

Cosy Reading Socks



Welcome to the second design in the 2021 Knitty U !

The inspiration for these lovely socks came as I was watching one of Bryony's favourite tv series with her - 'Ghostwriter'.

The series is set within a bookshop, and in one episode they mentioned the selling of reading socks.

This immediately brought to mind the idea of creating a design for your very own pair of reading socks. Socks that could be worn when you're all snuggled up with a good book.

These socks features a brand new heel design ! Knitted with a dk yarn and some fluffy mohair they are the perfect thing for cosy evenings in.

YARN

The socks are knitted with double knitting weight yarn, held together with a strand of mohair/silk laceweight.

I used Sirdar Snuggly Cashmere Merino Silk Double Knitting. Each 50 g skein has 116 m (127 yds). I used shades Enchanted Castle (main colour) and Snow Queen (contrast). You need two skeins of the main, and one of the contrast.

I held this together with a strand of undyed mohair/silk lace weight. A 50 g skein has 420 m (460 yards).

My sample socks used 72 g of dk weight and 22 g of the mohair/lace.

ABBREVIATIONS

k - knit.

p - purl.

s - slip.

k2tog - knit 2 stitches together.

p2tog - purl 2 stitches together.

mk (make knot) - cast on 2 stitches using the cable cast on. Now knit 3 stitches (the 2 new ones, plus the one that follows). Now lift the first 2 stitches over the third stitch, one at a time.

rs - right side.

GAUGE

24 stitches and 32 rows = 4 inches/10 cm.
Washed and blocked measurement, in stocking stitch.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Medium - 9 inch (23 cm) foot circumference.



NOTIONS

3.5 mm (US size 4) 32 inch (80 cm)
circular knitting needle for knitting the magic loop method (you can use double pointed needles if that is your preferred method). Adjust your needle size to obtain gauge if necessary.

Tapestry needle.

CUFF

Using your main colour yarn and holding this together with your mohair\ silk, cast on 48 stitches and join for knitting in the round. I cast on using the long-tail method. The front needle as you look at your work will be needle 1, and the back needle will be needle 2.

Round 1 - (k2, p2) repeat to the end of the round.

Repeat round 1 for a total of 8 rounds, or your preferred cuff length.

LEG

You can work from either the written, or charted instructions for the Knotty Pattern.

Knotty Pattern

Rounds 1 and 2 - knit all stitches.

Round 3 - (k1, mk, k4) repeat to end of round.

Rounds 4 to 6 - knit all stitches.

Round 7 - (k4, mk, k1) repeat to end of round.

Round 8 - knit all stitches.

Repeat these 8 rounds until you reach your desired leg length, ending with a round 1. I worked 3 repeats plus 1 round.



BUTTERFLY HEEL

As this is a new type of heel, I would recommend that you watch the video tutorial before beginning.

Work across needle 1 in pattern, and then begin the heel on needle 2 as follows :-

The heel is worked back and forth on needle 2. Leaving your main colour yarn attached, begin knitting your heel with your contrast yarn, held together with your mohair/silk yarn.

Row 1 (RS) - s1 purl-wise, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog, turn your work.

Row 2 - purl to last 2 stitches, p2tog, turn your work.

Row 3 - knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog, turn your work.

Row 4 - purl to last 2 stitches, p2tog, turn your work.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until 8 stitches remain. You are now ready to work the second half of the heel.

Row 1 (RS) - s1 purl-wise, knit to end. Now pick up and knit 1 stitch from the sloping edge (pick up where you previously decreased). Turn your work.

Row 2 - s1 purl-wise, purl to end. Now pick up and purl 1 stitch from the sloping edge (again, picking up where you previously decreased). Turn your work.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until you have picked up 8 stitches on either side. You will have picked up at the point of each of the decreases you made in the first half of the heel. You will now have 24 stitches on your needle.

Cut your contrast yarns, leaving a tail to weave in and continue on with your main colours.

You now need to work across needle 2, knitting all stitches. To neaten up any possible gaps at the heel corners, I like to pick up a stitch at the beginning and end of this row as follows :-

Using your right needle tip, pick up the left hand leg of the stitch that is directly under the first stitch on your left needle. Place this on the left needle and knit it together with the first stitch. Now knit to the last stitch and then slip this purl-wise. Now using the same technique as previously, pick up the left hand leg of the stitch directly under the final stitch that you slipped. Now slip that last stitch back to the left needle and knit it together with the one you picked up.

You are now ready to begin knitting the foot.

FOOT

You will now work the foot of your sock, knitting in the Knotty Pattern on needle 1 and knitting all stitches on needle 2.

Continue knitting until your foot measures approximately 2 inches shorter than your desired length, measured from the back of your heel. You should end with either round 4 or 8 of the Knotty Pattern.



MODIFIED UMBRELLA TOE

Round 1 - (k4, k2tog) repeat to end of round. (40 sts)
Knit 4 rounds.

Round 6 - (k3, k2tog) repeat to end of round. (32 sts)
Knit 3 rounds.

Round 10 - (k2, k2tog) repeat to end of round. (24 sts)
Knit 2 rounds.

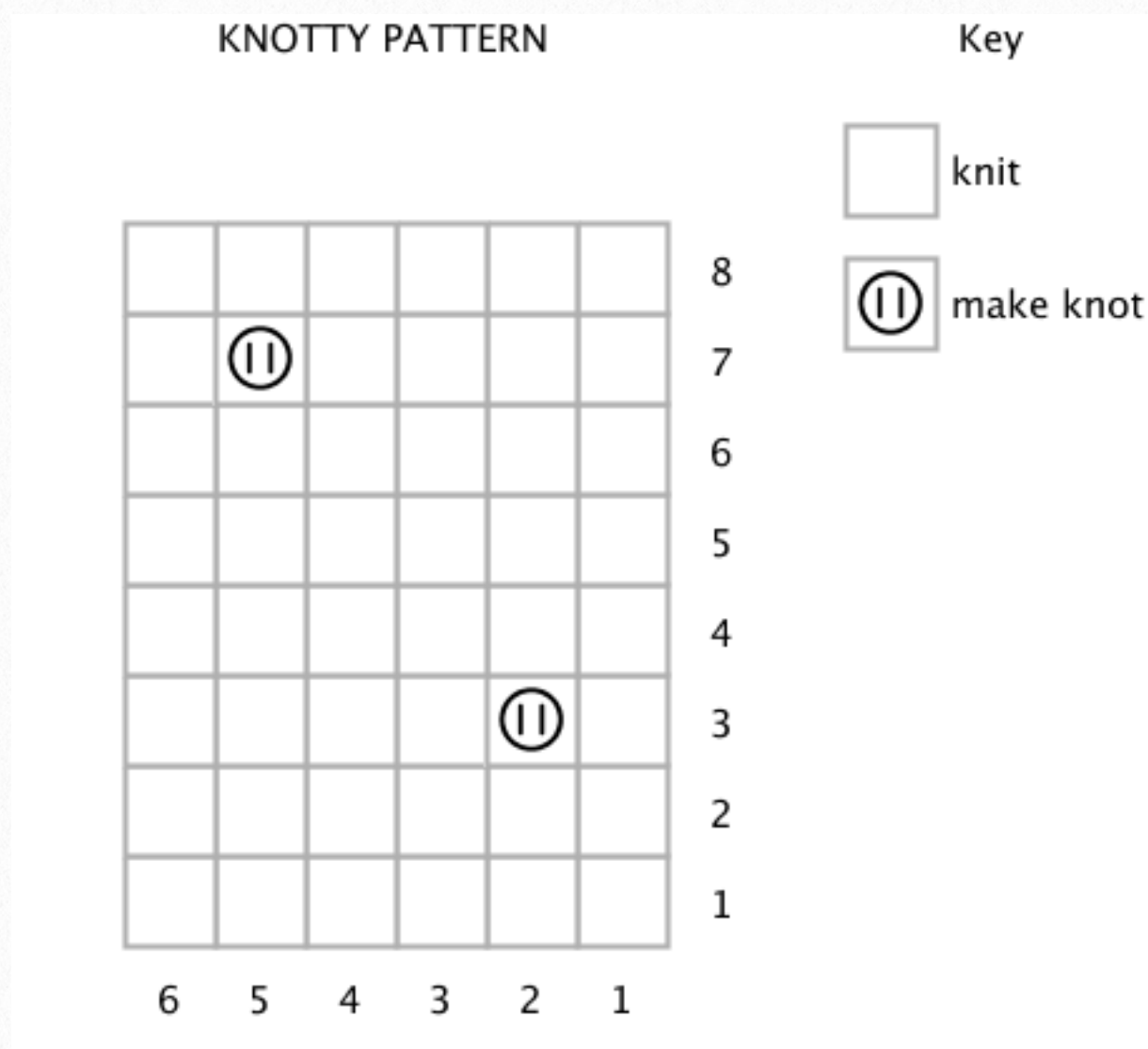
Round 13 - (k1, k2tog) repeat to end of round. (16 sts)

Round 14 - (k2tog) repeat to end of round. (8 sts)

You will now have 8 stitches on your needle which you can graft using the Kitchener stitch technique. All that is left to do is to weave in your ends and then wash and block your sock. Don't forget to knit the second sock !



Chart is read right to left for every round.



Books shown on the photos.

Goodnight John-Boy by Earl Hamner and Ralph Giffin

The Beautiful Snow by Cindy Wilson

The Art Of Happiness by His Holiness The Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler

My Garden World by Monty Don

