

Reverse Psockology

Top-down reverse stocking stitch socks with lace panel and short-row heel and toe.



I was browsing through a stitch pattern book, looking for a simple but interesting rib pattern to knit a sweater for my husband, when I saw this simple lace panel, and started wondering how it would look down the back of a sock (think slightly sexy in a 1940's seamed-socking sort of way). The pattern looks best against reverse stocking stitch but, rather than doing all that purling (which frankly didn't appeal), these socks are knitted inside-out. The short row heel and toe are not reversed, to give subtle interest.

Designer: Anne Pettigrew

Materials needed:

I used Jaeger Matchmaker 4 ply [100% Merino, approx 200 yards/50g ball]; color: Pansy; 2 skeins

1 set of US #1/2.5 mm double-point needles (or preferred size)

2 stitch markers

Yarn substitutes

The pattern is designed to work with any yarn of your choice, although plain or heathered yarns would probably look best.

Sizes

Read the instructions on gauge carefully

Gauge

Measure your own number of stitches per inch using st.st. (measure over at least 4 inches, worked in the round).

Let S = stitches per inch

S = _____

F = measurement round ball of foot (in inches)

F = _____

Calculate the number of stitches to cast on, $C=S \times F \times 0.85$, and round to the nearest 4
so $C = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \times 0.85 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

e.g. I get 9 stitches per inch, so $S=9$

My feet measure 8 inches round the ball of my foot, so $F=8$

$C=9 \times 8 \times 0.85 = 61.2$; nearest multiple of 4 is 60.

We need to allow one extra stitch for joining in the round, so I cast on 61 stitches.

There are various other calculations that need to be made, so rather than have you running for a calculator several times, I will put them all here:

B is the number of stitches Before the marker when starting the heel:

$B = (C \div 4) - 3$ (in my case $(60 \div 4) - 3 = (15) - 3 = 12$)

$B = (\underline{\hspace{1cm}} \div 4) - 3 = (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) - 3 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

H is Half the total number of stitches:

$H = C \div 2$ (in my case $60 \div 2 = 30$)

$H = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \div 2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

L is the number of Live stitches in the middle of the heel or toe:

$L = C \div 4$, rounded down to nearest even number (in my case $60 \div 4 = 15$, round down to 14)

$L = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \div 4 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$, rounds down to .

W is the number of Wrapped stitches on each side when working the heel or toe:

$W = (H - L) \div 2$ (in my case $H = 30$ and $L = 14$, so $(30 - 14) \div 2 = (16) \div 2 = 8$)

$W = (\underline{\hspace{1cm}} - \underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \div 2 = (\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \div 2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

There are spaces in the pattern for you to insert the appropriate values – I have included the values I used in brackets purely as a guide. Feel free to ignore them.

Pattern

Cuff

Loosely cast on C _____ (60) st + 1 extra. Divide work evenly between 3 needles; pm 4 st before last CO stitch. Join in the round by sliding last CO stitch onto needle #1 and k tog 1st and last CO sts, taking care not to twist work.

K2 P2 for 6 rounds

Leg

K first 3 st of round from needle #1 to needle #3 (6 st on needle #3 after marker)

Round 1: K to marker, yo, p2tog, p1, p2tog tbl, yo, k1

Round 2: K to marker, p5, k1

Round 3: K to marker, p1, yo, p3tog, yo, p1, k1

Round 4: K to marker, p5, k1

These four rounds form the pattern. Continue in pattern until leg measures 7 inches (or your preferred length). Finish on 4th round.

K to B _____ (12) st before marker.

First half of heel

**Rearrange stitches on needles , so next H _____ (30) st are on one needle (to make the heel) and the other H _____ st are on another needle.

Row 1: P to next to last st, w&t

Row 2: sl 1, K to next to last st, w&t

Row 3: sl 1, P to last st before unworked st, w&t

Row 4: sl 1, K to last st before unworked st, w&t

Repeat rows 3 & 4 until there are W _____ (8) sts wrapped on one side, L _____ (14) “live” sts in the middle and W _____ (8) sts wrapped on the other side. You should be about to start a purl row.

(N.B. If you want a wide heel, work fewer rows. For a narrow heel, work more rows.)

Second half of heel

Row 1: P across L _____ live sts to 1st unworked, wrapped st. Pick up wrap and p tog with st, w&t (st will have 2 wraps).

Row 2: K to 1st unworked, wrapped st. Pick up wrap and k tog with st, w&t

Row 3: As row 1, pick up both wraps and p tog with st, w&t

Row 4: As row 2, pick up both wraps and k tog with st, w&t

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until all st are “live” again.**

You now have two needles, each with H _____ (30) st. Divide sts evenly between 3 needles again, placing markers where heel meets instep. (Where joining heel to instep you may want to pick up an extra st to avoid holes – knit these extras tog with 1st instep st on next round.)

K every round until foot measures approx 2 inches less than desired finished length. K to 2nd marker. (You are about to start working on the bottom of the foot.)

Toe

Repeat instructions as for heel (from ** to **) – dividing sts as shown by markers.

You now have H _____ (30) sts on each needle again. Graft these together using Kitchener St.

Finishing

Weave in ends and block gently. Turn sock right way out.

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