

## One or Two, Two Circulars Fingering Weight

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1 or 2 socks, toe up

This is how I have been making socks for about the last year. I have put together any number of socks using this recipe. You are free to use and alter to your heart's content, but please mention me if you post photos on the web!

Yarn: Fingering weight washable sock yarn

Needle: size 1 16" KnitPicks Options circulars, two. Despite the presence of 2 circulars, you will only ever be working on ONE circular at a time. If you find that you somehow have the tip of one set and the end of another it's time to tink back and pick up the correct needle (ask me how I know, but it only happened once)

Gauge: 7 stitches per inch

CO and Toe shaping

1. Using only one of the circular needles and a knitted cast-on, CO 8-12 stitches. (if making 2 socks at once, do this twice using 2 different skeins of yarn) The more stitches you CO the squarer the toe of the sock will be. Like pointy socks? Cast on as few as 4! I prefer a large, rounded toe so I cast on 8, but this is your sock, not mine, so find out what works for you.
2. Knit across these stitches once (if you are making 2 socks, just remember to switch working yarn when you move to the second sock ☺)
3. Using the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular needle, pick up and knit the same number of stitches as your cast-on or as close as you can come, often you will be one stitch short.
4. Switch to the original needle and K2, M1, knit to last 2 stitch on needle, M1, K2.
5. repeat #4 on each needle until you have 26-30 stitches on each needle (Note: you may have to increase only on one side of the final row if you were unable to CO the entire 8-12 when you picked up stitches) Your final number will depend on the stitch pattern you choose for the foot/leg and how roomy you like your socks. At this point you can measure your gauge, measure around you're the ball of your foot and see if you are about 2 inches less than your foot circumference. You can continue increasing if necessary, but remember that socks stretch and you do not want a sock that is the same circumference as your foot (unless you have circulation problems.)

Foot

You may choose to put any stitch pattern on the top of the foot. At this point either needle can be the top of the foot. If you want a basic sock, or are working with a variegated yarn that does not lend itself to intricate patterns, simply knit every round on both needles until your sock is 2 inches shorter than the recipient's foot.

Heel

I use a short-row heel. If you've done one, you will fly through this. If you haven't, it's a bit odd the first, and maybe second time ☺. Hang in there, you can do this!

1. pick one of your needles to be the heel. You will be working on this needle only.
2. knit to the last stitch on the needle, bring your yarn forward (YF), slip the next stitch without working it (S), turn your work to purl. Slip the first stitch back to the other needle. You have just "wrapped" one stitch.
3. purl back across to the last stitch. Bring your yarn back (YB), slip the next stitch without working it (S), turn your work to knit. Slip the first stitch back to the other needle. You have just "wrapped" another stitch
4. Continue working back and forth (knitting right side, purling wrong side), wrapping the stitch before the last wrapped stitch, until you have ½ the stitches wrapped (26= 6-7 stitches wrapped on each side, 28=7 stitches wrapped on each side, 30=7-8 stitches wrapped on each side). The more wrapped stitches you have, the deeper the heel will

be. A deep heel is narrow so if your recipient has an exceptionally narrow heel, you may wrap one or two stitches more than suggested. You will end on a purl row.

#### Turning heel

Again, this isn't hard, it's just a bit odd. You'll sort it out and it's intoxicating. At this point you are reversing the short rows you did before. You are picking up one of the wrapped stitches and then wrapping again until you have a nice heel pocket.

1. Knit across heel stitches until you come to the first wrapped stitch. Insert your working needle into the wrap and then the stitch. You may have to fiddle with it to sort out how to best insert your needle, but believe me it can be done. Work the two (wrap and stitch) together.
2. wrap the next stitch (remember? YF, S, turn, S see Heel #2 instruction)
3. Purl across until you come to the first wrapped stitch, again work the wrap and stitch together.
4. wrap the next stitch
5. continue to knit to the first wrapped stitch, work it with it's wraps (at the next round you will be picking up 2 wraps because each of the subsequent stitches are wrapped twice), wrapping the next stitch and turn until all heel stitches have been worked and you have 26-30 stitches back on your heel needle.
6. Congratulations. You just turned your heel!

#### Leg

The first of the sock following the heel turning is not exactly the leg. Even if you are going to begin pattern work on both needles or simply do ribbing, hold off until you've work approximately 1" from the heel turn to being the pattern. It leaves a smoother back of heel.

1. Begin working on both needles, continuing any patterning from the top of the foot and keeping the heel portion in stockinette for one inch.
2. One inch after the heel turn, begin working pattern stitch on both needles or start your favorite ribbing pattern. (It is possible to continue in stockinette until the last 2 inches of the sock and only rib that, but I prefer not to. It's your sock, do what you want!)
3. Work leg portion until you almost run out of yarn or until the leg is the desired length. I like socks about 5-7 inches tall.
4. Many socks end with ribbing for the top 1-1 ½ inches. If you are using a ribbing pattern already or if you are using a pattern that in any way pulls the sock in, you may not need to switch to ribbing, but can continue on in the pattern stitch until your bind off row. If you want ribbing, then switch to your favorite ribbing pattern (k2, p2 pulls in more than k2, p1) for 1-1 ½ inches before binding off

#### Bind off/Cast off

1. K1, slip worked stitch back to right needle, keeping the stitch looser than you normally would. K2tog.
2. Repeat #1 until all stitches on that needle have been bound off.
3. Repeat for needle 2.
4. Cut yarn, leave 3" tail, weave in tail
5. Wash and wear sock!