EZ KNIT SOCKS

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Instructions are for S&M(L&XL). If only one set of figures, it applies to all sizes.

FOOT LENGTH: S=9ins ~ M=9.5ins ~ L=10.5ins ~ XL=11ins

NEED: 1(2) balls (100 g) Patons Shetland Ragg K.W. or Patons Classic Wool or Patons Shetland Chunky (or similar weight of yarn). Set of four 4 mm (6 US) double-pointed needles OR size needed to produce tension given below. Stitch holder, tapestry needle.

TENSION: 20 sts and 28 rows = 10cm/4ins in stocking stitch. For best results, work to exact tension. If your tension isn’t exact, decrease or increase the size of your needles as needed.

MY TENSION ~ 7 rows = 1 inch

CUFF: Loosely cast on 40(44)sts. Divide so 12(14)sts are on each of first 2 needles and 16 sts are on third needle. Being careful not to twist sts, join in rnd, pulling yarn firmly to prevent a gap.

Rnd 1 (right side): [K1,p1] to end of rnd. Mark end of rnd by threading short length of contrasting colour yarn through work between first and last st.

Rnds 2 to 6: Continue in [k1,p1] ribbing.

Next: Knit in rnds until work from end of ribbing measures 6(7) ins, ending at marker. Break yarn.

TO BEGIN HEEL: Slip last 10(11)sts from 3rd needle, then first 10(11)sts from first needle onto single needle (for heel), thus having marker at centre. Slip rem 20(22)sts onto st holder (for instep). 20(22)sts now on needle. With wrong side of heel sts facing you, join yarn and work back and forth as follows:

Row 1 (wrong side): Sl1, purl to end of row.
Row 2: [Sl1,k1] to end of row.

Rep last 2 rows until heel measures 2(2-1/4,2-1/2) ins, ending with wrong side facing you for next row.

TO SHAPE HEEL:
Row 1: P13(14), p2tog, p1.
Row 2: Sl1, k7, sl1, k1, psso, k1.
Row 3: Sl1, p8, p2tog, p1.
Row 4: Sl1, k9, sl1, k1, psso, k1.
Row 5: Sl1, p10, p2 tog, p1.
Row 6 (right side): Sl1, k11, Sl1, k1, psso, k1. 14(16)sts now on needle(s).

LARGE AND EXTRA-LARGE SIZE ONLY (small and medium sizes skip rows 7 & 8):
Row 7: Sl1, p12, p2tog. Turn.
Row 8 (right side): Sl1,k12, sl1, k1, psso. 14 sts now on needle.

ALL SIZES: With right side of work facing you, pick up and knit 10(10,11,12)sts up left side of heel. With 2nd needle, knit across 20(22)sts on st holder (instep). With 3rd needle, pick up and knit 10(10,11,12)sts down right side of heel. Knit first 7 sts of heel onto end of 3rd needle. Slip rem 7 sts of heel onto beg of first needle. 54(54,58,60)sts now on needles. 17(17,18,19)sts are on first needle, 20(22)sts are on 2nd needle and 17(17,18,19)sts are on 3rd needle.

Continue, working rnds as follows:
Rnd 1: First needle: Knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. 2nd needle: Knit to end of needle. 3rd needle: K1, sl1, k1, psso, knit to end of needle.
Rnd 2: Knit.
Rep last 2 rnds 6(6,6,7) times more. 10(11)sts now on first needle, 20(22)sts now on 2nd needle and 10(11)sts now on 3rd needle, for a total of 40(44)sts. Knit even in rnds until foot from picked-up sts at heel measures 6-1/4(6-3/4,7,7-1/2) ins, ending with completion of 3rd needle.

TO SHAPE TOE:
Rnd 1: First needle: Knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. 2nd needle: Knit to end of needle. 3rd needle: K1, sl1, k1, psso, knit to end of needle. Rnd 2: Knit.
Rep last 2 rnds 4(5) times more. 5 sts now on first needle, 10 sts now on 2nd needle, 5 sts now on 3rd needle. Knit sts from first needle onto 3rd needle. Break yarn approx 11-3/4 in from last st. With tapestry needle and yarn end, stitch rem 2 sets of 10 sts together to close toe. Remove marker.

FOR XMAS STOCKINGS: Use thick wool 2 strands together, larger needles in XL size.