

Sell Your Sole Socks

by Heather Clitheroe

It's hard to count the number of times somebody has said to me - wistfully, and with a pleading expression - 'I wish I had a pair of handknit socks.' Or those times when you hear about somebody's elderly auntie in the hospital, when there's a birthday coming up, or when you suddenly realize that you've only got twenty-seven knitting days until Hanukkah/Diwali/Solstice/Christmas/Eid/Kwanzaa.

Times like these call for a speedy sock pattern...a 'I'd sell my sole to the thousand little knitting gods to whip up a pair of fast, comfortable, machine-washable socks with a nice heel that I can knit while I'm watching mindless tv pattern.'

Poof!

More traditional socks use a slip stitch heel - I prefer a smooth heel, and non-handknit-wearing folks will appreciate a less bulky fit. This pattern uses a Dutch heel (also called a round heel).



How big?

Women's medium (you determine the length for the foot)

You'll need...

1 skein SweetGeorgia Speed Demon Sock (100% superwash merino wool; 280yd/256m per 112g skein, shown in 'Summer Skin' colourway). Visit www.sweetgeorgiayarns.com to order or for a list of retailers.

4 US #3/3.25mm double-point needles

1 tapestry needle

1 stitch marker or safety pin

Gauge is worth checking!

6 sts/8 rows = 1" in stockinette stitch

What's that mean?

K Knit

P Purl

K2 tog Knit two stitches together

P2 tog Purl two stitches together

SSK Slip one stitch, slip one stitch, knit the two slipped stitches together.

Psso Pass the slipped stitch over knitted stitch and slide off the end of the needle.

Turn Turn your work around. If you're on a knit row and you're told to turn, you'll be turning your work so that you're ready to start a purl row.

Ready? Knit a sock!

Leg:

CO 48 sts and arrange evenly on three needles (16 sts per needle).

Rib [K2, P2 to end of round] until ribbing measures approx 1.5 inches (or until you're sick of ribbing).

Knit until sock measures approx 6-6.5 inches from beg.

Heel Flap:

Needle 1: K all stitches.

Needle 2: K12. Turn. P24.

There will be 24 sts worked for heel flap. Turn work so RS is facing.

Row 1: Sl 1, K to end.

Row 2: Sl 1, P to end.

Rep these two rows so that there are 12 selvedge sts (24 rows worked).

Turn Heel:

Row 1: With RS facing, Sl 1 with yarn in back, K 16, sl1, k1 pssso. Turn.

Row 2: Sl 1 with yarn in front, P 10, P2 tog. Turn.

Row 3: Sl 1 with yarn in back, K 10, Sl 1, K 1, pssso. Turn.

Rep rows 2 & 3 until all heel stitches have been worked, ending with a WS row. 12 sts remain.

Gusset:

Needle 1: K all stitches. Using the same needle, pick up and K 13 sts.

Needle 2: K sts for top of foot (24 sts).

Needle 3: with fourth needle, pick up and K 13 sts. K 6 sts from *Needle 1* onto *Needle 3*.

Sts will now be arranged as follows: *Needle 1:* 19 sts. *Needle 2:* 19 sts. *Needle 3:* 24 sts.

Foot:

Round 1: K to last 3 sts of *Needle 1*, k2 tog, K1; K to end of sts on *Needle 2*; K1, SSK, K to end of *Needle 3*.

Rounds 2 & 3: K all sts.

Rep Rounds 1-3 six more times. 48 sts remain: *Needle 1:* 12 sts. *Needle 2:* 24 sts. *Needle 3:* 12 sts.

K all sts until foot measures approx 5 inches from gusset, or until two inches from desired length.

Toe:

Round 1: *Needle 1:* K to last 3 sts, k2 tog, k1; *Needle 2:* K1, SSK, K to last three sts, k2 tog, k1; *Needle 3:* K1, SSK, K to end of needle 3.

Round 2: K all sts.

Rep these 2 rounds until 24 sts remain (*Needle 1:* 6 sts, *Needle 2:* 12 sts, *Needle 3:* 6 sts).

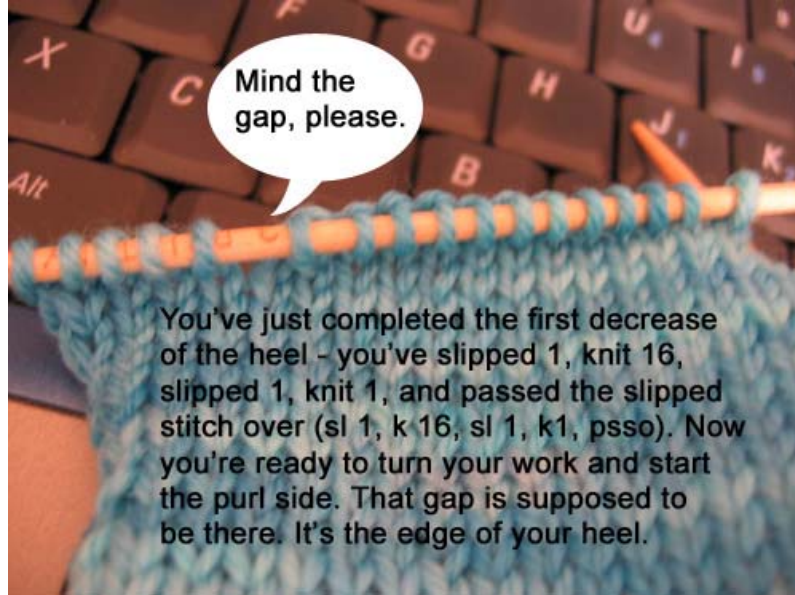
K sts from *Needle 1* onto end of *Needle 3*. Use kitchener stitch to graft toe. Darn in ends, wash, and be forever known as the good gift giver.

Questions? Comments? Please feel free to email me at heather@lectio.ca or visit me at www.lectio.ca!

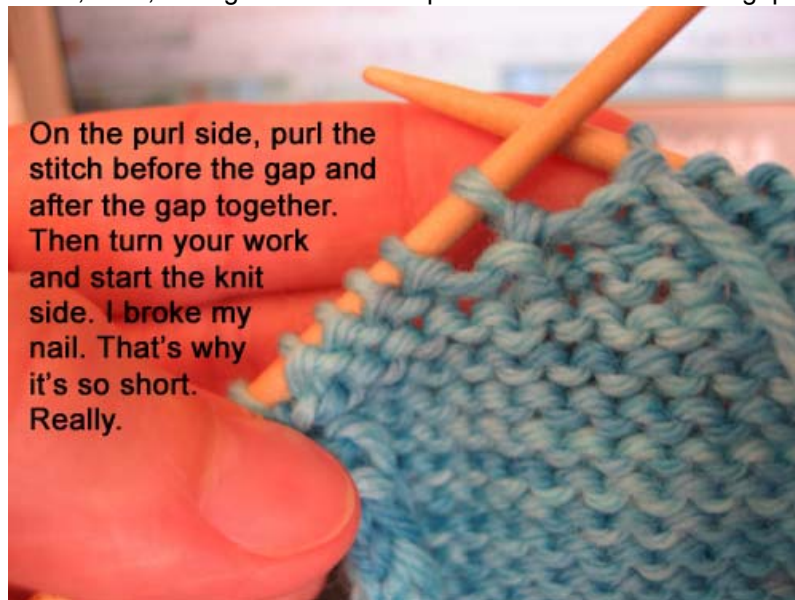
How to turn a heel without selling your sole...

Turning a heel *sounds* like a daunting task. Bendy bits in knitting, you say? Madness! The secret to a well-turned heel, though, is patience. Try to finish turning the heel in one sitting, if possible...and don't fret! For the first time turner (or anybody needing a little moral support), here's the heel section of the pattern, illustrated:

Row 1: With RS facing, Sl 1 with yarn in back, K 16, sl1, k1 pssso. Turn.



Row 2: Sl 1 with yarn in front, P 10, P2 tog. Turn. The first purl side row *won't* have a gap...but each one after will.



Row 3: Sl 1 with yarn in back, K 10, Sl 1, K 1, pssso. Turn.

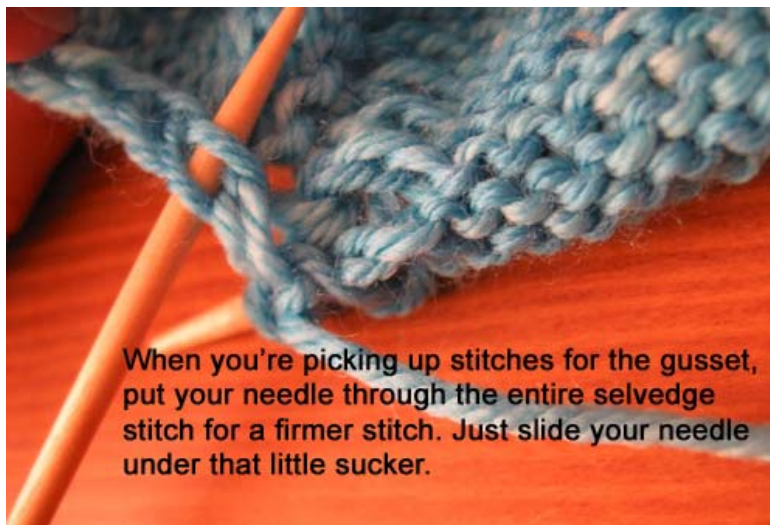
You'll keep working the heel until you've used all of the stitches on the other side of the gap. Rep rows 2 & 3 until all heel stitches have been worked, ending with a WS row. 12 sts remain.



Now you're ready to start picking up stitches for the gusset.



Picking up the stitches can feel a bit awkward at first, but use the selvedge stitches as your guide. Most sock patterns will have you pick up on stitch more than the number of selvedge stitches you have - this helps prevent a gap from forming.





And you're done. Congratulations, you clever thing! Now finish that sock!