

Short row slipper-socks

This is loosely based on Cat Bordhi's Houdini Socks¹. Measurements given fit my feet (UK size 6) but it should be easy enough to adapt it for other sizes.

Materials:

2 x 50g balls of Regia 4 ply Sock yarn, 2 x 4mm circular needles (or a set of 5 dpns)
or any yarn and needles to achieve gauge

1 x Cable needle

Scrap yarn, thicker than main yarn and smooth

Gauge:

With two strands of yarn on 4mm needles, 22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm

Abbreviations:

Kfb: knit into front and back of stitch

M1: pick up a bar from between the needles, twist and put it on your left needle tip, knit into the back of this loop.

K2tog: knit two together

Ssk: slip next two stitches knitwise, then insert left needle into the front of both these stitches and knit them together

C2f: slip next two stitches on to the cable needle and hold in front of the work, k2, k2 from cable needle

C2b: slip next two stitches onto the cable needle and hold behind the work, k2, k2 from cable needle.

w&t: wrap and turn. If you are on the outside of the sock, slip next stitch to right hand needle, bring yarn forward, turn work. Keeping yarn at back, slip first (slipped) stitch to right hand needle, bring yarn forward ready to purl next stitch. If you are on the inside of the sock, slip next stitch to right hand needle, put yarn to back, turn work. Keeping yarn in front, slip first (slipped) stitch to right hand needle, put yarn to back, ready to knit next stitch.

¹ <http://www.twistcollective.com/collection/index.php/component/content/article/36-columns/65-houdini-socks>

Pattern:

Use an invisible cast on to cast on 8 stitches on each of two circular needles, using doubled yarn.

Toe:

Knit the toe in the round, using double stranded yarn.

Knit 1 round, starting with the instep. Remember which needle is instep and which is sole. Where the pattern says (sole) or (instep) this is telling you to switch to that needle.

Increase rounds:

Round 1: (instep) Kfb, k until 2 instep sts remain, kfb, k1 (sole) kfb k until 2 sole sts remain, kfb, k1 (4 sts increased)

Round 2: knit all stitches

Repeat increase rounds 1 and 2 until stitch total is 40.

Foot:

The foot has a sole knitted in double yarn and the instep with single yarn. It's not possible to do this in the round, so a short-row technique is used to join the stitches on one side of the foot. If you care about your slipper-socks being symmetrical, you will need to adjust the pattern to put the join on the other side for your second sock.

This part of the pattern refers to rows, not rounds. Each 'row' is actually two rows of knitting, but it makes sense to consider them together. In each 'row' you work across the outside of the instep, turn and work back across the inside of the instep, then carry on to work across the inside of the sole, turn and work back across the outside of the sole to get back to the starting point.

Row 1: (instep) K1 with double yarn, drop one strand of yarn and leave it hanging there – you will pick it up again later. *K2, m1*, repeat until you have two stitches left on the instep needle, k1, w&t, p 26. Pick up second strand of yarn, p1, (sole), p20 with double stranded yarn, (instep), p1 with double yarn, w&t, k1, (sole), k20.

Row 2: (instep) K1 with double yarn, drop one strand of yarn, *k2,p2* until last 3 stitches, k1, k next stitch together with the two strands that are wrapped around its base (I usually do this by picking up the wrapped strands on the tip of the right needle and placing them on the left needle, then knitting into the back of the three loops together), w&t, *p2, k2* until last 3 stitches, p2, pick up dropped strand, p1 (sole), p20 with double yarn, (instep), p1 with double yarn, w&t, k1, (sole), k20.

Repeat row 2 until foot is desired length (remembering that you will have some decrease rows for the heel). For my 24cm foot, this was at 19.5cm from the cast on

Leg join

Row 1: (instep) k2 with double yarn, introduce scrap yarn, k24 with scrap yarn, w&t, p24, cross over scrap yarn and p2 with main yarn, doubled, (sole) p20 with double yarn, (instep), p2, w&t, k2, (sole), k20.

Heel

Work in the round with double stranded yarn.

Round 1: (instep) k28, (sole) k20

Round 2: (instep) k2 *k1, k2tog* repeat until 2 instep sts remain, k2 (sole) k20

Decrease rounds:

Round 1: (instep) k1, ssk, k until 3 instep sts remain, k2tog, k1 (sole) k1, ssk, k until 3 sole sts remain, k2tog, k1

Round 2: knit all stitches

Repeat decrease rounds 1 and 2 until stitch total is 24 – 12 on each needle

Use kitchener stitch to close the heel.

Leg

Remove the scrap yarn and pick up the live stitches. There should be 48 from the ribbed sections. Pick up 2 extra loops at each ankle, so that you have 52 stitches altogether. You might need to do some tricks to avoid holes at these ankle points on the first round, like picking up an extra strand of yarn from the fabric and knitting it together with one of your real stitches, through the back loops.

Arrange the stitches on your two circular needles, so that the needles begin and end in the middle of the ribbed sections. Your two needles are now on the left and right of the sock, not the front and back.

Knit in the round, using one strand of yarn.

Round 1: (ndl 1) k1, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, k4, p2,k2, p2, k2, p2, k1, (ndl 2) k1, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, k4, p2,k2, p2, k2, p2, k1

Round 2: Same as round 1

Round 2: (ndl 1) k1, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, c2f, p2,k2, p2, k2, p2, k1, (ndl 2) k1, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, c2b, p2,k2, p2, k2, p2, k1

Round 4: same as round 1

Repeat these four rounds until your sock is as long as you want it. Cast off loosely, in pattern.