

PORTOBELLO SOCKS

By Terry Liann Morris – SailingKnitter

The combination of easy knit and purl stitches creates a dramatic mosaic pattern in these socks. I think that the patterning resembles the stone block work of the Spanish forts in the historic Caribbean town in Panama which still can be seen today.

Sizes (3)

Women's Medium (Women's Large/Men's Small, Men's Medium)

Materials

325 (375, 400)/yd fingering/sock yarn. Samples knit with Fortissima Socka, Schoeller & Stahl, (75% superwash wool, 25% Polyamid) Color #1087, and Regia 4fadig Line Steps Color (75% wool, 25% Polyamid) Color #5363

1 set US Size 1 (2.25mm) needles *or size needed to obtain gauge*

1 set US Size 0 (2.00mm) needles (optional)

Gauge

8sts = 1" in stockinette, 10 sts = 1" over mosaic patterning (because it pulls the stitches together in a ribbing effect) on larger needles used to obtain gauge

Note

1. The number of stitches in the two larger sizes is reduced after the leg. The Women's Medium size stitch count remains at 60.
2. The ribbing areas of the Mosaic pattern pulls in the leg of the foot for a nice fit even with the 80 sts. Really.
3. Some knitters prefer to work the cuff ribbing in smaller sized needles especially for the two larger sizes with higher stitch counts on the leg.

CUFF

Cast on 60 (80, 80) sts (with smaller needles if you choose).

Recommended is the German or Twisted Cast on which is very stretchy. Join into the round, being careful not to twist the stitches. Work 2 x 2 ribbing (k2, p2) for 1" (1 ¼", 1 ¼") / 2.5cm (3cm, 3cm).

LEG

Change to larger needles. Begin to work the Mosaic pattern using either the chart or the line-by-line instructions. Repeat each line of the chart 3 (4, 4) times for a complete round. Work Mosaic Pattern a total of 3 times (3 times plus rows 1 thru 10 again for Women's Large/Men's Small and Men's Medium).



HEEL FLAP

Women's Medium: Knit 30 sts. Stop. Turn work. Slip 1, purl 29. Turn work.

Women's Large/Men's Small and Men's Medium: Knit 22 sts. Stop. Turn work. Slip 1, purl 33 sts working across center back to next needle. Stop. Turn work.

Put all 30 (34, 34) sts onto one needle. This is your heel flap and will be worked back and forth in rows in the Heel Stitch pattern. Rearrange the remaining 30 (46) un-worked sts evenly onto two needles which will "wait" until you work the instep and gussets.

Heel Stitch Pattern

Row 1: (Right Side): (slip 1, knit 1) repeat to end of row

Row 2: (Wrong Side): slip 1, purl to end

Repeat these 2 rows until you your heel flap is 2" (2", 2 ¼")/ 5cm (5cm, 6cm) long ending after working a purl row.

HEEL CUP

Row 1: Slip 1, k16 (18, 18), SSK, k1, turn. You will leave 10 (12, 12) sts un-worked

Row 2: Slip 1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 3: Slip 1, k6, SSK, k1, turn

Row 4: Slip 1, p7, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 5: Slip 1, k8, SSK, k1, turn

Row 6: Slip 1, p9, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 7: Slip 1, k10, SSK, k1, turn

Row 8: Slip 1, p11, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 9: Slip 1, k12, SSK, k1, turn

Row 10: Slip 1, p13, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 11: Slip 1, k14, SSK, k1, turn

Row 12: Slip 1, p15, p2tog, p1, turn

For Women's Large/Men's Small and Men's Medium sizes only:

Row 13: Slip 1, k16, SSK, k1, turn

Row 14: Slip 1, p17, p2tog, p1, turn

Knit across the remaining 18 (20, 20) sts.

Gusset Decreases

The Mosaic patterning continues down the top of the foot while the bottom of the foot is worked in plain stockinette stitch for comfort.

Using the larger slipped stitches along the heel flap edge as your guide and with right side facing, pick up and knit approximately 14 (15, 16) stitches, plus make one stitch by lifting a strand at the "corner" between the heel flap and the instep stitches. Knit 0 (4, 2) sts on the instep needle and slip these back to the first needle. Slip the last 0 (4, 2) sts of this instep needle onto a free needle.

Instep needle: Continue in established pattern which will be **Row 1 (Row 11, Row 11)** and **stitch #11 (#7, #5)** of the MOSAIC CHART or line-by-line instructions, repeating as necessary. You will have 30 (38, 42) sts on this instep needle.

With free needles, make one stitch by lifting a strand at the “corner”, and continue to pick up and knit 14 (15, 16) stitches along the other side of the heel flap. Continuing with these same needles, knit across 9 (10, 10) stitches of the heel flap. This is the bottom of the foot and will be the new point where each future round begins and ends. You should now have 24 (30, 29) sts on the first needle, 30 (38, 42) sts on the instep needle and 24 (30, 29) sts on the last needle.

Rnd 1: Knit all sts on first needle. On Instep needle; work the next row of the MOSAIC pattern, on last needle, knit all sts.

Rnd 2 (decreases): knit to the last 3 stitches of the first needle, knit 2 together, knit 1. On Instep needle continue to work appropriate row of mosaic pattern. On last needle, knit 1, SSK, knit to end.

Repeat these 2 rounds until you have 15 sts on the first and last needle (Instep needle will remain at 30 (38, 42) sts for a total of 60 (68, 72) sts.

FOOT

Knit all sts on the first needle, work appropriate row of INSTEP pattern on the instep needle, and knit all sts on the last needle. Continue to work foot in this manner until foot measures 7" (7 ½", 8 ¼") / 18cm (19cm, 21cm) *or to approximately 2"/ 5cm less than your total desired length.* End round at bottom of foot and begin toe.

TOE

Wedge style toe is worked in all stockinette stitch (knit every round).

Set up: Rearrange sts by moving 0 (2, 3) sts from each end of the instep needle to the first and last needle so that they are distributed as 15-30-15, (17-34-17, 18-36-18) sts.

Rnd 1: knit to the last 3 sts of the first needle, k2tog, k1. Next needle, k1, SSK, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. On last needle, knit 1, SSK, knit to end = 56 (68, 68) sts.

Rnd 2: Knit

Rnd 3: Knit

Repeat **Rounds 1 and 2** only until there are 36 sts left. Then work Rnd 1 only until there are 24 sts remaining. Continuing with the last needle, knit across the 6 sts remaining on the first needle. This will give you 12 sts each on 2 parallel needles. Graft (Kitchner) toe closed.

Weave in ends and block. Enjoy! Many thanks to the Ravelry and Holiday Mystery Gifts test knitting squads.