



VALENTINE HUGS

Knit and keep these glorious Moomin socks to treat yourself, or gift a hug to a loved-one's feet this cold-weather season. By **Marita Karlsson**



TAKE ON A CHALLENGE

YOU WILL NEED

- Novita Muumitalo (Moomin House) DK (75% wool, 25% polyamide, 100g/225m)
2 balls of
Yarn A Fillyjonk (599)
1 ball of
Yarn B Moomintroll (007)
- A set of 3mm double-pointed needles (DPNs)
- Stitch marker

TENSION

29 sts to measure 10cm (4in) over Fair Isle patt using 3mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

To fit foot circumference
19.5 (21)cm, (7½ (8¼)in)
Actual foot circumference
18 (19.5)cm, (7 (7½)in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 79

WHERE TO BUY

- For yarn stockists visit Novita at www.novita.com

OR YOU COULD TRY...

- Treasure www.treasuremodernknitting.co.uk

KEY

- Yarn A
- Yarn B
- Yarn A (Size 1)/Yarn B (Size 2)
- SSK (see patt notes)
- K2tog (see patt notes)

SHOP SMART
SHOP LOCAL!
Turn to page 80



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MOOMIN SOCKS

Notes When following the Chart instructions for the larger size, always treat the decrease st for the smaller size as a knit st and work it in the yarn as shown by the colour of the square.

When working the Fair Isle Chart, catch in any floats longer than 4 sts by twisting the yarns around each other at the back of the work. Vary where you catch your floats in the design so they don't land in the same place on consecutive rounds. Use the ladder back jacquard technique to catch floats on the leg. You can find videos and instructions showing how to do this online – we found a good one at www.ysolda.com.

LEG

Cast on 80 (84) sts in Yarn A and divide between four needles as follows: 25 (27) sts on needles 1 and 4 and 15 (15) sts on needles 2 and 3. The start of the round is between needle 4 and needle 1 at the back of the sock. Place marker to denote beg of round and join, being careful not to twist sts.

Twisted rib round (K1tbl, P1) to end of round.

Work 4.5cm in twisted rib in the round.

Knit one round, decreasing 4 sts evenly across round. [76 (80) sts]

Start the Fair Isle pattern, working Round 1 of Chart across all 76 (80) sts.

Then work Rounds 2 to 62 (2 to 67) of Chart, decrease at places marked on Chart.

Break off Yarn B and work the rest of the sock in Yarn A.

Work 4cm in stocking stitch.

Divide sts evenly with 13 (14) sts on each needle.

HEEL

Start to work heel by knitting the sts on needle 1 on to needle 4. [26 (28) sts for heel flap].

Leave remaining sts on needles 2 and 3. Turn work and start slip stitch pattern to reinforce heel:

Row 1 (WS) SI1 (with yarn in front of work), purl to end of row. Turn work.

Row 2 (RS) *SI1 (with yarn at back of work), K1; repeat from * to

"Anyone who knows me knows I'm a huge Moomin fan, from Tove Jansson's books to the many Moomin gifts you can buy. These socks will definitely be on my needles soon!"

KIRSTIE MCLEOD, EDITOR

end of row. Turn work.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 a total of 13 (14) times and then work Row 1 again. [27 (29) rows]

FRENCH HEEL (ROUNDED HEEL)

Row 1 (RS) SI1 (with yarn at back of work), K14 (15), ssk, K1. Turn work.

Row 2 (WS) SI1 purlwise, P5, p2tog, P1. Turn work.

Row 3 SI1 knitwise, K6, ssk, K1. Turn work.

Row 4 SI1 purlwise, P7, p2tog, P1. Turn work.

Continue decreasing in this way, increasing the number of sts in the centre by one on each row until all sts at the sides have been decreased. Then work 1 more WS row. **Note** For the larger size, there will be no stitch left to K1/P1 at the end of the row after the last decrease:

Turn work. Divide heel sts evenly between two needles with 8 sts on each needle. Knit sts on RH needle. This point (centre back) is now the start of the round.

FOOT

Knit the 8 sts on LH needle from heel (needle 1). Using a spare needle, pick up 14 (15) sts from LH edge of heel flap + 1st between heel flap and needle 2.

Knit picked up sts on to needle 1, turning sts knitwise.

Knit sts on needle 2 and needle 3. Using the needle with 8 sts on it, pick up 14 (15) sts from RH edge of heel flap + 1st between heel flap and needle 3.

Knit picked up sts and 8 sts from heel on to needle 4, turning picked up sts knitwise. [72 (76) sts]

CHART



Continue in stocking stitch, decreasing for gusset as follows: k2tog at end of needle 1 and ssk at beginning of needle 4.

Repeat decreases on every alt round until there are 13 (14) sts left on each needle. [52 (56) sts]

Continue in stocking stitch until the foot of the sock measures approximately 20.5 (22)cm, or covers the wearer's little toe.

TOE

Begin working toe decs as foll:

Needle 1 and needle 3: work to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Needle 2 and needle 4: K1, ssk, work to end.

Decrease as set on every alt round until there are 36 sts left and then work decreases on every round until there are 16 sts left. Divide remaining sts evenly between two needles with 8 sts on the upper needle and 8 sts on the lower needle. Graft sts together using Kitchener stitch.

Work the other sock in the same way.

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Carefully wet socks, place on a flat surface and block to measurements. Leave to dry. Steam block lightly on a flat surface if necessary. 



BUY THE BOOK

These gorgeous socks come from top pattern book 'Knitted Moomin Socks' (£15.99), which is packed with another 28 socks for you to cast on for friends and family. www.searchpress.com.