



“Left-Overs” Sock Pattern



Here's one way to use up leftover sock yarns. This pattern is a simple template, written to be worked in-the-round and 'top down' on double-points (for circular needle sock knitters, just make the stitch distributions to adapt onto two circular needles). When I made the shop model, I almost named the pair after Dr. Seuss, simply because of the colors and striped band effect. And, because using leftover yarns inspires improvisation, there's nothing that says you **HAVE** to stick to any aspect of this pattern at all – just look at your sock yarn selections, available yardage, and think about the result you'd like to see. Go for it!

SIZES: **Adult Small**, approx. 7" leg circumference (**Adult medium**, approx 8 ½" leg circumference; **Adult Large**, approx. 9" leg circumference)

YARN: Approx 400 - 450 yards (4 colors at approximately 75 – 125 yards per color) sock yarns that yield gauge of 7 ½ - 8 sts per inch on US1 – US2 (For the shop model, I used 4 colors of leftover Lang JAWOLL COTTON sock yarn: 2 colors had about 75-100 yards and 2 colors had about 100-125 yards).

While you will achieve a more even effect by using different colors of the same yarn, there's nothing to prohibit using different yarns, as long as they're in the same gauge 'family.' When alternating colors, assign the colors with the least amount of yardage to the cuffs, the heel and the toe shapings.

GAUGE*: 8 sts and 11 rows/rounds per inch.

***NOTE:** *In this pattern, stitch AND row/round gauge are equally important. Each 5-round stripe = ½ " in length. When doing the first sock, keep track of rows, stitches, decreases so that you can replicate for the second sock.*

NEEDLES: one set of dpns size US#1 or SIZE THAT GETS GAUGE FOR YOU. ALWAYS DO A TEST SWATCH!

OTHER: stitch markers (I use them to mark the round, the color change seams, row counts); tapestry needle to weave in tails.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: In this pattern we're using 4 colors: decide which colors you will use for which parts of the sock. Put colors next to each other and keep in mind that the colors with the least amount of yardage should be reserved for the cuff, heel and toe. For example, in the shop model, I used the following:

Color #1: dark orange marl for the cuff and toe;

Color #2: orange tweed for one of the leg and foot stripe colors

Color #3: lime tweed used 2nd stripe color for leg and foot;

Color #4: indigo used for the heel flap and heel shaping.

Even if you're using fewer or more colors, follow these principals before you begin: allow for more yardage per color when using fewer colors and less yardage per color when using more colors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

CUFF: CO 60 (68, 72) sts with Color #1. Distribute the stitches over 4 dpns: for 60 stitches, it's 15 sts per needle; for 68 sts, it's 17 sts per needle; for 72 sts, it's 18 sts per needle NOTE: Needle #1 is the first set of sts on the round and Needle #4 is the last set of sts on the round. Work 2/2 rib for 2".

LEG: Cut color #1, leaving a tail, and introduce Color #2.

Rnds 1-5: Knit 5 rounds even with Color #2.

Rnds 6-10: Introduce Color #3 and K 5 rounds even, carrying Color #2 at the end of each round.

Rnds 11-16: Drop Color #3, pick up Color #2 and K 5 rounds even, carrying Color #3 at the end of each round.

Rnds 17-21: Drop Color #3, pick up Color #2 and K 5 rounds even, carrying Color #3 at the end of each round.

Repeat Rounds 11-21, which is 10 round repeat of two 5-round color stripes, 2 (2, 3) times more, ending having worked a Color #3 stripe. Then, do one 5-round stripe with Color #2. The leg measurement should be 2" cuff & 4 ½" (4 ½", 5 ½") of leg stripes = 6 ½", 6 ½", 7 ½" length from CO round. NOTE: If you want to change leg length, increase or decrease the length by ½" per stripe increments. Cut Color #2 and Color #3 yarns.

HEEL FLAP (worked back and forth with 2 dpns; leave the sts on Needle #2 and Needle #3 inactive while the heel is being worked):

ROW 1: Introduce Color #4 and K the 15 (17,18) sts on Needle #1. Turn work.

ROW 2 (now WSF): SL purlwise, P the stitches just worked on Needle #1, P the stitches on Needle #4. = 30 (32, 36) sts, all of which will be on one needle.

ROW 3 (RSF): *SL Purlwise, K1,* rep * to * to end of row.

ROW 4 (WSF): SL1 purlwise, P to end of row.

Repeat ROWS 3 and 4 until heel flap measures 2" (2 ¼", 2 ½") from beginning of heel flap. End having worked a WSF or even-numbered row.

SHAPE HEEL:

ROW 1 (RSF): SL1 purlwise, K to the half-way point of the heel flap, K2, K2tog, K1

ROW 2 (WSF): SL1 purlwise, P to 1 st before the "gap" made by the previous row's decrease. P2tog, P1, turn work.

ROW 3 (RSF): SL1 purlwise, K to 1 st before the "gap" made by the previous row's decrease, K2tog, K1, turn work.

Repeat ROW 2 and ROW 3, decreasing 1 st in each row, until all un-worked sts have been worked. End having worked a RSF row (even if this row has NO decreases).

MAKE GUSSETS AND WORK INSTEP:

**NOTE: While the actual round continues to be between the 4th and 1st needles, the color changes will now occur between the 1st and 2nd needles so that the color change seam will be on the inner side of the sock instead of in the middle of the foot's sole.*

Rnd 1: With color 4, pick up the slipped edge sts on left side of heel flap, and K these sts. Cut color 4. Re-introduce color #2 (or the next color in your stripe sequence), K even across needles #2 and #3 (the instep sts that have been on hold), then pick up and knit the same # of edge slip stitches on the right hand side of the heel flap. While working this round, distribute the heel shaping sts evenly between needle #1 and needle #4.

Rnd 2: K to last 3 sts on needle #1, K2tog, K1, k sts on needles #2 and #3. On Needle #4: K1, SSK, K across needle #4.

Rnd 3: K across all sts.

Repeat Rnds 2 & 3, keeping in the 5-rnd color striping sequence, until there are the same number of sts as originally cast on for each needle.

FOOT:

Continue to work even in the 5-round stripe sequence until the foot measures 1 ½ (2, 2 ½) inches less than the desired foot length (as measured from the end of the heel flap to the end to the longest toe), ending with a 5-round stripe of color #2 (e.g., the first color used after the cuff). Also, end the last round between needle #3 and 4 OR between needle #1 and #2. Cut colors #2 and #3.

TOE SHAPING:

Change to Color #1.

Rnd 1: On needle #1, K to last 2 sts, k2tog. Repeat same on needles #2, #3 and #4.

Rnd 2: K even across all sts.

Repeat Rnds 1 and 2 until there are 8 sts left on each needle. Work Rnd 1 each row until 2 sts rem on each needle. Cut a tail (about 6-8 inches) and thread tail through rem sts. Tighten up and secure tail on WS.

KNITTER'S NOTES:

Mystic Rivers Yarns makes every effort to insure this pattern is correct; however, we are not responsible for pattern errors, typographical errors, etc.

Copyright 2006 Mystic River Yarns – All Rights Reserved - HW 5/2007 rev 6/5/07