

Baltic Princess

Pattern and photos: Tiina Kuu

The Baltic Princess sock design is a tribute to traditional Estonian stranded mitten patterns. The main stranded colourwork pattern is from Pärnu region and published in *Suur kindaraamat* by Reet Piiri. The socks are knitted cuff down with a slipped-stitch heel flap, round heel turn and pin-striped gusset in the centre of the sole.

YARN AND YARDAGE

Lucky Omen Yarns Merinosukka (75 % sw merino, 25 % nylon; 425 m / 100 g)

Main colour (MC): 55-65 grams of burgundy red (Red Wine colourway)

Contrast colour (CC): 25-35 grams of pale grey (Patience colourway)

Any fingering weight yarns can be used.

GAUGE

36 sts and 36 rows in stranded colourwork with larger needles = 10 cm / 4 inches

NEEDLES

2.0 mm / US½ and 2.5 mm / US1½ (or suitable to obtain gauge) circular needles, at least 80 cm / 32 inches long.

Socks can be knitted with dpns, two shorter circulars or a mini circular but the instructions have been written for magic loop.

OTHER SUPPLIES

two stitch markers



SIZE

There are instructions for one size only (72 sts). With the recommended gauge, the socks fit foot circumference of approximately 21 cm / 8½ inches with some negative ease. The length of the leg and foot is easy to adjust as per pattern. The width of the sock can be adjusted by changing the gauge.

BEFORE YOU START

Please read the instructions carefully. The front of the leg and instep are worked on needle 1. The back of the leg, heel, gusset and sole are worked on needle 2. The BOR is at the beginning of needle 1.

Please note that sts are redistributed prior to the heel. Therefore, the stranded colourwork pattern on needle 1 starts at stitch 1 of chart A in the leg but at stitch 2 in the instep.

Charts are to be read from right to left and bottom up. On chart B, two vertical bolded bars separate the parts that are worked on the right and left side of the pinstripe gusset. As soon as the gusset has been finished, chart B is to be worked as full (sts 1-35).

INSTRUCTIONS

Cuff and leg

With MC and smaller needles, cast on 72 sts. Distribute sts evenly across needle 1 (*i.e., the front of the leg*) and needle 2 (*i.e., the back of the leg*). There are now 36 sts on each needle. Join to begin working in the round, being careful not to twist.

Work *ktbl, p1* ribbing for 14 rounds or to desired ribbing length.

Knit one round and purl one round.

Switch to larger needles if desired and attach CC. Work according to chart A as follows: on each round, work chart A, sts 1-18 three times and then, work sts 19-36 once. Work chart A, rows 1-18 three times or to desired leg length. *In the sample socks shown in the photos, chart A, rows 1-18 have been worked twice and then rows 1-12 once.*

Redistribute sts as follows: K1 with MC and slip the st onto needle 2. Slip the first 2 sts of needle 2 onto needle 1. There are now 37 sts on needle 1 and 35 sts on needle 2.



Heel flap

The heel flap is worked back and forth across the 35 sts on needle 2. Switch to smaller needles if desired and turn work to start on the WS as follows:

row 1 (WS): Sl1, p34, turn.

row 2 (RS): *Sl1, k1*, repeat * - * until 1 st remains, k1, turn.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until there are a total of 33 rows in the heel flap and you have just worked row 1. *You can work more or fewer rows in the heel flap but always finish with a WS row (i.e., with odd number of rows in the heel flap).*

Heel turn

Work the round heel turn back and forth as follows:

row 1 (RS): Sl1, k19, ssk, k1 turn.

row 2 (WS): Sl1, p6, p2tog, p1, turn.

row 3 (RS): Sl1, knit until 1 st remains before the gap, ssk, k1, turn.

row 4 (WS): Sl1, purl until 1 st remains before the gap, p2tog, p1, turn.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until all side stitches have been worked and you have just finished row 4. There are now 21 sts on needle 2.

Gusset and foot

Continue working in the round on the RS.

Sl1, k20. Along the left edge of the heel flap, pick up and knit one stitch per two rows of the heel flap and one more stitch between the heel flap and needle 1. Place the sts onto needle 2 (*i.e., the sole*).

Switch back to working with larger needles if desired.

On needle 1 (*i.e., the instep*), continue in the established stranded colourwork pattern according to the appropriate row of chart A. *Please note that needle 1 starts and ends at stitch 2 of chart A.*

Along the right edge of the heel flap, pick up the same number of sts as were picked up along the left edge. Place the sts onto needle 2.

Work the sts on **needle 2** (*i.e., the sole*) as follows: Work the first 16 sts of needle 2 according to the same row number of chart B, **sts 1-16**, as just worked of chart A on needle 1. Place m1. Work *k1 with MC, k1 with CC* until 16 sts remain on needle 2, place m2. Work the last 16 sts of needle 2 according to the appropriate row of chart B, **sts 20-35**. *The pinstripe gusset thus replaces chart B, sts 17-19.*



Continue in the established stranded colourwork on needle 1 as described. Work the gusset on needle 2 as follows:

rnd 1: Work according to the appropriate row of chart B, **sts 1-16** to m1, sm. Knit the sts as they appear (*i.e., MC sts with MC and CC sts with CC*) to m2, sm. Work according to the appropriate row of chart B, **sts 20-35** to the end of the rnd.

rnd 2: Work according to the appropriate row of chart B, **sts 1-16** to m1, sm. Ssk with MC, then work sts as they appear until 2 sts remain before m2, k2tog with MC, sm. Work according to the appropriate row of chart B, **sts 20-25** to the end of the rnd.

Continue in the established stranded colourwork pattern on needle 1 and repeat rnds 1 and 2 on needle 2 until 3 sts remain between m1 and m2. Remove the markers and then, work sts on needle 2 according to chart B, sts 1-35.

Work as described until foot measures a **minimum** of 4.5 cm / 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches less than the desired final length. *It's recommended to finish the stranded colourwork with chart B, row 3, 6, 12 or 15 for the nicest looking result.*

Cut CC and switch to smaller needles if desired. Knit all sts with MC until foot measures approximately 4 cm / 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches less than the desired final length.

Toe

Work the toe decreases as follows:

rnd 1: On **needle 1**, k1, ssk, knit until 3 sts remain, k2tog, k1. On **needle 2** work ssk, knit until 2 sts remain, k2tog.

rnd 2: Knit.

Repeat rnds 1 and 2 until 25 sts remain on needle 1 and 23 sts remain on needle 2. Then, repeat rnd 1 only until 15 sts remain on needle 1 and 13 sts remain on needle 2. Finally, work the sts on needle 1 as follows: k2tog, knit until 2 sts remain, ssk. *There are now 13 sts on each needle.* Cut the yarn and graft the toe.

FINISHING

Soak the socks in lukewarm water. Remove excess water by rolling the socks in a towel. Let dry flat or on sock blockers. Weave in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOR - beginning of round
CC - contrast colour
k - knit
ktbl - knit through the back loop
k2tog - knit 2 stitches together
MC - main colour
m1 (2) - stitch marker 1 (2)
p - purl
p2tog - purl 2 stitches together
rnd(s) - round(s)
RS - right side
sl - slip
sm - slip marker
ssk - slip, slip, knit
st(s) - stitch(es)
WS - wrong side



Chart A

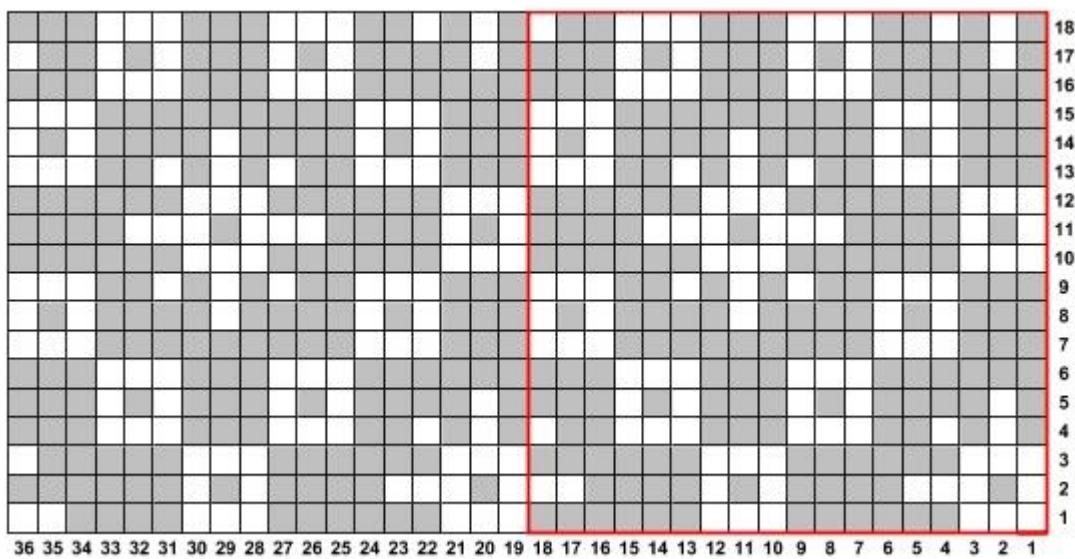


Chart B

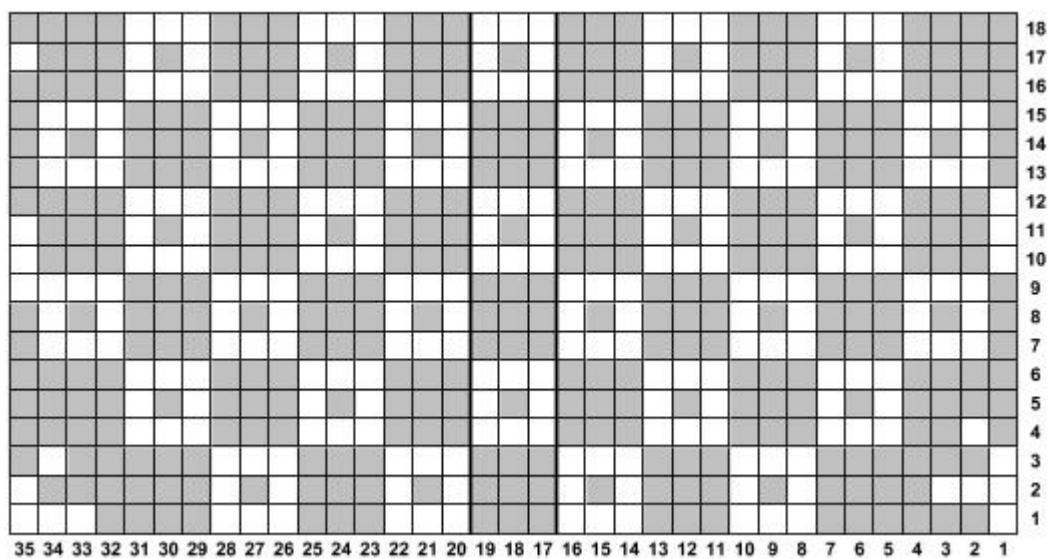


Chart key

- MC
- CC
- pattern repeat
- gusset placement