

Magic Toadstool Socks

Pattern by Charlotte Stone, Stoneknits

Toadstools in a circle (or sometimes found 'in the round'!) are claimed to be the result of elves or fairies dancing and creating a fairy circle, and are the subject of much folklore and myth. Wished for by my youngest daughter for her 10th birthday, here are the instructions for you to create your own Toadstool magic socks in whichever colours you desire.



These socks are knit from the cuff down and the pattern is written using the magic loop circular needle method (but can be knit with dpns).

Yarn

Fingering/Sock Weight Yarn, app 390m in total. Main Colour in both versions shown are lightly speckled. (Blue version `Lucy` by Marianthi Yarns and beige version in `Lebkuchenhaus` from Herbstblattregina.) Speckled yarn will work well as long as the speckles are not the same colours as your toadstools.

Main Colour (MC) app. 320 metres,
Contrast Colour 1 (CC1) (for heels and toes) app. 50 metres
Contrast Colour 2 (CC2 Toadstool hat) Red app. 10 metres
Contrast Colour 3 (CC3 Toadstool spots and stem) White app. 10 metres

Size

Size Small can be obtained using 2.25mm (US 1) needles, size Medium using 2.5mm (US 1.5) needles, size Large using 2.75mm (US 2) needles.

There is additional help within the instructions for the toadstool colourwork section for people with a high instep/people needing a larger size.

Gauge for Colourwork

Needle size is chosen according to the size required and your gauge.

Small: 2.25mm (US 1) needle 38sts x 42 rounds 10cm (foot circumference 18-20.5cm or 7 to 8 inches)

Medium: 2.5mm (US 1.5) needle 34sts x 40 rounds 10cm (foot circumference 20.5cm-23.5cm or 8 to 9 inches)

Large: 2.75mm (US 2) needles 32sts x 38 rounds 10cm (foot circumference 23.5cm or from 9.25cm to 10.5 inches)

Abbreviations

K= Knit

P= Purl

st(s)= Stitch(es)

ssk= Slip one stitch knitwise, slip next stitch knitwise, knit slipped stitches together.

p2tog= Purl 2 stitches together

k2tog= Knit 2 stitches together

Inc1= Increase 1 stitch by knitting into the front and back of the stitch

RS= Right Side

WS= Wrong Side

BOR= Beginning Of the Round

Instructions

Cuff

Cast 64sts on your choice of needle size with your main MC. Divide evenly over 2 circular needles (32sts each needle) and place a marker at the beginning of the round.

Be careful when joining in the round not to twist your stitches, then knit ribbing K1 P1 for 15 rows or 3.5cm.

Leg

Knit with MC for 8 rows (or 2cm),

Size Small or Medium only: *K7, 8th st inc 1* repeat till the end of the round. 8sts increased.
72sts total

Size Large only (or with high instep): *K2, 3rd st inc 1* until 4 sts before the end. K4. 20sts increased. 84sts total.

Start knitting the chart (on page 5), adding in your choice of CC2 and CC3. The chart is worked from right to left, bottom to top. Knit the floats loosely and twist the yarns when you are working long floats. (If you prefer to knit only 2 colours at a time you can sew the toadstool spots according to the placement in the chart when you have finished the sock.) After completing chart row 21, cut yarn CC2 and CC3.

Size Small or Medium only: Using MC decrease *K7, K2tog,* repeat until the end of the round. 8 sts decreased. Now 64 sts in total.

Size Large only (or with high instep): *K2, K2tog* repeats until 4 sts before the end of the round. 20 sts decreased. Now 64sts in total.

Knit for 4cm in MC or until you have reached the length where you wish to create the heel. Cut MC yarn.

Heel Flap

The slipped stitch heel flap is worked flat and knit back and forth using needle 2 and CC1. Needle 1 is holding the 32sts for the instep. You can remove the marker you placed at the beginning.

With CC1 yarn

-Row 1(RS): Using the 32sts on needle 2, S1 st purlwise, *K1, SL1 Repeat from * to end of the row. Finish with a K1. Turn

-Row 2 (WS): S1 st purlwise, Purl all stitches till the end of the row. Turn

Repeat these 2 rows until your heel flap is your desired length, ending on the purl side. (I suggest a total of 32 rows (16 edge stitches for you to pick up once the heel is turned.)

Heel Turn

Continuing to use CC1 you will now use short rows to turn your heel.

Row 1: (RS) S1, K18, ssk, K1, turn

Row 2: (WS) S1, P7, p2tog, P1, turn

Row 3: (RS) S1, K8, ssk, K1, turn

Row 4: (WS) S1, P9, ptog, P1, turn

Continue in this pattern - S1, K or P to one stitch before the gap created by turning in the previous row, ssk or p2tog to close the gap, K1 or P1, turn. Continue until all stitches have been worked ending with a purl row on the WS. Turn to the right side, you will now have 20 stitches left on needle 2.

Gusset

You will be picking up stitches along both sides of your heel flap using MC.

Knit across the heel stitches placing a BOR stitch marker after 10 stitches (the halfway point).

Pick up and K16 sts along the edge of the heel flap. Pick up and knit one more stitch at the corner between heel flap and instep (to help prevent a hole in the corner).

(You can place a stitch marker here to help show you when to decrease in the next round or adjust the loop and needles so the heel/gusset sts and instep sts are separated there.)

K32 sts across the instep. (Again you can place a stitch marker after these instep stitches to help show you when to decrease here in the next round and adjust the loop so there are three groupings on the circular needles)

Pick up one stitch in the corner and 16 along the edge of the heel flap. K the first half of the heel to the BOR stitch marker.

You now have a total of 54 heel/gusset sts, 32 instep sts and are knitting all stitches again in the round.

Gusset decreases

Continue using MC

Round 1: Knit up to 3 sts before the first stitch marker indicating where to decrease (where the picked up stitches meet the instep stitches, and K2tog, K1, Knit all instep stitches to second marker showing where to decrease (right after the instep stitches) and K1, ssk. Knit remaining stitches to the BOR stitch marker

Round 2: Knit all stitches

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until there are 32 heel/gusset sts. 32 instep sts remain. 64 stitches in total. Remove the decrease markers if you used them.

Foot

- Knit the foot in your MC until you are 6cm before the desired length of your sock.
- Next round: *K7, 8th st inc 1* repeat till the end of the round. 8sts increased. 72sts total.
- Knit the last 4 rows of the chart (Page 5, Rows 18 to 21). Cut CC2 and CC3 yarn.
- Next round: Using MC *K7, K2tog,* repeat until the end of the round. 8 sts decreased. (64 sts in total.)
- Knit one more round before starting the toe.



Toe

Place 32 stitches equally on needles 1 and 2 keeping the BOR stitch marker in the middle at the bottom. Needle 1 holds the stitches at the top of your foot. Needle 2 holds the stitches at the bottom of your foot.

Starting from the BOR stitch marker and using CC1

Round 1 decrease round

Needle 2: Knit until 3 sts remain, K2tog, K1

Needle 1: K1, ssk, knit till 3 sts remain, K2tog, K1

Needle 2: K1, ssk, knit to the BOR stitch marker

Round 2

Knit all stitches

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until there are 20sts remaining on both needles (40sts in total) Then continue knitting round 1 (the decrease round) till there are 10sts remaining on both needles (20sts in total). Remove BOR stitch marker then knit 5 stitches to the side of the sock.

Kitchener stitch the remaining stitches together.

(If this is your first time using Kitchener stitch I recommend the video 'How to Kitchener Toe without ears' on Youtube by Suzanne Bryan - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=eFHxnvfm0BE>)

Weave in all ends. Knit your second sock. Hand wash gently in cool water, dry flat and enjoy.

Please feel free to share your work and finished socks using the tags #magictoadstoolsocks or #stoneknits on Instagram. I love seeing your creations.

Colourwork Chart

