



I love this sock construction, not only for it's excellent fit for high insteps, but also the knitting process and the interesting way how colorwork runs on the foot.

And I love sheep, so had to try incorporate them in this construction 😊

(Hyrde Sokker is Danish for Shepherd Socks)

Shoe sizes: The pattern has 4 sizes based on the average circumference of EU shoe sizes 36/37 (38/39)40/41 (42/45).

If you go by US, UK or other standards in shoe sizes, there are 3 options:

If you have worked socks before in this gauge and had a good fit with 56(60)64(68) stitches for foot and/or leg, you can go by the sizes above.

If in doubt, you can google "what is [women's or men's] shoe size [your number] in EU" (US shoe sizes distinguish between women's and men's shoe sizes, EU shoe sizes does not)

Or go by the measurements below (note: measures below are not stretched, and as you need a 10% negative ease for socks to stay put when you move around, measure foot, then multiply measure with 0.9)



Page 2 of 7
Hyrde Sokker

Heel/instep: 29(31)33(35) cm / 11.4(12.2)13(13.8) inches

The circumference of the foot can be adjusted to slightly larger or smaller, but in not-stretched measures: 17,5(18,75)20(21,25) cm / 6.9(7.4)7.9(8.4) inches. Leg a trifle more (adjustable to larger circumference)

Yarn: sock yarn with a running length of 420 meter/100 gram aka fingering aka 4-ply

Yarns in photos: white and charcoal grey are Opal, green and blue are in "Admiral Hanf" from Schoppel.

Gauge, both in stockinette and in colorwork: 32 stitches x 40 rounds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 inches

Use the needle size(s) that gives you this gauge, I have used a 2.5 mm / US 1½ myself

Types of knitting needles: as you increase from 6 to 180+ stitches in the heel/instep part:

- If you prefer DPNs, start working on 3+1 of these. As your needles get crowded, either change to 6+1 or to a 40 cm/16 inches circular.

- If you prefer Magic Loop or 2 circulars, most of the work can be done this way. When you start first rounds of sheep heads, you can change to a 40 cm/ 16 inch circulars if you like and grafting is easiest if you have 2 DPNs.

Other:

- 4-6 stitch markers.

- grafting is easiest on a blunt tapestry/wool needle, but for weaving in ends, I prefer a sharp one myself.

Short go-through of working the socks:



The socks are started with only 6 stitches at the tip of the heel. Then you increase in 6 wedge shapes until the piece is big enough to cover the heel/instep circumference (red markings in photo).

Two opposite wedge are grafted together, making an invisible seam running vertical over the instep.

Rest of stitches goes to the foot at one side of the heel/instep piece and leg to the other, knitting direction marked in blue arrows.

All is worked in the round.

If this is your first socks in this construction, you will probably doubt if you are knitting the heel/instep part the right way, as it more resembles a hat or holder for coffee filters. And the finished sock do not look like worked for a human foot.

But trust the pattern: magic happens when you put the sock on 😊

Heel/instep part

Cast-on and working the first line of the chart on page 4:

Note: where you shift (side of) needle, the space between can function as a stitch marker.

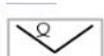
If you use DPNs: On one needle, cast on 6 stitches using Knitted Cast-on. Place each new stitch close to the

previous, as having as small a hole to sew shut later

Now work first round of chart and at the same time distribute your stitches for working in the round: *f/b (knit and knit through the back loop in same stitch), place marker, f/b*. Repeat from * to * on 2 DPNs more. You now have 4 stitches on each 3 needles, 12 stitches total.

Magic Loop or 2 circulars: Using Judy Becker's Magic Cast-on, cast on 6 stitches, 3 to each (side of) needles. Work first round of chart this way: *f/b (knit and knit through the back loop in same stitch), place marker, f/b, place marker, f/b*. Repeat from * to * on other (side of) needle. You now have 6 stitches on each (side of) needle, 12 total.

Increasing symbols in chart



f/b (knit and knit through the back loop in same stitch)

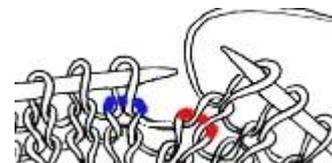
Next 2 symbols are *Lifted Increases*, which you oftenmost work by lifting the strand between 2 stitches and knitting it through the back loop. That method, I find, does not give the neatest outcome in colorwork, so in this pattern you lift the back loop of a stitch and just knit it.



Lifted Increase Left leaning: with your left needle, go behind your work and into the 3rd stitch below the one you just knitted. Lift the backside loop (marked with red in the drawing) to your left needle and knit it in the color shown in the chart.



Lifted Increase Right leaning: with your right needle and also from behind your work, lift the backside loop under next stitch (marked with blue in the drawing) to your needle and knit it in the color shown in the chart.



When you work the rounds with colorwork.

Catch the floats 4-5 stitches apart using Fair Isle technique so no toes are caught when dressing

Note: the shoe sizes on next pages are indicative:

Some have same shoe size in length, but a higher or lower instep and it is the number of rounds that gives you the good fit in the heel/instep part. If possible try the socks on, as you are close to the suggested rounds. Alternately check with recipients measure.

Too few rounds, and the sock will be to tight, difficult to put on/of and sheep will look distorted.

Too many rounds and the sock will not cling nicely to your feet, but move around inside shoes and boots.

Page 4 of 7
Hyrde Sokker

Shoe size 35/37: work

chart rows 1-52

Shoe size 38/39: work

chart rows 1-56

Shoe size 40/41: work

chart rows 1-60

Shoe size 42/45: work

chart rows 1-64



Preparing for grafting over the instep:

You have 6 sections, each a chart wide in your work.

The 1st and 4th of them are to be grafted together, meaning an invisible seam running vertical over your instep.

Sections 2+3 will be the start of the foot and wedges 5+6 the start of your leg.

So next you knit a round, while at the same time distributing the sections to other types of needles, to make grafting and further knitting as easy as possible.

You do not need to knit the round on to 6 DPNs as in the photos - this I have only done to make as best visual to the explanations as possible.

It is the easiest, though, if section 1 and 4 are on each their DPN.

The other sections, you can pair-wise knit onto circulars, DPNs as in pic and if you are short on needles: knit stitches, then put to rest on a piece of scrap yarn.

Remove stitch markers as you knit and then break yarn with a 90 cm/ 3 feet end for grafting.

Fold heel/instep part so that section 1 and 4 are on top of each other.

Grafting making knit stitches:

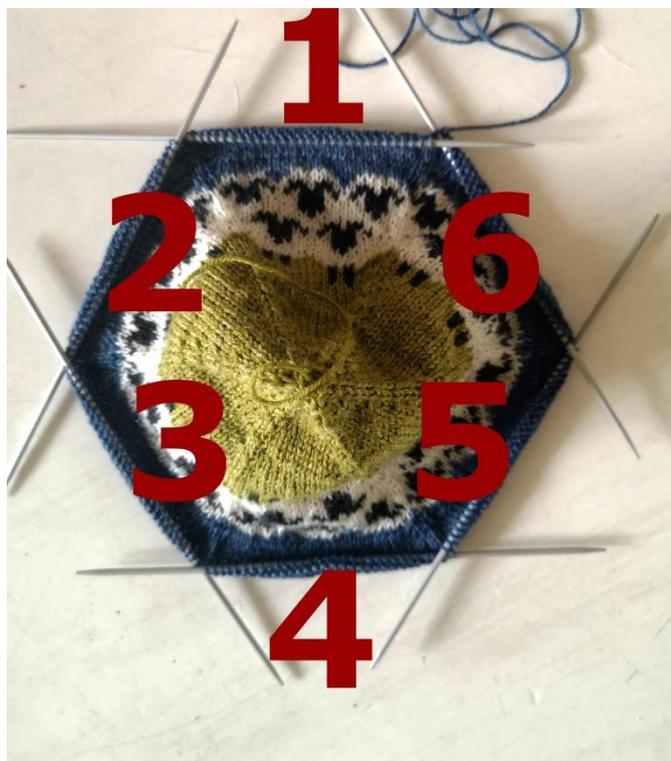
Keep same tension in your sewn stitches as in your knitted ones, to make the grafting line look as your knitted fabric.

First sew through outer stitch at back needle, then through outer stitch at front needle. Then alternately sew into stitches on back and front needle as described below.

On back needle: sew through outer stitch in direction-towards-you, slip this stitch to yarn, then sew through next stitch in direction-away-from you. Pull yarn to get tension and continue on front needle.

On front needle: sew through outer stitch in direction away-from-you, slip this stitch to yarn, then sew through next stitch in direction towards you. Pull yarn to get tension and continue on back needle.

When you have one stitch left on each needle, sew through both of them and slip from needles



Foot:

Section 2+3 has this number of stitches total: 36/37: 56 stitches, 38/39: 60 stitches, 40/41: 64 stitches and 42/45: 68 stitches.

If you need more stitches for the foot, you can knit them up in the gap where you started your grafting. If you need fewer stitches, decrease evenly in first round.

Note: If you have not worked this sock construction before, you will find that you need a surprizingly few rounds for the foot - only 21 in shoe 38/39 and with the longest toe pattern.

So I recommend, that you now decide which of the toe patterns you want to work, as not knitting too many rounds and having to undo.

Because of the construction, the rounds will run in slanting lines, so do your measuring in the middle of the foot, from back edge of heel as in photo to get a correct measure.



Toe:

Below are 2 variations of an Umbrella-like toe, use the one that will fit the



reciever the best

Left in drawing: toes almost having same length and toe box being squarish.

This toe-variation measures 4 cm/1.6 inches.

Right in drawing: tip of toes makes a slanted line.

This variation measures 5,5 cm /2.2 inches and numbers for this in in (brackets)..

First knit 2 rounds.

1st round of decreases *K2tog, K3*, repeat from * to * in whole round. If 4 or less stitches that does not align in this repeat at end of round, just knit them.

Knit 4(6) rounds.

2nd round of decreases *K2tog, K2*, repeat from * to * in whole round. If 3 or less stitches that does not align in this repeat at end of round, just knit them.

Knit 3(5) rounds.

3rd round of decreases *K2tog, K1*, repeat from * to * in whole round. If 2 or less stitches that does not align in this repeat at end of round, just knit them. *

Knit 2(3) rounds.

Last decreases: Keep working K2tog untill you have 7-8 stitches left, break yarn and pull through stitches.

Leg:

The leg has a 5-stitch repeat, but this do not align with the number of stitches you have in section 5+6. So start by knitting stitches up in the gap at the end of your grafting. Knit up 4(0)1(2) stitches and eventually 5 more if you need a bit of extra circumference (you can knit up to 7 stitches in the gap if you need more, increase the rest evenly when working the first round).

Stitch pattern:

Round 1: *K3, P2* repeat from * to * in rest of round.

Round 2: *[K1, P1]x2, P1* repeat from * to * in rest of round.

Also you need fewer rounds to knit to same length of leg in this construction.

Knit to desired length and bind of in your favorite stretchy way

Work the other sock, weave in end and wear – or gift – your socks with pride 😊

