, M1R, knit until 1 st left, M1L, k1; repeat from \* on the other needle.

**Rnds 3-4:** Repeat Rnd 2.

**Rnd 5:** Knit.

**Rnd 6:** Repeat Rnd 2.

Divide stitches onto 4 dpns. You have 8 sts on each needle.

**Rnd 7:** Knit.

**Rnd 8:** \*K1, M1R, knit until you have 1 st left on needle #2, M1L, k1; repeat from \* on needles #3 and #4.

Repeat rounds 7 and 8 until you have 14 stitches on each needle (or your usual number for socks). You now have a total of 56 stitches.

*Note:* You can try the sock on your toes now. If you think it is too tight, repeat Rnds 7 & 8 until you are satisfied.

### STRIPE PATTERN

Change to C1.

Knit 20 rounds.

Do not cut yarn.

Change to C2.

Knit 1 round.

Knit 1 round with C1.

Cut C1 yarn.

\*Knit 20 rounds using C2.

Do not cut yarn.

Change to C3.

Knit 1 round.

Knit 1 round with C2.

Cut C2 yarn.\*

\* to \* forms the stripe pattern for the entire sock (just keep changing the colors) which is repeated all the way to the cuff.

There will be 11 stripes in each sock + the cuff.

*Note:* If you have a significantly larger stitch count than the 56 sts used for the sample pair, you might not be able to knit 20 rnds with the 5 g mini. Reduce the number of rnds in the large stripe if needed, or use larger minis. Note also, that if doing less rounds, the socks will be shorter.

### At the same time:

Place a waste yarn for the heel when needed and work calf increases as follows:

### HEEL PLACEMENT

When the sock measures 6 cm / 2.5" shorter than the length of your foot, mark the place for your afterthought heel. To do this, take a piece of scrap yarn and use it to knit the stitches on needles #3 & #4. Do not cut your stripe yarn! Go back to the beginning of needle #3 and knit needles #3 and #4 again with the yarn you were using for the stripe. Continue on with the striping and calf increases.

*Note:* For me, the heel placement came in at five rounds into my third stripe.

### INCREASES FOR THE CALF

After the afterthought heel placement, continue to work the stripe pattern.

On stripes 6 through 10 (or as appropriate for your size) do increases for the calf at the center back.

Work the Increase Rnd on rounds 5 and 15 of each stripe.

**Increase Rnd:** Knit until 1 st left on needle #3, M1R, k2, M1L, knit to end.

Stripe 11 is worked without increases.

*Note:* If you feel you need more increases at the calf, you can add extra ones on rounds 1 and 10, for example.

## CUFF

After 20 rounds of C11, knit one round in C12 (the cuff color).

Then, knit 1 round in C11 and cut that yarn.

Knit 1 round in C12.

**Next rnd:** \*K1tbl, p1; repeat from \* to end.

Repeat this rnd (twisted rib) for a total of 18 rnds.

Bind off with Jeny's Suprisingly Stretchy Bind Off or your favorite method for a stretchy bind off.

## AFTERTHOUGHT HEEL

Pick up the live sts on both sides of the scrap yarn marker using 4 dpns (14 sts on each needle). Remove the marker yarn.

*Note:* I also like to pick up one extra stitch at the corners and knit them together with the first stitch on the needle on the first heel round.

**Rnds 1-4:** Knit.

**Rnd 5 (dec rnd):** K2tog at the end of each needle. (4 sts dec; 52 sts)

**Rnds 6-8:** Knit.

**Rnd 9 (dec rnd):** Repeat Rnd 5. (48 sts)

**Rnds 10-12:** Knit.

**Rnd 13 (dec rnd):** Repeat Rnd 5. (44 sts)

**Rnd 14:** Knit.

**Rnd 15 (dec rnd):** Repeat Rnd 5. (40 sts)

**Rnd 16:** Knit.

**Rnds 17-21 (dec rnds):** Repeat Rnd 5. (20 sts)

Break yarn leaving a long tail and use the kitchener stitch to graft the heel stitches closed.

*Note:* If you had more stitches, I recommend inserting more knit rounds between the decrease rounds (for example you can repeat rounds 15 and 16 until you have 40 stitches). Or use your favourite method for afterthought heel.

## FINISHING

Knit the second sock in the same manner, with MC and C13-C24.

Weave in all ends. Block.

## ABBREVIATIONS

C1 (C2, etc.)	color 1 (color 2, etc.)
CO	cast on
Dec	decrease(d)
K	knit
K1tbl	knit 1 stitch through the back loop
K2tog	knit two stitches together
M1L	make 1 left-leaning stitch
M1R	make 1 right-leaning stitch
MC	main color
P	purl
Rnd	round
St(s)	stitch(es)

## PATTERN SUPPORT

pauliina.karru@gmail.com

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