

Fée Dragée

socks by Caoua Coffee

materials:

2 fingering weight yarns having a

very strong contrast in brightness:

dark yarn: solid or semi-solid, 320yds/300m (360yds/330m)

light yarn: anything works as long as there's no color-overlap with the dark yarn, 100yds/90m, (120yds/100m)

plus ~120yds extra if you make light colored heels + toes (sample shown in Regia 4ply and DreamInColor Smooshy)

needles US1 / 2.25mm **and** US1.5 / 2.5mm

or needle size needed to obtain gauge

stitch markers, tapestry needle

size:

woman's S/M (M/L)

gauge:

34 sts / 44 rows = 4 inches in stockinette on smaller needles

abbreviations:

k = knit stitch

k2tog = knit 2 sts together

M = stitch marker

M1L = make-1-left by picking up the strand in between the stitch just worked and the next stitch with left needle approaching from the front, then knitting into the back of this thread with right needle (thus twisting the thread)

M1R = make-1-right by picking up the strand in between the stitch just worked and the next stitch with left needle approaching from the back, then knitting the front loop of this thread with right needle (thus twisting the thread)

p = purl stitch

p2tog = purl 2 sts together

pM = place a stitch marker onto your right needle

RS = right side / public side / outside of sock

sl yb = slip stitch as if to purl with yarn in back (back = the side away from you)

sl yf = slip stitch as if to purl with yarn in front (front = the side closest to you)

slM = slip the stitch marker from left needle to right needle

ssk = slip 1 knit wise, slip 1 purl wise, knit both stitches together through the back loops

st(s) = stitch(es)

WS = wrong side / private side / inside of sock



please read before you start:

choosing yarn colors:

the light and dark yarn need to have a very pronounced difference in brightness to make the main pattern work. the dark yarn should be solid or nearly solid. the light yarn can be solid, semisolid or variegated, even 'clown barf', as long as there's no (or nearly no) overlap of color with the darker yarn.

to make the main pattern look as desired, you **MUST** use a light yarn where the pattern says 'light' and a dark yarn where it says 'dark'. you can not swap light for dark, because the main pattern would look totally different (it's an illusion trick of our eyes) this also means: no swapping of colors for the second sock!

contrast colored heels and/or toes: if you want to work heels and/or toes in the light yarn, you'll need about 120yds extra of the light colored yarn for heels plus toes.

changing from one color to the next

cuff and main pattern of these socks are worked in a 2-color stripe pattern.

when changing from one color to the next, pick up the new yarn from under the old one/to the right of the old one. this twists the yarns together and prevents holes where the 2 colors meet.

here's a video on how to do that twist in Continental and English style. watch from minute 2:30 to 3:30 and ignore all the rest: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_rKtkkiXHc

always let the old yarn hang where it is (don't cut the yarn unless you are told to do so!), it'll be picked up back again some rounds later – with that same pick-up-twisting motion as described above.

be careful not to pull your yarn too tight as you are carrying the yarn up on the inside from stripe to stripe.

pattern:

edge: choose one of the following edge options:

- either a) the rolled edge (very elastic, hides a potentially wonky cast-on, is a bit frilly-looking)
- or b) the ribbed edge (classic look, needs a cast-on that's nice-looking but loose at the same time)

option a) rolled edge:

with smaller needles and **dark** yarn cast on 64 (72) sts very loosely.

use any cast-on you like: long-tail, cable cast on, any method is ok, but make sure it is really LOOSE.

it doesn't matter if that loose cast-on looks all wonky: it will be hidden inside the rolled edge.

join to start working in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round.

with **dark** yarn: knit 6 rounds (*thus forming a stockinette fabric that rolls in all by itself*)

then let the **dark** yarn hang on the wrong side / inside of your sock.

join the light yarn and start working the cuff.

option b) ribbed edge:

with smaller needles and **dark** yarn cast on 64 (72) sts loosely.

use a cast-on that creates an elastic yet tidy-looking edge. I suggest using the German twisted cast-on (also known as old Norwegian), but if you have a different preferred one, that's fine, too.

join to start working in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round.

with **dark** yarn work 6 rounds like this: ***[k1, p1]** repeat from * to end of round

then let the **dark** yarn hang on the wrong side / inside of your sock.

join the light yarn and start working the cuff.

cuff:

round 1: with light yarn: k all stitches
 round 2, 3 and 4: with light yarn: *[k1, p1] repeat from * to end of round
 round 5: with **dark** yarn: k all stitches
 round 6, 7 and 8: with **dark** yarn: *[k1, p1] repeat from * to end of round
 round 9: with light yarn: k all stitches
 round 10, 11 and 12: with light yarn: *[k1, p1] repeat from * to end of round
 round 13: with **dark** yarn: k all stitches
 round 14, 15 and 16: if you worked the rolled edge: with **dark** yarn: **purl** all stitches
 if you worked the ribbed edge: with **dark** yarn: *[k1, p1] repeat from * to end

leg:

change to larger needles (because slip-stitches tend to draw in) and start working the main pattern.

main pattern: (*"Variation of Tan Bark" from Barbara Walker's 3rd treasury of knitting patterns*)

round 1: with light yarn: k all stitches
 round 2: with light yarn: k all stitches
 round 3: with **dark** yarn: *[p1, sl yf] repeat from * to end of round
 round 4: with **dark** yarn: *[k1, p1] repeat from * to end of round

work these 4 rounds of main pattern 8 times (i.e. 32 rounds all together)

hints: a) a line of slightly darker looking stitches will appear 2 sts to the right of the beginning of the round. that's ok. this line will be centered above the heel later, which makes it look intentional.

b) if you lost track of how many pattern repeats you already did, just count the rows containing a slip-stitch bar on the right side of your sock – there's 1 such slip-stitch per 4 rounds.

having finished all 32 rounds of main pattern, break the light yarn, leaving a tail long enough to be woven in later. the rest of the sock is worked in **dark** yarn.

change to smaller needles and start working the broken rib pattern:

broken rib pattern:

round 1: k all stitches
 round 2: *[k1, p1], repeat from * to end of round

if you have standard sized heels and instep, work these 2 rounds of broken rib 16 times

(i.e. 32 rounds all together), then continue with the set-up for heel flap.

if you have more substantial ankles, wide heels and/or high insteps, work these 2 rounds 12 times

(i.e. 24 rounds all together). then continue reading on page 6 (= the last page of this pattern), where you'll find detailed instructions for widening the ankle/instep part of the socks.

set-up for heel flap:

remove the marker and knit the next 15 (17) sts with **dark** yarn

now put the next 31 (35) sts on hold (they will be worked later for instep).

the heel is worked over the 33 (37) sts you have still on the needles.

(count your stitches now and check to make sure that that slightly darker line in the main pattern near the former beginning of the round is situated in the middle above these heel stitches.)

*hint: if you work your heel in the light color, don't cut the **dark** yarn but let it hang where it is. you can pick it up again right there when you restart to work the instep stitches after the heel turn.*

hold your sock so WS is facing you and start working the heel flap.

heel flap:

WS: *[sl yf, p1], repeat from * to 1 st before end, p1, turn

RS: sl yb, knit to end, turn

work these 2 rows 17 (19) times, that is 34 (38) rows total.

turn heel:

WS: sl yf, p17 (19), p2tog, p1, turn

RS: sl yb, k4 (4), ssk, k1, turn

WS: sl yf, purl to 1 st before gap, p2tog, p1, turn

RS: sl yb, knit to 1 st before gap, ssk, k1, turn

repeat these last 2 rows until all sts have been worked. don't turn after last RS row.

now 19 (21) heel sts remain.

gusset setup:

pick up and knit 18 (20) sts along side of heel flap, pick up and knit 1 more st between flap and instep.

*hint: if you worked the heel in the light color, here's the point to restart working with the **dark** yarn.*

knit the 31 (35) held instep sts. then pick up 1 st between instep and heel flap, knit it, pick up and knit 18 (20) more sts along heel flap and then knit the remaining 38 (42) sole sts.

replace the marker as this is the new beginning of round.

now you have 31 (35) instep sts and 57 (63) sole sts.

gusset decreases:

round 1: instep: p1, *[k1, p1], repeat from * to end of instep

sole: ssk, knit to 2 sts before instep, k2tog

round 2: knit all sts

work these 2 rounds 13 (14) times (i.e. 26 (28) rounds total), decreasing 2 sts every other round.

after you finished all your decrease rounds, there are 31 (35) instep sts and 31 (35) sole sts.

foot:

continue instep in pattern as established and always knit all sole sts:

round 1: instep: p1, *[k1, p1], repeat from * to end of instep sole: knit all sts

round 2: knit all sts

work these 2 rounds until foot is approx. 2 (2.25) inches shorter than desired length,

then start working the toe.

slip -stitch toe:

change to larger needles

(this method produces a nicely reinforced toe with a quite dense fabric – so in case you have a tendency to knit tightly, you might consider even going up 2 needle sizes – or block the toe a bit more aggressively)

toe rounds:

- A: instep: k1, *[sl yb, k1] repeat from * to end of instep
sole: k1, *[sl yb, k1] repeat from * to end of sole
- B (decrease round): instep: k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before end of instep, k2tog, k1,
sole: k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before end of sole, k2tog, k1
- C: instep: k2, *[sl yb, k1] repeat from * to 1 stitch before end of instep, k1
sole: k2, *[sl yb, k1] repeat from * to 1 stitch before end of sole, k1
- D: knit all stitches

start working toe rounds in the order specified as follows: A, B, C, D, C, B, A, D

work this 8-round sequence 3 times (i.e. 24 rounds total),

now you have 38 (46) sts on your needles

then work the following sequence of toe rounds 2(3) times (i.e. 8 (12) rounds total): A, B, C, B

now you have only 22 (22) sts left.

finishing:

leaving a tail of at least 8 inches, break yarn and close the toe using Kitchener stitch.

weave in the ends, knit a second sock and enjoy!

about this pattern:

“Danse de la Fée Dragée” (Танец Феи Драже, dance of the Sugarplum Fairy) is a piece of *The Nutcracker Suite*, Op. 71a, by Peter I. Tchaikovsky. First performed in St. Petersburg in March 1892, the suite was an instant success and became very popular on the concert stage. Of the 8 musical numbers that form the suite, the most famous is probably the "Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy". It features an unusual instrument, the celesta, whose “divinely wonderful sound” was described by Tchaikovsky as “midway between a tiny piano and a Glockenspiel”. He found it to be perfectly suited to represent little drops of water splashing in a fountain as the Fée Dragée - queen of the Land of Sweets - floats and dances around.

Do you recognize the droplets of water in the main pattern of these socks?

Or do you think those little dots look more like handfuls of brightly colored sugar-candy sprinkled there by the Fée Dragée?

In any case, pick your favorite yarns – be they turquoise and aqua-blue or candy-colored - and have fun knitting your pair of socks.

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there's one exception: you are explicitly encouraged to make or sell items made from this pattern for charity purposes
if you have error reports or any suggestions concerning this pattern, you can contact me on Ravelry as 'CaouaCoffee'

INSTRUCTIONS for making a larger ankle/gusset section:

work the last 8 rounds of the broken rib as follows

(creating 8 extra sts -4 on each side- which will give you the extra room needed over the ankle/gusset).

(note: "rib" in the following instructions means that you work in ribbing pattern [k1, p1] until you reach the next marker or the end of the round, keeping the broken rib pattern going as established.)

- round 1: k14 (16), place marker, M1L, k33 (37), pM, M1R, k17(19)
- round 2: rib to first marker, slM, k1, k1, p1, rib to 2nd M, slM, k1, p1, rib to end
- round 3: knit to 1st M, slM, k1, M1L, knit to 2nd M, slM, M1R, k1, knit to end
- round 4: rib to 1st M, slM, k1, p1, k1, p1, rib to 2nd M, slM, p1, k1, p1, rib to end
- round 5: knit to 1st M, slM, k2, M1L, knit to 2nd M, slM, M1R, k2, knit to end
- round 6: rib to 1st M, slM, k1, p1, k1, k1, p1, rib to 2nd M, slM, k1, p1, k1, p1, rib to end
- round 7: knit to 1st M, slM, k3, M1L, knit to 2nd M, slM, M1R, k3, knit to end
- round 8: *[k1, p1] repeat from * to end, removing all of the markers along the way.

set-up for heel flap + heel flap:

knit the next 19 (21) sts with **dark** yarn.

now put the next 31 (35) sts on hold (they will be worked later for instep).

the heel is worked over the 41 (45) sts you have still on the needles.

(read setup-for-heel-flap section on page 3 on how to check you got it right and hints for light colored heels)

work the heel flap as described on page 4, then come back here and work the turn of the heel as follows:

turn heel:

WS: sl yf, p21 (23), p2tog, p1, turn

RS: sl yb, k4 (4), ssk, k1, turn

WS: sl yf, purl to 1 st before gap, p2tog, p1, turn

RS: sl yb, knit to 1 st before gap, ssk, k1, turn

repeat the last 2 rows until all sts have been worked. don't turn after last RS row.

now 23 (25) heel sts remain.

gusset setup:

pick up and knit 18 (20) sts along side of heel flap, pick up and knit 1 more st between flap and instep.

hint: *if you worked the heel in a different color, here's the point to restart working with the **dark** yarn.*

knit the 31 (35) held instep sts, then pick up 1 st between instep and heel flap, knit it, pick up and knit 18 (20) more sts along heel flap and then knit the remaining 42 (46) sole sts. replace the marker as this is the new beginning of round.

now you have 31 (35) instep sts and 61 (67) sole sts.

gusset decreases:

work gusset decreases as described on page 4 but continue to decrease 2 sts every other round until you have only 31 (35) instep sts and 31 (35) sole sts left.

then continue foot and toe as written for the regular sizes.