

PUZZLE PIECES Socks

By Terry Liann Morris ~ SailingKnitter

Puzzle pieces are not only a fun design, but are also used as the logo for Autism Awareness. Stranded color-work and slip stitches create the puzzle piece pattern on the legs. This pattern includes extensive advice for successfully knitting with two colors in your sock. Puzzle Pieces Socks are knit cuff-down to the toe and feature the traditional heel flap and gusset construction method. Directions are given both in charts as well as line-by-line written instructions.

Materials

360 (400) total yds sock (fingering) yarn. NOTE: *amounts vary according to how much puzzle work you want on your leg vs main color:*

280 (340) yds Main Solid Color

Small amounts (approx. 45 - 60 yds) each of 4 different solid primary colors for puzzle pieces

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

1 set US Size 1.5 (2.5mm) or US Size 2 (2.75mm) needles are *recommended* for working the stranded color-work portion of the sock.

Sizes (2)

Women's Medium, Women's Large/Men's Medium

Gauge

8.5 sts = 1" over plain Stockinette st *and* stranded color-work

Notes

1. There are two options for how you want your puzzle piece patterning to end, one is a straight edge as in a finished puzzle, and the second is an open end with pieces protruding as in a puzzle in process.
2. Choose your option as to how much patterning you want on your leg (how many repeats you wish to knit).
3. You may also choose to knit plain rounds in the Main Color at the top of the leg and put the Puzzle Pieces pattern lower towards the ankle so it will show-off more often when wearing.
4. If you find that your slipped stitches pucker in later rows, an option is to double wrap those stitches which will be slipped later (on Rows 2 and 10).



ABBREVIATIONS

A	Color A
B	Color B
C	Color C
D	Color D
k	Knit
k2tog	Knit 2 together
p	Purl
rnd	Round
RS	Right Side
ssk	Slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, knit these 2 together thru back loops.
WS	Wrong Side

ADVICE for Knitting Stranded Color-Work on Socks

Stranded color-work socks are beautiful and fun to knit, but can present some problems with the fit for first time knitters. This form of knitting does not have the same elasticity (stretch capacity) as

plain stockinette knitting. This can make the sock too narrow/tight especially on the upper leg portion, and can even produce a sock that can't be pulled up over your heel area, (the widest part!).

Below are some suggestions for a successful project. Although all these tips may sound intimidating, remember that stranded color-work is really rewarding as you can select the colors and patterns that please you.

1. Use needles that are at least one size, or even two sizes larger than you would normally use for the leg portion of the sock. For this pattern, I recommend trying a US 1 ½ size (2.50mm) or US size 2 (2.75mm) if you find your stranded fabric to be too tight and inelastic.
2. Work stranded color-work by turning your sock inside out and knitting on the far side of the tube away from you. You will still see the right-side of the work inside, but will have the floats on the outside. This will force your floats into a wider circle (larger circumference) which makes them a tad longer and won't let them jump across inside corners between needles.
3. Gently **stretch out the stitches** on your right-hand needle as you strand the unused yarn across the back. This will give you **longer** floats and greater flexibility in your fabric.
4. For socks, overly loose stranding and gauge is preferable to short floats and tight knitting. They may appear sloppy off the leg, but when worn will stretch, flatten out and not only look nice, but will actually fit.
5. "Catch" your floats if working *more than* 6 stitches straight of a single color. In this PUZZLE PIECES pattern, catching is only necessary on Rows 15 & 16.
6. To manage your two yarns you have many choices. Try holding one yarn in your left hand continental style and "pick" and the other color yarn in your right hand and English "throw". Or simply set your yarn balls, one on each side of you and pick up and knit, then let go and drop this color. Pick up the next color and do the same. Some knitters hold both colors in one hand and pick or throw the correct color while other knitters use a special tool (Yarn Stranding Guide).
7. When darning in your yarn tails (and yes, there are many) remember to stretch out your fabric to keep your weaving-in work as loose and elastic (stretchy) as the original knitting. The duplicate stitch method works nicely for this.
8. Work with a wool or wool blend yarn which can be effectively wet-blocked.
9. Gently stretch your finished **wet** sock in several directions to even out the stitches and floats.



CUFF

Loosely cast on 60 (72) sts (the German Twisted Cast On method is recommended). Join to knit in the rnd taking care not to twist the stitches. Work 2x2 ribbing (k2, p2) around until cuff measures 1 ½ inches.

LEG

Set Up Puzzle Pieces Edges

Break main color yarn and join in Colors A and B. Work the 4 Set Up rounds to create the puzzle piece edges:

Set up Edges Rnds 1 & 2: (k6-A, k6-B) 5(6) times

Set up Edges Rnds 3 & 4: (k1-B, k4-A, k7-B) 5(6) times

PUZZLE PATTERN

Rnd 1: (k6-A, k6-B) 5(6) times

Rnd 2: same as Rnd 1

Rnd 3: drop colors A and B, join in colors C and D; (k2-C, slip 1 twice, k2-C, k2-D, slip 1 twice, k2-D) 5(6) times

Rnd 4: (k2-C, slip 1 twice, k2-C, k2-D, slip 1 twice, k2-D) 5(6) times

Rnd 5: (k6-C, k6-D) 5(6) times

Rnd 6: same as Rnd 5

Rnd 7: (k1-D, k6-C, k5-D) 5(6) times

Rnd 8: same as Rnd 7

Rnd 9: same as Rnd 5

Rnd 10: same as Rnd 5

Rnd 11: drop colors C and D, join in colors A and B; (k2-A, slip 1 twice, k2-A, k2-B, slip 1 twice, k2-B) 5(6) times

Rnd 12: (k2-A, slip 1 twice, k2-A, k2-B, slip 1 twice, k2-B) 5(6) times









Rnd 13: same as Rnd 1

Rnd 14: same as Rnd 1

Rnd 15: (k1-B, k4-A, k7-B) 5(6) times

Rnd 16: same as Rnd 15

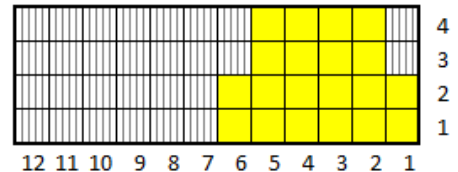
LEGEND

	Knit Color A		Slip st. Color A
	Knit Color B		Slip st. Color B
	Knit Color C		Slip st. Color C
	Knit Color D		Slip St. Color D

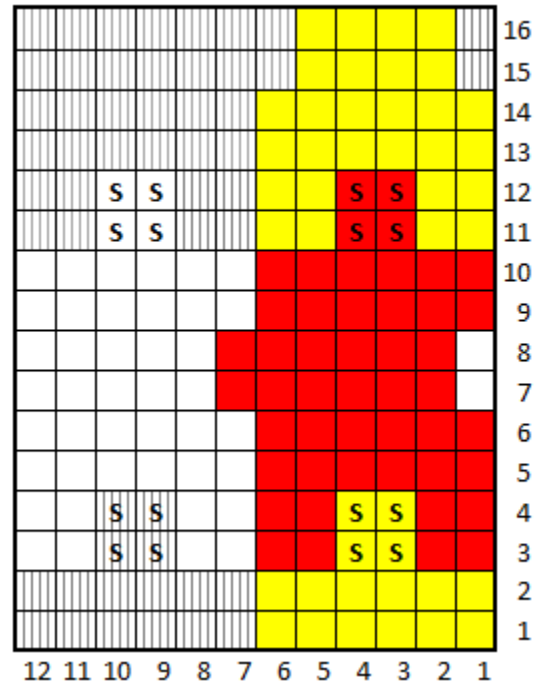
LEGEND

	Knit Color A
	Knit Color B

SET UP PUZZLE EDGE PIECES



PUZZLE PATTERN

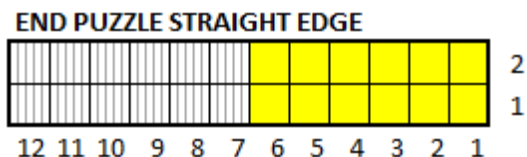


CHOICES:

- 1) Choose how many repeats of the 16-row pattern you want on your leg.
- 2) Choose what you want the bottom part of your puzzle to look like; either a straight edge like a completed puzzle or notched edge of a puzzle still in progress.

Narrow band with Straight Edge

Stop puzzle pattern after Row 16, work the 2 rounds of **End Puzzle Straight Edge** to resemble the straight edges of a finished puzzle.



Wider band with Straight Edge

Repeat these 16 rnds of the PUZZLE PATTERN one or two *more times* if you desire patterning to continue down the leg. Then work the two rounds of the End Puzzle Straight Edge.

End Puzzle Edge Pieces Pattern

Rnd 1: (k6-A, k6-B) 5(6) times

Rnd 2: same as Rnd 1

Narrow band with Open Puzzle piece edge (As Shown in Photo Sample)

Stop puzzle pattern after Row 16, work the 4 rounds of **Open Puzzle Piece Ending** to resemble a puzzle with work in process.

Wide band with Open Puzzle piece edge

Repeat these 16 rnds of the PUZZLE PATTERN one or two more times if you desire patterning to continue down the leg. Next, work the 4 rounds of **Open Puzzle Piece Ending** to resemble a puzzle with work in process.

Open Puzzle Piece Ending

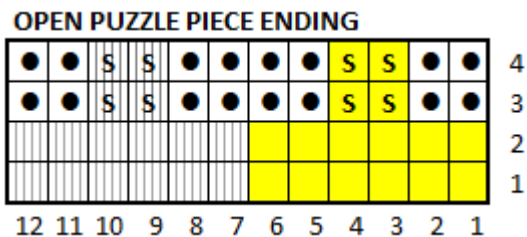
Rnd 1: (k6-A, k6-B) 5(6) times

Rnd 2: same as Rnd 1

Rnd 3: (k2, slip 1 twice, k4, slip 1 twice, k2) 5(6) times

Rnd 4: same as Rnd 3

LEGEND



LEG CONTINUED

Drop any Puzzle pieces colors, join in Main Color. Knit plain rounds at least twice before working the heel flap, *or to desired leg length*.

HEEL

Knit the next 30(36) sts all onto one needle. Stop. These will be your heel flap. Turn work, purl the 30(36) sts of the heel flap.

Divide the remaining sts evenly onto 2 needles for the top of the foot. These 2 needles will stay idle until we finish the heel.

Heel Flap Pattern

Row 1 (RS): Slip 1 as to knit, k1, *slip 1 as to purl, k1, repeat from * to end of row

Row 2 (WS): Slip 1 as to purl, purl to the end of the row

Repeat these 2 rows until you your heel flap is 2" (2 ½") long ending after working a Row 2.

HEEL CUP

Note: All slipped stitches in the heel cup are slipped as to purl.

Row 1 (RS): slip 1, k16(19), ssk, k1, turn. You will leave 10(13) sts un-worked

Row 2 (WS): 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

Continue for Women's Large/Men's Medium

Row 13: slip 1, k16, ssk, k1, turn

Row 14: slip 1, p17, p2 tog, p1, turn

Row 15: slip 1, k18, ssk,turn

Row 16: slip 1, p18, p2tog, Turn

Knit across all 18(20) sts of heel cup.

GUSSETS

Note: When picking up sts on the heel flap edge you pick up 1 st for each slipped stitch. Due to differences in each knitter's row gauge you may have fewer or more rows on your heel flap. If you have fewer rows, pick up the total number as called for in the instructions by putting 2 sts in some loops. If you have more rows, pick up 1 st for each row and note that you will have a higher total st count and work gusset decreases until you have the instructed total number.

Set up Round: Continuing with the heel flap needle, pick up and knit 15 (17) sts along edge of heel flap and Make 1 in the gap between the needles [16 (18) sts total picked up]. With free needle, continue around and knit the sts that remain on the two needles, placing them all onto one needle for the top of the foot. With your free needles, Make 1, then pick up and knit 15 (17) sts along remaining heel flap edge, finally knit 9 (10) sts from the heel flap needle. This is the center bottom of the foot and the beginning/ending of all rounds. Rearrange the sts onto one needle for ½ the heel and the first set of picked up sts, one needle for the top of foot and one needle for the second ½ of the heel and picked up sts.

Rnd 1: Knit around

Rnd 2: Knit to the last 3 sts on first needle, k2tog, k1. Knit all sts on the next needle. On last needle, k1, ssk, knit to the end of the needle.

Repeat these 2 rnds until you have 15 (18) sts remaining on the first and last needles. You will have 60 (72) sts total.

FOOT

Knit all rnds until foot length measures 7" (8") from the back of the heel *or until 2 (2 ¼) inches less than your total desired foot length.*

TOE

Rnd 1: Knit to the last 3 sts on first needle, k2tog, k1, on second needle, k1, SSK, knit to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1, on last needle, k1, SSK, knit to end of needle = 56 (68) sts

Rnd 2: knit all around

Rnd 3: knit all around

Rnd 4 - 6: repeat Rnds 1 thru 3 = 52 (64)

Rnd 7: repeat Rnd 1

Rnd 8: knit all around

Repeat **Rnds 7 & 8** until you have 36 sts remaining, Then work **Rnd 1** only which decreases every round 4 times = 20 sts

Continuing with the last needle, knit across the 5 sts on the first needle = 10 sts each on 2 needles.

Graft (Kitchener stitch) the toe closed. Weave in ends. WET BLOCK for best results.