

Sock Club

Kate Atherley

Houndstooth Socks

Classic black-and-white patterning
on these smart women's socks
will be fun to knit and wear

Corrugated
ribbing
complements
the pattern
perfectly

KATE ATHERLEY is passionate about helping knitters gain confidence in their technique, both through her own designs and through her job as lead technical editor of the website Knitty.com. Here she brings us a delightful pattern for black-and-white socks which will be great fun to knit. Kate says: "The stitch pattern is actually quite straightforward; the challenging part comes when working the gusset and toe decreases. You need to pay attention to keep the stripes lined up. It's all written out, so as long as you are able to focus (that is, this ain't no TV knitting), you'll be fine."

SOCK

Using MC and the long-tail cast-on method, cast on 72 (80:88) sts. Note or mark beginning of round and distribute sts across your needles as you prefer and join for working in the round, being careful not to twist. I recommend having a multiple of four sts on each needle. **Corrugated Ribbing round:** *K1 MC, P1 CC; rep from * to end of round. Repeat Corrugated Ribbing round until sock measures 2½cm from cast-on.

Leg round 1: Work Houndstooth Chart row 1, 18 (20:22) times across round.

Leg round 2: Work Houndstooth Chart row 2, 18 (20:22) times across round.

Continue as established until leg measures 15 (17:18)cm from cast-on edge, ending with a Row 4 of Houndstooth Chart.

DIVIDE FOR HEEL

This portion is worked back and forth in rows in a vertical stripe pattern across first 36 (40:44) sts of round.

Heel row 1 (RS): (K1 MC, K1 CC) 18 (20:22) times, turn.

Heel row 2 (WS): Sl1, P1 MC, (P1 CC, P1 MC) 17 (19:21) times, turn.

Heel row 3 (RS): Sl1, K1 CC, (K1 MC, K1 CC) 17 (19:21) times, turn.

Heel row 4 (WS): Sl1, P1 MC, (P1 CC, P1 MC) 17 (19:21) times, turn.

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 a total of 9 (10:11) more times. 22 (24:26) rows total in heel flap.

TURN HEEL

Size S only

Continuing only on heel sts, work as foll:

Heel Row 1 (RS): (K1 MC, K1 CC) 12 (–:) times, SSK with MC, turn.

Heel Row 2 (WS): Sl1, (P1 CC, P1 MC) 6 (–:) times, P2tog with CC, turn.

Heel Row 3 (RS): Sl1, (K1 CC, K1 MC) 6 (–:) times, SSK with MC, turn.

Heel Row 4 (WS): Slip 1, (P1 CC, P1 MC) 6 (–:) times, P2tog with CC, turn. Repeat Rows 3 and 4 until 14 (–:) sts rem, and RS is facing for next row.

Sizes M & L only

Continuing only on heel sts, work as foll:

Heel Row 1 (RS): (K1 MC, K1 CC) – (12:14) times, K1 MC, SSK with CC, turn.

Heel Row 2 (WS): Slip 1, (P1 MC, P1 CC) – (7:7) times, P2tog with MC, turn.

Heel Row 3 (RS): Slip 1, (K1 CC, K1 MC) – (7:7) times, SSK with CC, turn.

Heel Row 4 (WS): Slip 1, (P1 MC, P1 CC) – (7:7) times, P2tog with MC, turn.

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 until (16:16) sts rem, and RS is facing for next row.

REJOIN ROUND AND SET UP GUSSET

Work across 14 (16:16) sts of heel in stripe pattern as established.

Size S only

Pick up and knit 16 (–:) sts for gussets along first side of the heel flap as foll: (pick up and knit 1 CC), (pick up and knit 1 MC, 3 CC) twice, (pick up and knit 1 MC, 1 CC) three times, pick up and knit 1 MC, place marker A for start of instep sts; work across instep sts in patt as per Houndstooth Chart row 1; place second marker A for end of instep sts; along the second side of heel flap (pick up and knit 1 MC, 1 CC) three times, pick up and knit 1 CC, (1 MC, 3 CC) twice, pick up and knit 1 MC; place marker C for new start of round.

Size M only

Pick up and knit – (17:–) sts for gussets along first side of the heel flap as foll: (pick up and knit 2 CC), (pick up and knit 1 MC, 3 CC) twice, (pick up and knit 1 MC, 1 CC) 3 times, pick up and knit 1 MC, place marker A for start of instep sts; work across instep sts in patt as per Houndstooth Chart row 1, starting the first repeat at st 2 of the chart; place second marker A for end of instep sts; along second side of the heel flap (pick up and knit 1 MC, 1 CC) three times, pick up and knit 1 CC, (1 MC, 3 CC) twice, pick up and knit (1 MC, 1 CC); place marker C for new start of round.

Size L only

Pick up and knit – (–:19) sts for gussets along first side of the heel flap as foll: (pick up and knit 1 MC, 3 CC) three times, (pick up and knit 1 CC, 1 MC) three times, pick up and knit 1 MC; place marker for start of instep sts, work across instep sts ▶

SIZE

SIZE	S	M	L	UK
3½–5	5–6	6½	UK	
36–38	38–39	39½	EU	
6–7	7–9	9	US	

For wider feet, work a larger size and adjust the foot length as required.

YARN

Schoeller+Stahl Fortissima Sock 100 (4ply/sock weight; 75% superwash wool, 25% nylon; 421m/460 yds per 100g skein)

MC Black (2002); 1 x 100g skein

CC Brilliant White (2024); 1 x 100g skein

NEEDLES & ACCESSORIES

1 set 2.5mm (UK 13–12/US 1.5) double-pointed needles, or 80cm circular needle if using the Magic Loop method

Stitch holder

5 stitch markers – 2 of one colour (marker A), 2 of a second colour (marker B), 1 of a third colour (marker C)

Length of smooth, contrasting colour scrap yarn

TENSION

40 sts and 46 rounds to 10cm over stranded Fair Isle Houndstooth pattern in the round on 2.5mm needles, after blocking

CHART

4		3
2		1

Stripe patterning on the heel and toe cleverly incorporates the decreases



KEY

	MC: Black
	CC: Brilliant White

Sock Club

in patt as per Houndstooth Chart row 1; place marker for end of instep sts; along second side of the heel flap (pick up and knit 1 MC, 1 CC) three times, pick up and knit 1 CC, (pick up and knit 1 MC, 3 CC) three times; place marker for new start of round.
82 (90:98) sts total. 36 (40:44) on the instep, and 46 (50:54) on the sole.

Gusset round 1

On this round, you'll place two more markers for the gusset sts. There are 5 gusset sts each side, to be worked in a stripe pattern. The rest of the sock is worked in the Houndstooth pattern, starting with row 2. For size S, the round starts with st 4 of row 2 of the Houndstooth chart; for size M, the round starts with st 1 of row 2 of the Houndstooth chart; for size L, the round starts with st 3 of row 2 of the Houndstooth chart.

Starting with st 4 (1:3) of Houndstooth Chart row 2, work in pattern to 5 sts before start of instep sts, place marker B for gusset; (K1 MC, K1 CC) twice, K1 MC; work across instep sts in pattern as per Houndstooth Chart row 2; (K1 MC, K1 CC) twice, K1 MC; place marker B for end of gusset; work to end of round in pattern, starting with st 1 (1:1) of Houndstooth Chart row 2.

Gusset round 2: Starting with st 4 (1:3) of Houndstooth Chart row 3, work in pattern to first gusset marker; K1 MC, K1 CC, K1 MC, K2tog with MC; work across instep sts in pattern as per Houndstooth Chart row 3; SSK with MC, K1 MC, K1 CC, K1 MC to second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern, starting with st 1 (1:1) of Houndstooth Chart row 3.

Gusset round 3: Starting with st 4 (1:3) of Houndstooth Chart row 4, work in pattern to first gusset marker; K1 MC, K1 CC, K2 MC; work across instep sts in pattern, as per Houndstooth Chart row 4; K2 MC, K1 CC, K1 MC to second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern, starting with st 1 (1:1) of Houndstooth Chart row 4.

Gusset round 4: Starting with st 4 (1:3) of Houndstooth Chart row 1, work in pattern to first gusset marker; K1 MC, K1 CC, K2tog with MC; work across instep sts in pattern, as per Houndstooth Chart row 1; SSK with MC, K1 CC, K1 MC to second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern, starting

with st 1 (1:1) of Houndstooth Chart row 1.

Gusset round 5: Work in pattern as established to first gusset marker; K1 MC, K1 CC, K1 MC; work across instep sts in pattern as established; K1 MC, K1 CC, K1 MC to second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern as established.

Gusset round 6: Work in pattern as established to first gusset marker; K1 MC, K2tog with MC; work across instep sts in pattern as established; SSK with MC, K1 MC to second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern as established.

Gusset round 7: Work in pattern as established to first gusset marker; K2 MC; work across instep sts in pattern as established; K2 MC to second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern as established.

Gusset round 8: Work in pattern as established to first gusset marker; K2tog with MC; work across instep sts in pattern as established; SSK with MC to second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern as established.

Gusset round 9: Work in pattern as established to first gusset marker; remove marker, K1 MC; work across instep sts in pattern as established; K1 MC, remove second gusset marker; work to end of round in pattern as established.

Gusset round 10: Work in pattern as established to 2 sts before instep, K2tog with MC, work across instep sts in pattern as established; SSK with CC; work to end of round in pattern as established. These final decreases are worked on the last gusset stitch and the adjacent stitch from the sole.

72 (80:88) sts total; 18 (20:22) repeats of the Houndstooth chart.

Work even in pattern as established until foot measures 18 (20:21) cm from back of heel, ending with chart row 4. You can adjust for a longer or shorter foot here – simply work until foot of sock measures 5cm less than full length of foot from back of heel to toe. Remove start of round marker on the final round. Leave instep markers in position.

SET-UP FOR TOE

Set-up round: (K1 MC, K1 CC) 3 (3:4) times;

place marker for new start of round; (K1 MC, K1 CC) to end of round (new position).

DECREASE FOR TOE

Note: in the decrease, you will sometimes have two sts in a row worked in the same colour.

Work a decrease round: Work in vertical stripe pattern as established to 3 sts before start of instep, (K2tog with MC, K1 CC, K1 MC, SSK with CC), work in vertical stripe pattern as established to 2 sts before end of instep (K2tog with MC, K1 CC, K1 MC, SSK with CC), work in vertical stripe pattern as established to end of round.

Work 3 rounds even.
Work a decrease round followed by 2 even rounds, twice. (6 rounds total)
Work a decrease round followed by 1 even round, three times. (6 rounds total)
Work decrease round 4 (6:8) times, until 32 sts rem. Work 8 sts in pattern to get to the end of the sole sts.

FINISHING

To close up the toe, work a three-needle cast-off as follows: Cut yarns, leaving a 30cm tail of both. Slip sts to scrap yarn, and turn sock inside out. Slip 16 sts of instep to one needle, and 16 sts of sole to another. Line up the needles together, parallel. Using MC, knit 1 st from front needle together with one from back. *Knit 1 stitch from front needle together with 1 from back; lift first stitch on right-hand needle over second stitch and off the needle, as for a standard cast-off. Repeat from * until only 1 st rem. Pull MC tail through final stitch to secure.

Block and weave in all ends. The best and easiest way to block a sock is to get it wet, roll it in a towel to dry it a little, and then put it on. Remove it immediately and hang to dry. ☺