## **Sweet Spring Toe Up Socks**

(This pattern assumes that you have some working knowledge of sock knitting, and is not for beginner sock knitters.)

Sock Design By Wilma Becker Feb, 2010

For questions, email me at wilmab4397@gmail.com Put 'toe up sock question' in the subject line.



You will need **US size 1 needles**. (I use one 40" long circular needle, and use the magic loop method, knitting 2 socks at once.) You could use five size 1 double point needles in the traditional way of knitting socks one at a time. Here is a link showing how to do magic loop. (http://www.wonderhowto.com/how-to/video/how-to-domagic-loop-knitting-4601/view/) You could also google 'knitting magic loop" for more information. I love doing 2 socks at once, and completing my socks at the same time.

Gauge in stockinette stitch is 8 spi, and 11 rpi

You will need approx. **100 grams of sock yarn**. (I never use the full amount of yarn, but some people need to.)

You will also need:

1 Crochet hook.

**The pattern** is a simple one, and easy to memorize. I have made a chart for you to follow.

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**Begin** by casting on 28 stitches, using your favorite cast on for toe up socks. This is the cast-on I use: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBSepKDsVTk">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBSepKDsVTk</a> It is called Judy's Magic Cast-on.

You can use either 1 long circ. needle, or 5 dbl point needles depending on your preference for sock knitting. (I use one long circular. needle, aka magic loop so if you cast on 28 stitches, you would have 14 stitches on each needle, per sock. Once you have completed the Judy's Magic Cast-on, you are all set to begin knitting in the round.

**Toe shaping:** (you will now begin knitting in the round)

Round 1: knit all stitches around

**Round 2:** knit in the front and back of the *first and last stitches* (per needle) to increase the toe if using Magic loop method

(If using 5 dbl point needles, k in the front and back of the first stitch on needle 1, the last stitch of needle 2, the first stitch of needle 3, and the last stitch of needle 4) I have found that by doing the first round of increase stitches this way the 'rabbit ears' that you get if you do a k2, m1 increase on the first increase round are eliminated.

Round 3:Knit all stitches around

**Round 4:** If using 1 long circ. needle k2, m1R, k across needle, until 2 stitches remain, m1L, k2. Repeat on second needle.

(If using 4 dbl point needles, on needle 1- knit 2 m1R, knit across: needle 2- knit to last 2 stitches and m1L, k2. Needle 3 - same as needle 1, needle 4- same as needle 2) Here is a link showing how I do my m1R and m1L: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72GY3tO20RA&feature=related

Repeat rounds 3 and 4 until you have a total of 56 stitches for each sock.

*IF YOU WANT A MORE ROUNDED TOE* increase every other round 3 times, and then increase every 3<sup>rd</sup> round until you have the total number of stitches on your needles.

**Work foot:** Continue to work in the round until you achieve the total foot length you want *BEFORE the* gusset increases, working the above pattern on ONLY the instep part of the foot. The sole should be worked in plain stockinette stitch.

The gusset will begin when the measurement from the toe is 2 ½" **less** than what you want the total length of your sock foot to be.

**Begin gusset** by knitting across instep stitches, and then increase one stitch on each side on the sole stitches. Increase as for toe increases every other row until you have increased 10 stitches on *each* side of the sole. Note: You will still be working in the round, and increasing only the sole stitches.

## Work **heel** as follows:

After completing the gusset increases, you are ready to turn the heel. Place a marker in the <u>exact center</u> of the heel stitches to mark the center. You will now work only on the sole part of the sock, and let the instep stitches rest for now. Begin on the knit side of the sole.

**Row 1:** Slip the first stitch, k to 4 stitches past the center marker. SSK, k1, turn.

Row 2: Slip the first stitch, p10, p2tog, p1, turn.

**Row 3:** Slip 1, k11, SSK, k1, turn.

**Row 4:** Slip 1, p12, p2tog, p1, turn.

Row 5: Slip 1, k13, SSK, k1, turn.

**Row 6:** Slip 1, p14, p2tog, p1, turn

Continue in this manner, working back and forth until all of the extra stitches from the gusset increases are worked and the original number of stitches are on your needle again. This heel is so easy, and is my very favorite heel! If you desire, you could work a heel stitch (k1, sl 1 across one row, then p the next row) as you work off you gusset stitches. Just be sure that you slip you stitches so that they form a 'line' of slipped stitches going up the heel. I did the heel stitch on these socks as I turned the heel.

**Leg:** When you are back to the original number of stitches, (28 stitches) just begin working in the round again, working the above pattern on the instep stitches and stockinette stitches on the heel stitches. Do several rounds this way and then begin the pattern on the back of the leg/heel also. Knit the leg until it's about an inch or so shorter than the total desired length, and then knit about 2 inches of k2, p2 ribbing.

Bind off loosely, using the Jeny's Stretch Bind-off. It can be found here: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abBhe-T/mgl&feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abBhe-T/mgl&feature=related</a>

This is the best bind off for toe up socks that I have found to date. You need to have a very stretchy bind off or else your cuff will not fit over your foot.

With a crochet hook, weave in the ends, and then block the socks as normal.