Poet socks

Lace socks by Sari nordlund

The Poet socks are knitted from the cuff down towards the toes. They are started with an optional tubular cast on which provides a stretchy edge to the cuff. The heel flaps are knitted with a reinforced stitch pattern for durability and the heels are round French heels. Instructions are given for modifying the gusset for a more generous fit.

The lace pattern of these socks is familiar from my most popular pattern, the Poet sweater that was published in Laine magazine issue 6. After all this time I still think it is the most beautiful stitch pattern I have ever knitted!

Size
One size
Circumference 20 cm / 8 inches, to be worn with slight negative ease
Length adjustable

Yarn
300 m / 350 yards of fingering weight sock yarn such as Wool Me Once Merino socks (75% superwash merino, 25% nylon; 425 m / 467 yards per 100g), shown in colorway Aslan

Needles
2.5 mm / US 1.5 DPNs or circular needles with a cable suitable for small circumference knitting
Always choose the needle size that gets you the right gauge.

Gauge
1 pattern repeat of Leg chart (20 sts)= 6.5 cm / 2.5 inches, in the round after blocking
30 sts and 38 rounds = 10 cm / 4 inches of stockinette stitch, in the round after blocking
If you can't match the gauge both across the stitches and across the rounds, choose the needle size that gets you closer to the gauge across the stitches.

Notions
3 stitch markers
waste yarn for the Tubular Cast On
sewing needle
blocking tools (sock blockers)

Instructions

CUFF

Note: If you do not wish to work the Tubular Cast On, CO 60 sts with the main yarn using the Long Tail Cast On method and continue straight to 1x1 ribbing.

With the waste yarn, CO 30 sts using the Long Tail Cast On method. Join in the round being careful not to twist the ring of sts and pm for BOR. Break the waste yarn and attach main yarn to the work.

Tubular Round 1: *K1, yo; rep from * until end. (60 sts on needles)
Tubular Round 2: *Sl1 wyib, p1; rep from * until end.
Tubular Round 3: *K1, sl1 wyif; rep from * until end. You can now undo the waste yarn from the cast on edge.

Ribbing Round: *K1, p1; rep from * until end.
Continue working the ribbing, until the cuff meas 3.5 cm / 1.5 inches from the CO edge or the desired length.

Then remove the BOR m, k1, and replace the BOR m. This is your new beginning of the round.

MAIN PATTERN

Round 1: Work the Leg chart or follow the written instructions. The 20 stitch pattern repeats 3 times on each round.
Round 2: Work next round of the Leg chart or follow the written instructions.

Work as est on Round 2 until the leg meas 18 cm / 7 inches from the CO edge ending with an even number round of the chart.

HEEL FLAP

Set Up Row 1 (RS): Work the next round of the Leg chart over the first 15 sts. Turn the work.
Set Up Row 2 (WS): Sl1 wyif, p14, remove BOR m, p14. Turn the work.

The heel is worked over these sts (29 sts). Leave the rest of the sts (31 sts) on hold for the instep. You can either leave the sts on your needles or place them on a piece of waste yarn.
The heel flap is worked flat in the reinforced stitch, by slipping every other stitch on the RS and purling all sts on the WS.

Row 1 (RS): *Sl1 wyib, k1; rep from * until 1 st rems on the heel flap, k1, turn the work.
Row 2 (WS): Sl1 wyif, p until end of the heel flap, turn the work.
Rep Rows 1-2 another 14 times.

TURNING THE HEEL

The heel is worked as a French heels which provides a beautiful rounded heel. Continue working flat.

Row 1 (RS): Sl1 wyib, k16, ssk, k1, turn the work. (1 st dec'd)

Row 2 (WS): Sl1 wyif, p6, p2tog, p1, turn the work. (1 st dec'd)

Row 3 (RS): Sl1 wyib, k until 1 st rems before the gap from the previous row, ssk, k1, turn the work. (1 st dec'd)

Row 4 (WS): Sl1 wyif, p until 1 st rems before the gap from the previous row, p2tog, p1, turn the work. (1 st dec'd)

Rep Rows 3-4 until there are no more sts to work on the sides of the heel flap. The last pair of decreases are worked right on the edge of the heels, on these rounds omit the last k1 or p1, and turn the work immediately after the decrease. (17 sts remain on the heel)

GUSSET

Continue working in the round. Take the instep sts back on the needles. Pick up stitches along the sides of the heel flap as instructed below. You can k them through the back loop on the first round. To avoid holes you can pick up extra sts as needed and decrease them on the following round to get to the right stitch count.

Note: If you want a higher instep for your socks, you can pick extra sts along the edge of the heel flap or decrease at the gusset at a slower rate, for example on every 3rd round instead of on every 2nd.

Round 1 (RS): Sl1 wyib, k the remaining heel sts. Pick up and knit 15 sts along the side of the heel flap + one extra stitch in the gap between the heel and the instep to avoid holes. Pm for side. Work the instep sts as instructed on the next corresponding round of the Instep Chart (if you ended with the Round 1 of the Leg Chart then continue on the Round 2 of the Instep Chart, if you ended with Round 2 then continue with Round 3 and so on) or follow the written instructions, pm for second side. Pick up and knit 1 st in the gap between the instep and the heel and 15 sts along the side of the heel flap, pm for BOR. Resume working in the round.

Round 2 (gusset decrease round): K until 2 st rem before next m, k2tog, sm, work the next round of the Instep Chart until next m, sm, ssk, k until end. (2 sts dec'd)

Round 3: K until next m, sm, work the next round of the Instep Chart until next m, sm, k until end.

Rep Rounds 2-3 until 29 sts remain for the sole. (60 sts on needles, 31 sts for the instep and 29 sts for the sole)

Next Round: Remove the BOR m, k until next m. This is your new BOR (side of the foot).

Next Round: Work next round of the Instep Chart as est until next m, sm, k until end.

Continue as est until the sock reaches the tip of your little toe (or approximately 4 cm / 1.5 inches less than the desired foot length).

SHAPING THE TOES

Round 1: K 30, pm, k1, remove m, k until end. (30 sts for the instep and 30 sts for the sole)
Round 2 (decrease): *K1, ssk, k until 3 sts rem before next m, k2tog, k1, sm; rep from * until end. (4 sts dec'd, 56 sts)
Round 3 (even): K all slipping all markers.

Rep Rounds 2-3 until there are 24 sts left on the needles (12 sts for the instep and 12 sts for the sole).

Break the yarn leaving a tail of at least 30 cm / 12 inches, and graft the sts together using the Kitchener stitch.
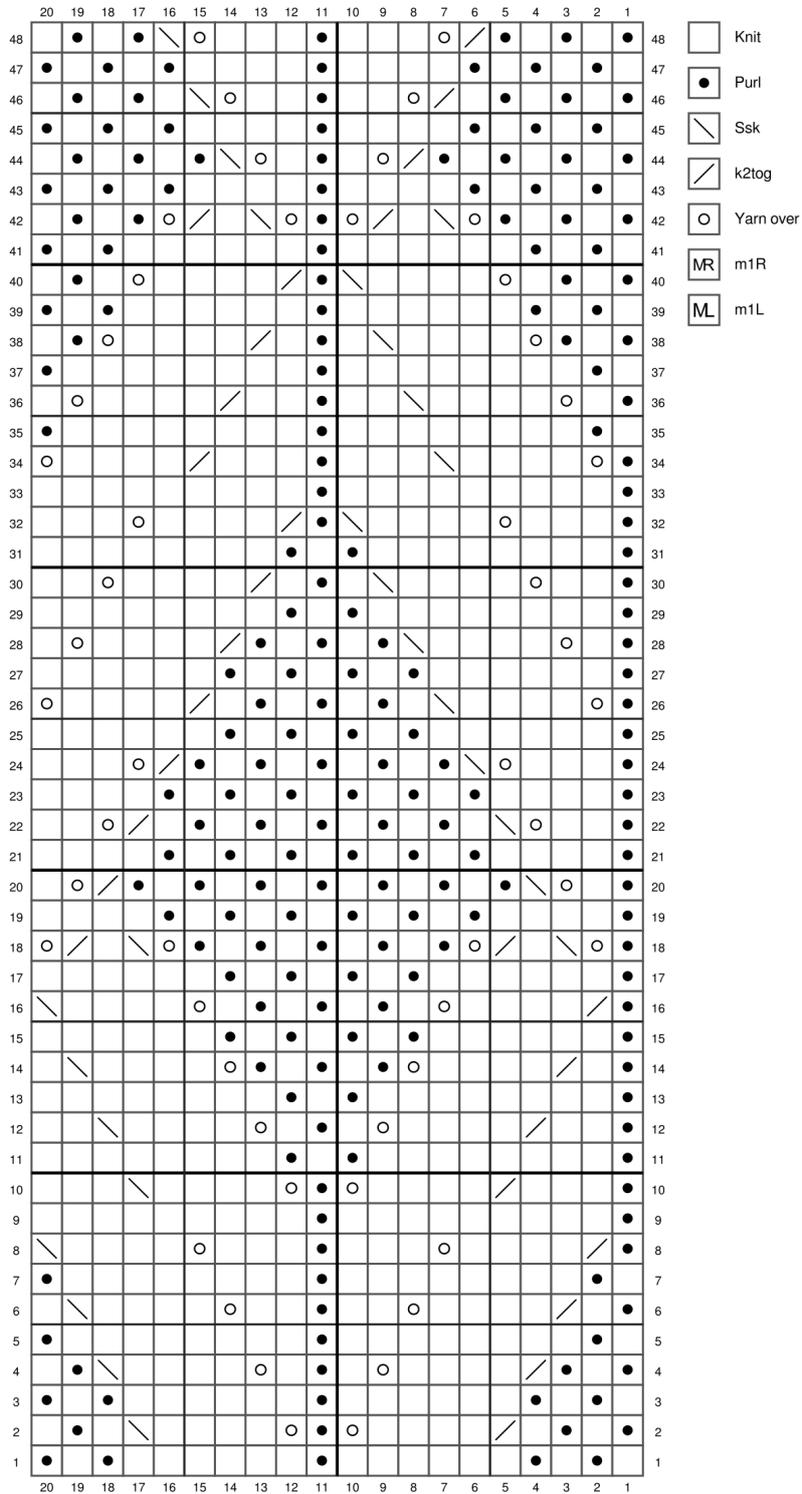
Knit the second sock accordingly.

FINISHING

Weave in all yarn ends. Wet block to measurements using sock blockers or carefully iron the socks using the steam function.

Abbreviations

BOR	Beginning of the round
CO	Cast on
dec'd	Decreased
est	Established
k	Knit
k2tog	Knit 2 sts together
m	Marker
m1L	Make 1 st (left-leaning)
m1R	Make 1 st (right-leaning)
p	Purl
pm	Place marker
rep	Repeat
sl1	Slip 1 st
sm	Slip marker
ssk	Slip, slip, knit the slipped stitches together
st(s)	Stitch(es)
wyib	With yarn in back
wyif	With yarn in front
yo	Yarn over

Leg chart

Knit
Purl
Ssk
k2tog
Yarn over
MR — m1R
ML — m1L
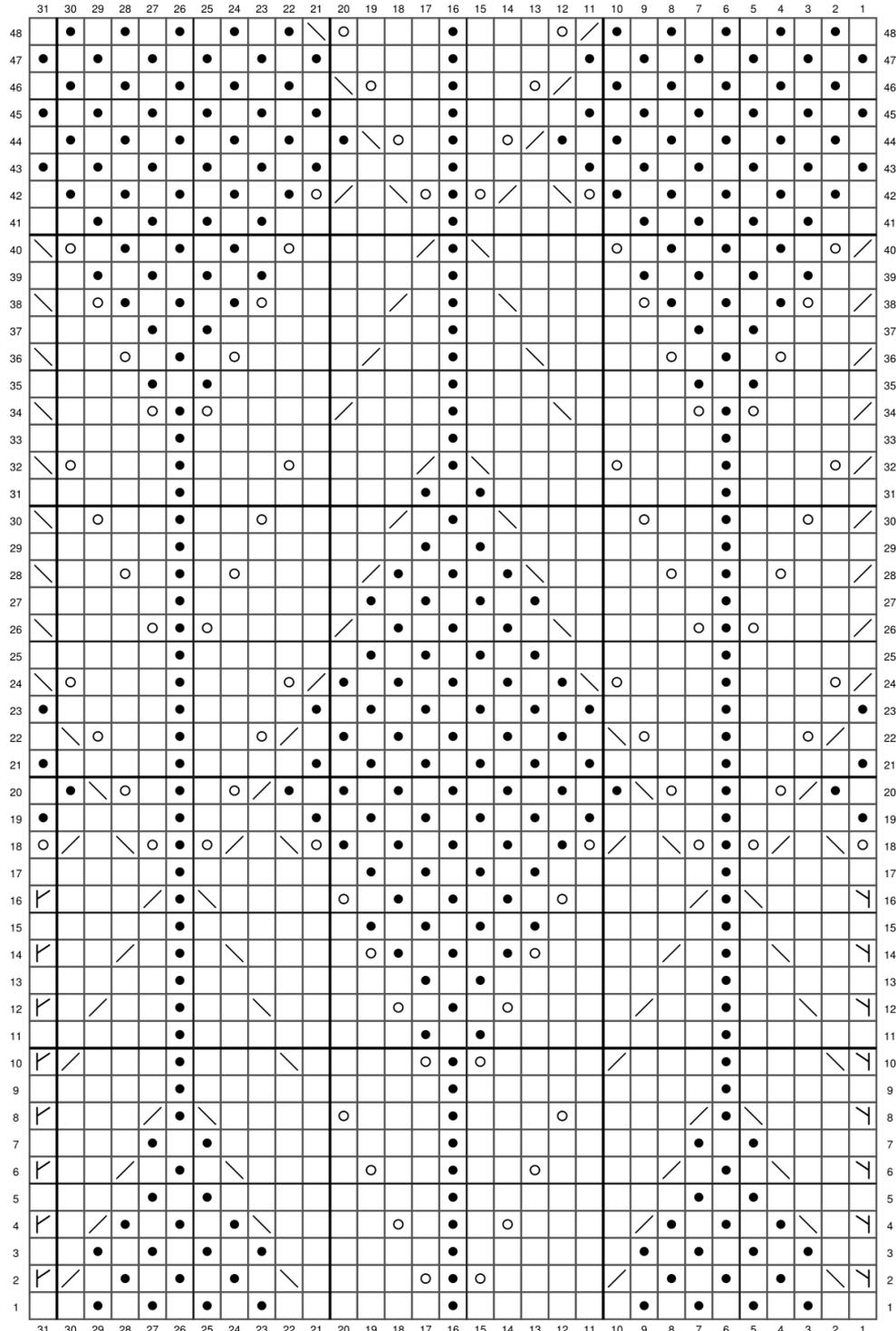
Written pattern for the leg chart

Round 1: *(K1, p1) x 2, k6, p1, k6, p1, k1, p1; rep from * until end.

Round 2: *(P1, k1) x 2, k2tog, k4, yo, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k1, p1, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 3: As Round 1.

Round 4: *P1, k1, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, p1, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 5: *K1, p1, k8, p1, k8, p1; rep from * until end.

Round 6: *P1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, k4, ssk, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 7: As Round 5.

Round 8: *P1, k2tog, k4, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, k4, ssk; rep from * until end.

Round 9: *P1, k9; rep from * until end.

Round 10: *P1, k3, k2tog, k4, yo, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k3; rep from * until end.

Round 11: *P1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8; rep from * until end.

Round 12: *P1, k2, k2tog, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, k2; rep from * until end.

Round 13: As Round 11.

Round 14: *P1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 15: *P1, k6, (p1, k1) x 3, p1, k6; rep from * until end.

Round 16: *P1, k2tog, k4, yo, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, yo, k4, ssk; rep from * until end.

Round 17: As Round 15.

Round 18: *P1, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, (p1, k1) x 4, p1, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo; rep from * until end.

Round 19: *P1, k4, (p1, k1) x 5, p1, k4; rep from * until end.

Round 20: *P1, k1, yo, ssk, (p1, k1) x 6, p1, k2tog, yo, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 21: As Round 19.

Round 22: *P1, k2, yo, ssk, (k1, p1) x 5, k1, k2tog, yo, k2; rep from * until end.

Round 23: As Round 19.

Round 24: *P1, k3, yo, ssk, (p1, k1) x 4, p1, k2tog, yo, k3; rep from * until end.

Round 25: As Round 15.

Round 26: *P1, yo, k4, ssk, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, k2tog, k4, yo; rep from * until end.

Round 27: As Round 15.

Round 28: *P1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 29: As Round 11.

Round 30: *P1, k2, yo, k4, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, k2; rep from * until end.

Round 31: As Round 11.

Round 32: *P1, k3, yo, k4, ssk, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k3; rep from * until end.

Round 33: As Round 9.

Round 34: *P1, yo, k4, ssk, k3, p1, k3, k2tog, k4, yo; rep from * until end.

Round 35: As Round 5.

Round 36: *P1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, k2, p1, k2, k2tog, k4, yo, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 37: As Round 5.

Round 38: *P1, k1, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, p1, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 39: As Round 1.

Round 40: *(P1, k1) x 2, yo, k4, ssk, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 41: As Round 1.

Round 42: *(P1, k1) x 2, (p1, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo) x 2, (p1, k1) x 2; rep from * until end.

Round 43: *(K1, p1) x 3, k4, p1, k4, (p1, k1) x 2, p1; rep from * until end.

Round 44: *(P1, k1) x 3, p1, k2tog, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, ssk, (p1, k1) x 3; rep from * until end.

Round 45: As Round 43.

Round 46: *(P1, k1) x 3, k2tog, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, ssk, (k1, p1) x 2, k1; rep from * until end.

Round 47: As Round 43.

Round 48: *(P1, k1) x 2, p1, k2tog, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, ssk, (p1, k1) x 2; rep from * until end.

Instep chart

Written pattern for the instep chart

Round 1: K2, (p1, k1) x 3, (p1, k6) x 2, (p1, k1) x 4, k1.

Round 2: M1L, ssk, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, p1, yo, k4, ssk, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, k2tog, m1R.

Round 3: As Round 1.

Round 4: M1L, k1, ssk, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, k2tog, k1, m1R.

Round 5: K4, p1, k1, (p1, k8) x 2, p1, k1, p1, k4.

Round 6: M1L, k2, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, k4, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k2, m1R.

Round 7: As Round 5.

Round 8: M1L, k3, ssk, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, k4, ssk, p1, k2tog, k3, m1R.

Round 9: K5, (p1, k9) x 2, p1, k5.

Round 10: M1L, ssk, k3, p1, k3, k2tog, k4, yo, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k3, p1, k3, k2tog, m1R.

Round 11: K5, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k5.

Round 12: M1L, k1, ssk, k2, p1, k2, k2tog, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, k2, p1, k2, k2tog, k1, m1R.

Round 13: As Round 11.

Round 14: M1L, k2, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k2, m1R.

Round 15: K5, p1, k6, (p1, k1) x 3, p1, k6, p1, k5.

Round 16: M1L, k3, ssk, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, yo, k4, ssk, p1, k2tog, k3, m1R.

Round 17: As Round 15.

Round 18: (Yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, p1) x 2, (k1, p1) x 4, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, p1, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo.

Round 19: (P1, k4) x 2, p1, (k1, p1) x 5, (k4, p1) x 2.

Round 20: K1, p1, k2tog, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, ssk, p1, (k1, p1) x 6, k2tog, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, ssk, p1, k1.

Round 21: As Round 19.

Round 22: K1, k2tog, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, ssk, (k1, p1) x 5, k1, k2tog, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, ssk, k1.

Round 23: As Round 19.

Round 24: K2tog, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, ssk, (p1, k1) x 4, p1, k2tog, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, ssk.

Round 25: As Round 15.

Round 26: K2tog, k3, yo, p1, yo, k4, ssk, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, p1, yo, k3, ssk.

Round 27: As Round 15.

Round 28: K2tog, k2, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k2, ssk.

Round 29: As Round 11.

Round 30: K2tog, k1, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, k4, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, k1, ssk.

Round 31: As Round 11.

Round 32: K2tog, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, k4, ssk, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, ssk.

Round 33: As Round 9.

Round 34: K2tog, k3, yo, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k3, p1, k3, k2tog, k4, yo, p1, yo, k3, ssk.

Round 35: As Round 5.

Round 36: K2tog, k2, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k4, ssk, k2, p1, k2, k2tog, k4, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, k2, ssk.

Round 37: As Round 5.

Round 38: K2tog, k1, yo, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, yo, k4, ssk, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k4, yo, (p1, k1) x 2, p1, yo, k1, ssk.

Round 39: As Round 1.

Round 40: K2tog, yo, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, yo, k4, ssk, p1, k2tog, k4, yo, (k1, p1) x 3, k1, yo, ssk.

Round 41: As Round 1.

Round 42: (K1, p1) x 5, (yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, p1) x 2, (k1, p1) x 4, k1.

Round 43: P1, (k1, p1) x 5, (k4, p1) x 2, (k1, p1) x 5.

Round 44: (K1, p1) x 6, k2tog, yo, k1, p1, k1, yo, ssk, (p1, k1) x 6.

Round 45: As Round 43.

Round 46: (K1, p1) x 5, k1, k2tog, yo, k2, p1, k2, yo, ssk, (k1, p1) x 5, k1.

Round 47: As Round 43.

Round 48: (K1, p1) x 5, k2tog, yo, k3, p1, k3, yo, ssk, (p1, k1) x 5.

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