



## Funky Five Toe Socks Updated June 2024

A few years ago, after walking in new hiking shoes, I thought that there might be room for five-toe socks in the wide-toe box. I knit prototypes from my stash of leftover light fingering weight yarn.

Then DH developed Morton's neuroma. Because the socks separate his toes, they help him manage the condition (in combination with wide-toe box shoes, modified insoles and arch supports).

**Construction overview:** Provisionally cast-on the foot stitches using a 47 inch cable needle. Join in the round, set up a Magic Loop, and knit towards the toes, which you knit on DPNs in this order - little, next to little, big, middle, and between middle and big -

with spacing rows as needed. Think of knitting gloves, only you are knitting rather short thumbs and fingers, and in a different order. When the toes are finished, pick up the provisional CO foot stitches and continue as if you were knitting a regular toe-up sock. Use your favorite techniques for the gusset, heel and cuff, or follow the method that I outline. Experience knitting gloves and toe-up socks will be helpful.

You will need to make measurements of your toe anatomy (see the diagram below for my foot) and adjust the pattern accordingly. You may even need to change the order in which you knit the toes. Directions are given for the shape of my size US-7 woman's foot; my big toe is just less than 2 inches long and 3 ¼ inches in circumference at its widest point before gradually narrowing. All my littler toes are just over an inch long and about 2 inches in circumference. My feet are about 9 ¼ inches long and about 9 inches in circumference at the arches.

**Red** indicates the stitch and row counts for the socks that fit my DH's size US-10.5 men's foot. His feet are narrow, which means the number of stitches for the foot are the same as those for US-7 women's socks.

**Yarn:** Premier Yarns Deborah Norville Serenity Sock Weight Solids, 2.4 skeins (120 gm) for knee-high women's socks, or any light fingering weight yarn with at least wool and nylon in the blend. For mid-calf men's socks, 2 skeins (100 gm) of fingering weight yarn such as KnitPicks Felici are sufficient.

If you want to use contrasting yarn for toes, heels and cuffs, you will need about 0.6 skeins (30 gm) CC.

**Needle:** 47-inch 2 mm cable needle; set of four 2 mm DPNs; tapestry needle

**Gage:** 10 stitches and 14 rows = 1 inch (2.54 cm)

**TOES** – position the socks as if you were looking at your feet.

Provisional CO 64 (64) sts – the same for either size. I have tried a crochet chain to anchor the provisional CO stitches, a long-tail cast on over scrap yarn, and a cable cast on (which I like the best). Set up a Magic Loop and join in the round.

I recommend knitting ½ inch in stockinette (7 rows) to give you something to hold. After having knitted over 10 pairs of 5-toe socks, I can now start knitting toes after the CO plus one row and adding the missing length back when I am done with the toes and start the foot.

Knit **little toe**: On the outside, slip 6 sts from the front needle and 6 sts from the back needle onto DPNs. CO 5 (7) sts onto a DPN (backward loop CO is fine) to close the gap. This gives a total of 17 (19) sts. Knit until the toe is just over one inch long (12 (16) rows) or about 1/8 inch shorter than the length of your toe. Knit two rows of k2togtbl. Break yarn and use a tapestry needle to thread the remaining stitches. Pull tight to close.

PU 5 (7) CO sts from the little toe onto the cable needle (put 3 (4) sts on the back needle and 2 (3) sts on the front needle)

Knit ½ inch (7 rows)

Knit **the toe next to the little toe**: On the new outside, slip 7 (7) sts from the front needle and 6 (8) sts from the back needle onto DPNs. CO 3 (5) sts for a total of 16 (20) sts. Knit until the toe is just a bit longer than the little toe (13 (16) rows) or about 1/8 inch shorter than the length of your toe. Knit two rows of k2togtbl. Break yarn and use a tapestry needle to thread the remaining stitches. Pull tight to close.

PU 3 (5) CO sts from the toe next to the little toe onto the cable needle (1 (3) sts on back needle, 2 (2) sts on front needle)

Knit ¼ inch (4 rows)

Knit **big toe**: On the inside, slip 11 sts from the front needle and 11 sts from the back needle onto DPNs. CO 5 (8) sts for a total of 27 (30) sts. Knit 12 (16) rows with DPNs. In the next row, space out three k2tog; (knit 2 (5) rows and another three decreases) 2x; k2tog until 4 or 5 sts remain. The big toe will be about 1 7/8 (2 1/8) inches long before the final decreases.

To accommodate your unique big toe anatomy, I suggest knitting until the toe is about an inch long. Try on the sock and space out decreases as required until the toe is about 1/8 inch shorter than needed before the final k2tog rounds to close the toe.

PU 5 (8) sts from the big toe (2 (4) sts on back needle and 3 (4) sts on front needle)

Knit 3/16 inches (3 rows)

Knit **middle toe**: Back to the outside, pick up 7 (7) sts from the back needle and 7 (8) sts from the front needle onto DPNs. CO 3 (5) sts for a total of 17 (20) sts. Knit until the toe is just over one inch long (12

(16) rows) or about 1/8 inch shorter than the length of your toe. Knit two rows of k2togtbl. Break yarn and use a tapestry needle to thread the remaining stitches. Pull tight to close.

PU 3 (5) CO sts from the middle toe.

Knit **the toe between the middle and big toes**: Split the remaining sts between the front and back needles and knit using the Magic Loop (or you can slip sts onto DPNs). You will have more than 17 (20) sts; on the big toe side, create a gusset by a k2tog and SSK on each row until 17 (20) sts total remain. Knit until the toe is just over one inch long (14 (16) rows) or about 1/8 inch shorter than the length of your toe. Knit two rows of k2togtbl. Break yarn and use a tapestry needle to thread the remaining stitches. Pull tight to close.

At this point, I recommend weaving in the many yarn ends on the toes rather than waiting until the socks are finished.

PU the 64 provisional CO sts for the foot.

Knit until sock is 5 ¼ inches long (6 ½ inches for the larger size) and start the **instep gussets** on the sole of the sock. M1p every other row on each gusset until a total of 96 sts (32 on foot and 64 on sole). I chose to purl the gusset sts to be able to identify them later (and avoid counting or having to use stitch markers).

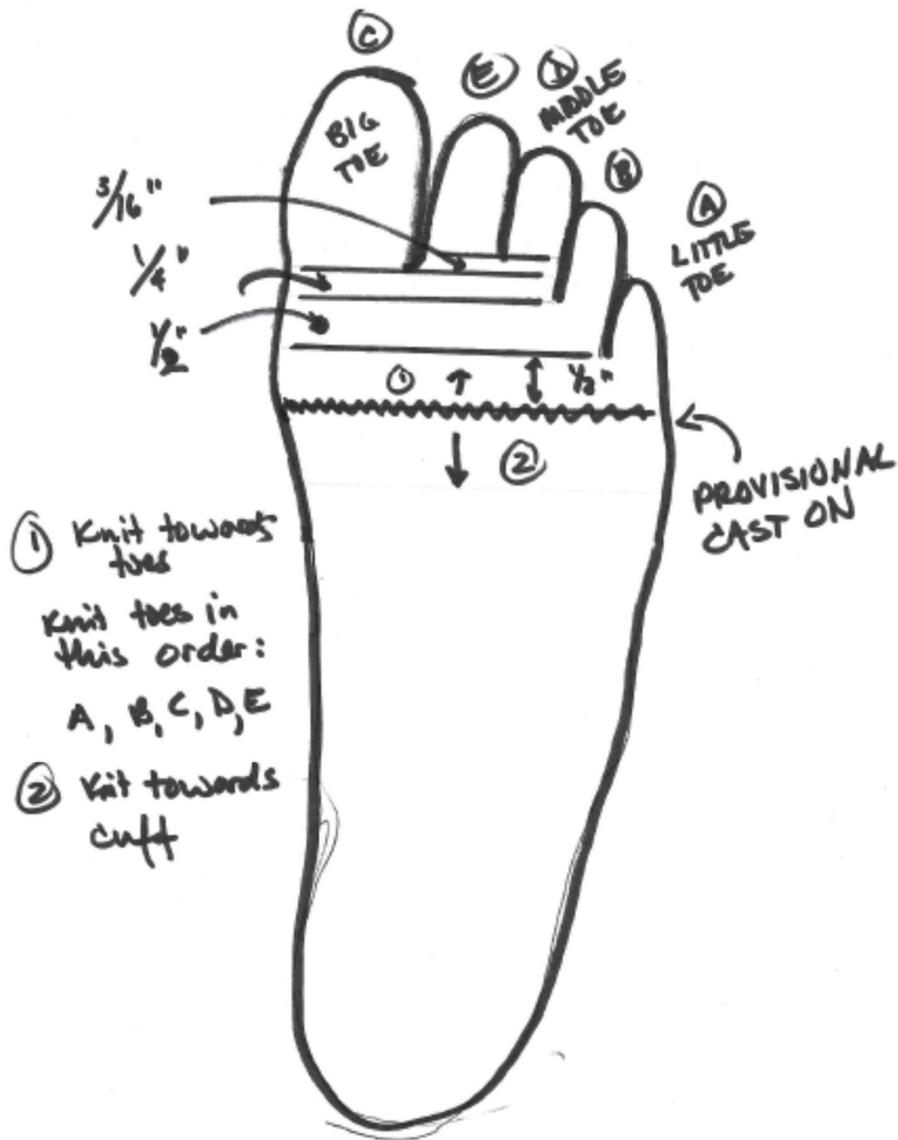
Knit **short-row heel**: Knit across the sole until one stitch before the gusset sts; W&T; purl back across until one stitch before the gusset; W&T. Continue the knit/purl W&T sequence until 10 sts remain.

Knit **heel flap**: Knit across, PU wraps and k2togtbl until one wrapped stitch remains. PU wrap and k3togtbl. Turn. Purl back across. PU wraps and p2tog until one wrapped stitch remains. PU wrap and p3tog. Turn. Slip first stitch. Knit/sl across until one stitch before gusset sts; k2togtbl. Turn. Purl back across until one stitch remains before gusset. P2tog. Turn. Continue knit/purl and k2tog/p2tog until no gusset stitches remain.



Knit the leg until 1.5 inches before desired length. To fit your ankle/calf circumference, M1 as appropriate. For my knee-high socks, I gradually increased to 70 sts by spacing two M1 in a row every inch or so in length. For a cuff, k1p1 for at least 18 rows. Finish with Jeny's super stretchy bind-off. Weave in ends.

For DH's mid-calf high socks, I started the gradual increases earlier and ended up with 80 sts before the 1x1 ribbing.



- ① Knit towards toes  
Knit toes in this order:  
A, B, C, D, E
- ② Knit towards cuff