

Ballband Socks

So I started making the Ballband dishcloth pattern a few weeks ago and absolutely fell in love it! I love how the stitch pattern makes the finished cloth so “smooshy” as well as how well it shows off variegated yarns. As I knit my 4th dishcloth, it occurred to me that this stitch pattern would make a fun sock, too... showing off some of my favorite sock yarns. Plus, it is an excellent way to use up those little balls of sock yarn I have leftover after my other sock projects – woo hoo! I hope you have as much fun with this pattern as I did. :)



Materials:

Color A: 25g fingering/sock yarn – I used [Wooly Booger's](#) Gothelberry colorway

Color B: 20g fingering/sock yarn – I used Cherry Tree Hill Supersock Solids in Black

Size 1 US needle(s) (2.25mm) or size required to make gauge

Gauge:

7.5 stitches per inch stockinette

(6 stitches per 2cm)

Definitions:

K	Knit
P	Purl
K2tog	Knit 2 together, standard knit
S1	Slip 1 Purlwise with yarn to the back

These socks are worked cuff down – instructions are written for using DPNs. Please adjust accordingly to your preferred method, whether 2 circs or 1 circ/Magic Loop.

Calculate the number of stitches needed – measure the foot around at the instep. Round the measurement down (for example, if the measure is 8.5”, round down to 8). Multiply the rounded down number by 7.5 (the gauge) to get a number of stitches. This pattern uses 60 total stitches for the whole sock. If you need to adjust for a larger or smaller foot, there are several ways you can do so. You can add another “brick” of the stitch pattern, which would mean adding 6 stitches to make it bigger (or remove a brick, 6 stitches to make it smaller). You can also adjust by making the bricks themselves larger or smaller by simply adding the number of purl stitches per “brick”. This pattern uses 5 purls per brick.

Cast on 60 stitches, dividing onto 4 DPNs by placing 15 stitches per needle with Color B. Needles 1 & 2 will be the front/instep of the sock while needles 3 & 4 will be the back/bottom of the sock.

Leg:

Rnd 1: Knit

Rnd 2: Knit, joining Color A at the end

Rnd 3: *S1, K5, rep from * to end

Rnds 4 - 6: *S1, P5, rep from * to end

Rnd 7: Pick up Color B, Knit

Rnd 8: Knit

Rnd 9: Pick up Color A, K3, *S1, K5, rep from * to last 2 stitches, knit

Rnds 10-12: P3, *S1, P5, rep from * to last 2 stitches, P2

Repeat 12 rows until the desired length has been reached before beginning the heel.

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* Purl
| Knit
§ Slip

Heel :

For the heel, pick one of the colors to knit the heel with for a contrast. If heels tend to wear through easily, knit the heel holding BOTH yarns for a double thick heel.

On needles 3 & 4, work the heel back & forth as follows:

Row 1: (RS) K30, wrap the next st. Turn.

Row 2: (WS) P29, wrap the next st. Turn.

Continue this pattern until there are 10 active (unwrapped) stitches left.

PKWR (pick up wrap):

Find the wrap at the base of the wrapped stitch. Pick up the wrap (PKWR) with the needle by inserting the needle point under the wrap, lift stitch to the needle. This action will form a new stitch on the needle. Knit (or purl) the 2 stitches together. Wrap the next stitch.

Turn Heel

Row 1: K10, PKWR. Turn.

Row 2: P11 PKWR. Turn.

Continue pattern until all wrapped stitches have been picked back up and the heel is fully formed. Ensure that there are 30 stitches on each needle.

Tips for preventing the little hole that can sometimes show up:

1 – on the final rows, when you PKWR on the last stitch, wrap the first stitch on the instep side of the sock (needles 1 & 2).

2 – if the wrap doesn't seem to be enough to prevent the hole, you can pick up a stitch between the needles and knit together with the next stitch.

Foot:

Continue in stockinette stitch – do one round in Color A, drop it (do not cut), then one round in Color B.

Ideas for variations:

- For thicker socks, hold both colors & knit together.
- Knit 2 stitches in Color B, carrying A behind your work, then knit 1 stitch in Color A
- Knit stitches, switching colors with each stitch & reverse on the odd rows
- Knit in any pattern you like! Knit 2 in Color B, then 3 in Color A on one row, swap the colors on the next row... have some fun with it!

Continue until 1” short of the length of the foot, then begin the toes.

Toes:

Because my toes tend to wear out first, mine were done holding both yarns for double thickness. You may do the same, otherwise, pick one of the colors to finish the sock with, dropping the other color – leave some length to weave in the end & cut the color you are not going to carry into the toes.

On the first round, then every other round, K2tog on each side of the sock. So if your rounds start with needle 1, you are going to K2tog on needle 1, knit across needle 1 and needle 2 until you reach the last 2 stitches on needle 2 – K2tog. Then on needle 3, K2tog and knit across needle 3 & needle 4 until 2 stitches remain on needle 4 – K2tog. Follow that round with an all knit round. Continue until 5 stitches remain on each needle (10 stitches on each side of the sock for a total of 20 stitches).

Bind Off:

Use the kitchener stitch to bind off & finish the toes. You can find instructions on this method in several places – [here is the one at Knitty.com](#).

Enjoy!