

BIGFOOT SOCKS

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I made these socks for my dad for his birthday. His feet are size 13, and I wanted them to be a surprise. Since most sock patterns aren't sized for big feet, I made my own. The ribbing is surprisingly stretchy, comfortable and forgiving.

Finished Size Fits men's US size 11-13; 8" in circumference and 11" long from back of heel to toe

Gauge 14 stitches / 23 rows per 2" in st stitch

Needles Size 2.5mm, 40" circular needle for magic loop OR set of 4 2.5mm dpn's

Yarn About 420m / 450 yards sock yarn (I used Regia 4Fädig Strato Color, #5745 Graphite); this will give you a 6" leg. For a longer leg, you'll need more yarn.

Notions One stitch marker (optional) if you're using magic loop, tapestry needle, row counter (optional)

LEG:

Instructions are given for working with magic loop or 4 dpns; if using 5, then call the two instep needles 2a and 2b, and follow the instructions for 1 and 3 as written. If you are using magic loop, consider one needle to be needle 2, and the other to be needle 1/3 and when you turn the heel, place a marker between 1 and 3 to help you decrease evenly.

Using Norwegian cast-on, CO 75 stitches. Join for knitting the round, being careful not to twist. Divide stitches as below:

Magic Loop - 37 sts on needle 1, 38 sts on needle 2.

Work all rnds as foll:

Needle 1: P2, K3 across, end P2 (37 sts)

Needle 2: K3, P2 across, end K3 (38 sts)

DPN's - 20 sts on needles 1 and 3; 35 sts on needle 2.

Work all rnds as foll:

Needle 1: (P2, K3) 4 times (20 sts);

Needle 2: (P2, K3) 7 times (35 sts)

Needle 3: (P2, K3) 4 times (20 sts).

Cont in patt for 58 rnds or until leg is 6" long from cast-on edge.

HEEL:

Set up heel:

Magic Loop - Work heel on 38 sts of ndl 2. Needle 1 begins and ends with P2. Knit one round in patt.

DPNs - Knit ndls 1 and 2 in pattern. Move the first 2 sts from needle 3 to needle 2 (these two purl sts will form the border bet instep and foot and prevent ladders). Knit to end of needle 3 in patt.

Next round: Hold 37 sts on needle 2 to be worked later for instep. RS is facing (you may need to purl one row to do this, just do whatever needs to be done). Work the heel on needles 1 and 3 (38 sts).

Heel Flap:

Row 1: *Sl 1 pwise with yarn in back, k 1, rep from * (end k1).

Row 2: Sl 1 pwise with yarn in front, purl to end.

Repeat these two rows a total of 19 times or 38 rows total with 19 chain sts (slipped selvedge sts) along each edge. End after a WS row (row 2).

Turn Heel:

Row 1 (RS): K18, pm (for magic loop), k2, ssk, k1, turn.

Row 2 (WS): Sl1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn.

Row 3 (RS): Sl1, k to one stitch before gap, ssk, k1, turn.

Row 4 (WS): Sl1, p to one stitch before gap, p2tog, p1, turn.

Rep Rows 3 and 4 until all heel sts have been worked, ending with Row 4. 22 sts remain, 11 each on ndl 1 and 3.

(This is a big sock, and the gusset takes a long time. Prepare yourself.)

Gusset: Rejoin for working in the rnd as foll:

Rnd 1: (RS) - Rnd 1: Beginning with needle 3, k across 22 heel stitches, then with same needle, pick up and knit 23 sts along left edge of heel flap, work 37 instep sts in P2, K3 patt as established; pick up and knit 23 sts along right edge of heel flap, then knit first 11 heel sts again - 105 sts total; 33 sts each on ndl 1 and 3 and 37 on ndl 2. (I realize I asked you to pick up more sts than normal - to fight holes. If you don't get holes, just pick up 19.)

Rnd 2: On needle 1, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on needle 2, work instep as established; on needle 3, k1, ssk, knit to end—2 sts decreased.

Rnd 3: Knit all sts on needle 1; work sts as established on needle 2, knit all sts on needle 3.

Rep Rnds 2 and 3 until 75 sts rem—19 sts each on needles 1 and 3, 37 on needle 2. Remove marker.

FOOT:

Cont even as established (knit all on needles 1 and 3; cont in patt on needle 2) until piece measures 9.25" from back of heel, or about 2.5" less than total desired length.

TOE:

Decrease to 72 sts - needle 1: k to 3 sts bef end, k2tog, k1. Needle 2: k to 3 sts from end, k2tog, k1. Needle 3: k1, ssk, k to end. 72 sts total; 36 sts on needle 2 and 18 sts each on needles 1 and 3.

Rnd 1: On needle 1, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on needle 2, k1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on needle 3, k1, ssk, knit to end. 4 sts decreased.

Rnd 2: Knit.



Rep Rnds 1 and 2 until 24 sts rem—6 sts each on needles 1 and 3 and 12 sts on needle 2. Cut yarn, leaving a 12" tail. Using a tapestry needle, graft toe sts together using Kitchener stitch. Weave in ends and block.