

# POP RADIO SOCKS

SUMMER LEE DESIGN Co.

COLORFUL, CLASSIC PATTERNS for EVERY KNITTER





THE POP RADIO SOCKS are a whimsical knit incorporating the easy-to-make popcorn stitch!

Like all the best pop songs, these socks are addictive, fun, and easy to memorize. Using basic colorwork techniques, you can play with endless color combinations! My sample pair was knit in bright, summery colors, but I can just imagine them knit in softer earth tones for fall!

This pattern includes written instructions, as well as a chart and a tutorial. I've also included links to my YouTube channel where you can watch a video of me making the popcorn stitch.

Be sure to use the hashtag #popradiosocks on Instagram so I can see and share all your beautiful socks!

## SIZES

Measurements are in inches (cm), measured around the circumference of the ball of your foot.

**S** 7" (17.75cm) **M** 8" (20.25cm) **L** 9" (23cm) **XL** 10" (25.5cm)

## GAUGE

42 sts over 4 inches in pattern, knit in the round and blocked

## MATERIALS

\* One skein of sock yarn (approximately 430 yards/393 meters). You may not use the entire skein, depending on how long you make your socks.

\* One mini skein of sock yarn (80 yards, though you will use approximately 50 yards) for the cuffs and toes (OPTIONAL).

\* One mini skein of sock yarn (80 yards, though you will use approximately 35 yards) for the contrasting popcorns.

\* US size 1 needles (36" or longer circular for magic loop), or DPNs, or a tiny circular, depending on how you knit socks.

\* Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

*\*Note, I wear a US women's shoe size 7.5. My foot circumference measures 8", and I knit the size Medium for a snug (but not tight) fit!*

## ABBREVIATIONS

**K** knit  
**P** purl  
**MC** main color  
**CC** contrasting color  
**CO** cast on  
**BOR** beginning of round

**St** stitch  
**Sl** slip  
**Sm** slip marker  
**Pm** place marker  
**M1** Make 1 st  
**k2tog** knit two together



## SPECIAL STITCHES USED

### Popcorn Stitch

Knit into the next stitch on your left needle as normal, but do NOT drop the stitch off your needle. Knit into the stitch again through the back, then knit into the stitch again through the front, then knit into the stitch a final time through the back, dropping the stitch off the needle. You should have created four stitches on your right needle.

Next, you will use your left needle to pick up the second stitch on your right needle, and bring it over the first stitch, and off the needle (exactly as you would if you were binding off!). Then bring the third stitch over the first stitch, dropping it off the needle. Finally, bring the fourth stitch over the first stitch, dropping it off the needle. You are now left with one stitch and a popcorn!

*\*TIP: To see a video tutorial of this stitch, you can visit my YouTube Channel - Summer Lee Design Co - and look for the video titled "Pop Radio Socks: Making the Popcorn Stitch." You can also copy and paste this address into your browser: <https://youtu.be/vjddjVovPw14>*

Knit a stitch, but don't drop it off!  
Knit into the back of that same stitch.



Next, knit into the front of that same stitch, then the back again, then drop it off. You will have four new stitches on your right needle.



Now, "bind off" those extra stitches by lifting the second stitch over the first, then the third and fourth stitches over the first.



*\*TIP: You want to knit your popcorns very loosely! Knitting back and forth into the same stitch will naturally tighten your work, so keep your tension loose as you knit your popcorns! Once you finish working your popcorn, knit the next stitch extra tight. This will help your popcorn "pop" out and be prominent on your sock. Additionally, since you are knitting your popcorns in a contrasting color, you'll have floats on the back of your work. You will want to keep your floats relatively loose! If your floats are too tight, they'll pull at your work, causing unsightly puckering and a too-tight sock! After I knit a popcorn, I like to give the float a little tug to keep it nice and loose before knitting the next popcorn.*

## POPCORN STITCH PATTERN

*\*Note: If you are not familiar with basic colorwork techniques, I recommend watching tutorials on YouTube. Very Pink Knits has some great tutorials for beginners on two-color stranded knitting. These socks are very beginner friendly if you are new to colorwork and would like to start with something fairly basic before tackling fair isle designs.*

- ROW 1 (SET-UP ROW):** With MC k2, with CC k1, [with MC k5, with CC k1] around, with MC k3.  
**ROW 2:** With MC k2, with CC make popcorn, [with MC k5, with CC make popcorn] around, with MC k3.  
**ROWS 3 - 10:** K with MC  
**ROW 11 (SET-UP ROW):** [With MC k5, with CC k1]  
**ROW 12:** [With MC k5, with CC make popcorn]  
**ROWS 13 - 20:** K with MC

							20
							19
							18
							17
							16
							15
							14
							13
P							12
							11
							10
							9
							8
							7
							6
							5
							4
							3
			P				2
							1
6	5	4	3	2	1		

### KEY

- Main Color
- Contrast Color
- P Popcorn Stitch

*\*You can cut your contrast yarn after rows 2 and 12, or you can choose to carry it up the wrong side of your work if you don't want to weave in ends. I chose to cut mine.\**



*\*Note: On the knit rows immediately following a popcorn row (rows 3 and 13), when you come to your popcorn stitch, knit it through the back loop. This helps your popcorn stitch "pop."*

Some tips to remember when doing stranded colorwork on socks:

- 1) Keep your tension loose on the colorwork portions of the pattern! You don't want tight floats! Give your floats a little tug as you are working them and keep your stitches spread out evenly on your needle to ensure your floats stay relaxed.
- 2) If you knit socks using DPNs or Magic Loop, always catch a float at the end and beginning of a needle as you are working around. Otherwise, you'll have a float stretching diagonally across the sock.
- 3) If you find your tension is still too tight, and you are having trouble fitting your sock over your foot when you try it on, go up a needle size!

## INSTRUCTIONS

\*The Popcorn Stitch Pattern wraps around the entire sock for the leg portion. Once you turn the heel and begin work on the gusset, foot, and toes, the Popcorn Stitch Pattern will only be worked on the top half of your stitches. The bottom half of your stitches (which makes up the sole of the foot) will be worked in stockinette. Please note this stitch pattern creates a slightly tighter fabric, which is why you'll notice below that you'll be working with more stitches than standard for your size!

### *CUFF*

With CC, cast on **66 (72, 78, 84)** sts. (You can use the cast on method of your choice - I used long tail). Place BOR marker and join for working in the round, being careful not to twist the stitches. Establish 2 x 1 rib pattern. [k2, p1] to end. Continue in rib pattern until cuff measures 1" (2.5cm), or your desired cuff length.

### *LEG*

Switch to MC and K three rounds even.

Begin Popcorn Stitch Pattern. Following the instructions and chart on page 3, repeat all 20 rows of the Popcorn Stitch Pattern until your work measures approximately 5.5" (14cm), ending with a Row 5 or 15.

\*Sock lengths are a personal choice! You can knit the leg as long or as short as you want. The measurements given above are just guides.

Next round, on a row 6 or 16, you will K **30 (36, 42, 42)** sts, then decrease 4 sts even across the remaining **36 (36, 36, 42)** sts.

The front portion of your sock will have **30 (36, 42, 42)** sts. The back portion of your sock, where you will begin working your heel flap, will have **32 (32, 32, 38)** sts, giving you **62 (68, 74, 80)** sts total.

### *HEEL FLAP*

k **30 (36, 42, 42)** sts.

The heel flap is worked across the back portion of your stitches, where you did your four decrease stitches. You will be knitting back and forth across **32 (32, 32, 38)** sts. Work the heel flap as follows:

**Row 1:** k2 [sl1, k1] to end. Turn work.

**Row 2:** sl1, p to end. Turn work.

**Row 3:** [sl1, k1] to end. Turn work.

Repeat rows 2 and 3 until heel flap measures **2 (2, 2.5, 2.5)" 5cm (5cm, 6.25cm, 6.26cm)** End with a purl row.

## TURN HEEL

**Row 1:** sl1, k **16 (16, 16, 19)** ssk, K1, turn.

**Row 2:** sl1, p 5, p2tog, p1, turn

**Row 3:** sl1, k6, ssk, k1, turn

**Row 4:** sl1, P7, p2tog, p1, turn

You have now established the following pattern: Sl 1, k or p to one stitch before the gap created by turning in the previous row, ssk or p2tog, k1 or p1, turn. Continue in this pattern until all of your heel stitches have been worked. You should now have **19 (19, 19, 22)** heel sts.

## GUSSET

*\*NOTE: The Popcorn Stitch pattern is only worked on the front portion of your sock, not the sole. You will work the stitch pattern across the first **30 (36, 42, 42)** sts ONLY, and the remaining **32 (32, 32, 38)** sts will be worked in plain stockinette.*

Since you are using a contrasting yarn for your popcorn stitches, you will need to carry that yarn and catch the floats across the back half of your stitches when working the set-up rows so that the yarn is in position at the beginning of the next round to work your popcorn stitches. Once you have worked the set-up row of the pattern across the first **30 (36, 42, 42)** sts, simply catch the contrasting yarn every 5th stitch across the remaining stitches to the end of the round. If you do not wish to have popcorn stitches down the top of your foot, simply knit the rest of the sock in plain stockinette!



With right side facing, and starting on the left side of your heel flap, pick up and knit **16 (16, 16, 19)** sts, place BOR marker, k across front of sock, Pm, pick up and knit **16(16, 16, 19)** sts, knit across heel flap, k down the first set of picked-up sts to the BOR marker. You are now ready to begin the gusset decreases.

The gusset decreases are worked as follows:

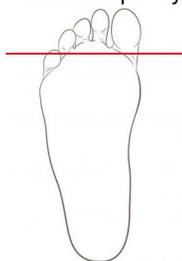
**Row 1:** Work across front of sock to marker in Popcorn Stitch Pattern as set, sl m, kl, ssk, k around to 3 sts before BOR marker, k2tog, kl.

**Row 2:** Work even with no decreases.

Repeat these two rounds until you have **62 (68, 74, 80)** sts on your needles.

*\*Note, you may have ended up with an odd number after you picked up your gusset stitches. This will mean you do an extra decrease on one side to reach your number. This will not be noticeable on the finished sock!*

Continue working through your foot until it measures your desired length. This is wildly different for everyone, so the best way to determine when the foot of your sock is long enough to start the toe decreases is to try it on occasionally! When your knitting reaches to just at the tip of your pinky toe, you are almost ready to shape the toes. Ideally, you want to end on around 3 knit rows past your last popcorn row.



*If you are knitting gift socks, or you can't easily try them on as you knit, the Craft Yarn Council has issued the following length guidelines for the foot of a sock, measured from the back of the heel to the end of the toe:*

**Women's shoe sizes 4-6.5:** 8 - 9"

**Women's shoe sizes 7-9.5:** 9.25 - 10"

**Women's shoe sizes 10-12.5:** 10.25 - 11"

**Men's shoe sizes 6-8.5:** 9.25 - 10"

**Men's shoe sizes 9-11.5:** 10.25 - 11"

**Men's shoe sizes 12-14:** 11.25 - 12"

*You will want to start your toe decreases at approximately 1.5" before the end of your desired foot length.*

### TOES

Next round, you will be making the following decreases:

**S:** Knit in stockinette across the first **30** sts (the top of your foot, where you have been doing your popcorn pattern), then k1, k2tog, k26, k2tog, k1. You should now have **60** sts on your needles.

**M, L, XL:** Decrease 4 stitches even across the first half of your stitches (the **36, 42, 42** sts that make up the top of your foot, where you have been doing your popcorn pattern). You should now have **64, 70, 76** sts on your needles.

Switch to CC and k 1 round, then begin the toe decreases as follows:

**Round 1:** k1, ssk, k **26 ( 28, 31, 34)**, k2tog, k1, pm, k1, ssk, k **26 (28, 31, 34)**, k2tog, k1.

**Round 2:** K

**Round 3:** k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before marker, k2tog, k1, sl m, k1 ssk, k to 3 sts before the end of the round, k2tog, k1.

Repeat rows 2 and 3 until **24 (28, 34, 36)** sts remain. Using Kitchener Stitch, graft toe sts closed.

### FINISHING

Weave in all ends and block your sock! Cast the second sock on quickly to avoid the dreaded second sock syndrome!



Thank you for purchasing this pattern! I hope you enjoyed knitting it! To connect with me, find me on Instagram @summer.lee.knits. You can find me on Ravelry @summerleigh, and by email at summerleighknits@outlook.com.

Email is best for pattern support, but I am always happy to answer questions on Instagram!

You can also find my tutorials on YouTube! Just search Summer Lee Design Co.

## SOLID POP RADIO SOCKS INSTRUCTIONS

If you would prefer to knit your pop radio socks in one color, without contrasting color popcorns, the pattern is easy to modify!

- 1) You'll want to go down a size! The pattern is written to accommodate the tighter fabric that colorwork knitting creates. As an example, I knit my contrasting color pair in my usual size Medium. But when I knit my solid color pair, I knit the size Small.
- 2) In the chart, rows 1 and 11 are "set-up" rows, where you do some colorwork knitting with your contrast yarn. You will simply knit these rows.
- 3) All other directions you will follow as written! Simply disregard any instructions or tips specifically related to colorwork knitting.

