



# Not Your Average Cat Lady Socks

By Emma Kerian

*These funky leopard print socks are knit cuff down with an afterthought heel, making it easier to concentrate on the stranded colorwork pattern without worrying about shaping the heel.*

## Sizes:

- Circumference: Adult Small, (Adult Medium, Adult Large)
- Length: Custom (you will need to measure your foot or know your desired sock length)

## Needles:

- Larger needles: One set of five DPNs in US size 1.5 (2.50 mm) or size to obtain gauge
- Smaller needles: One set of five DPNs in US size 1 (2.25 mm)

**Gauge:** 16 sts = 2" in leopard pattern using larger needles (vertical gauge is not critical)

**Notions:** Stitch markers; Tapestry needle for Kitchener stitching heels and toes

**Yarn:**

Suggested yarn: *Allison Barnes Yarn-Basic Sock*

Yardage is given for one pair of Adult Medium socks with a length of 10"

- Orange (MC): 200 yards (Colorway- "Fistful of Pennies")
- Dark Blue (CC) - 140 yards (Colorway- "I Feel Fine")
- Waste yarn (18") in a different contrasting color for heel placement

**Abbreviations:**

- DPNs: Double pointed needles
- k:knit
- k2tog: knit two together (right leaning decrease)
- p: purl
- ssk: slip slip knit (left leaning decrease)
- sts: stitches
- MC: Main color
- CC: Contrasting color (for the leopard spots)

## THE PATTERN

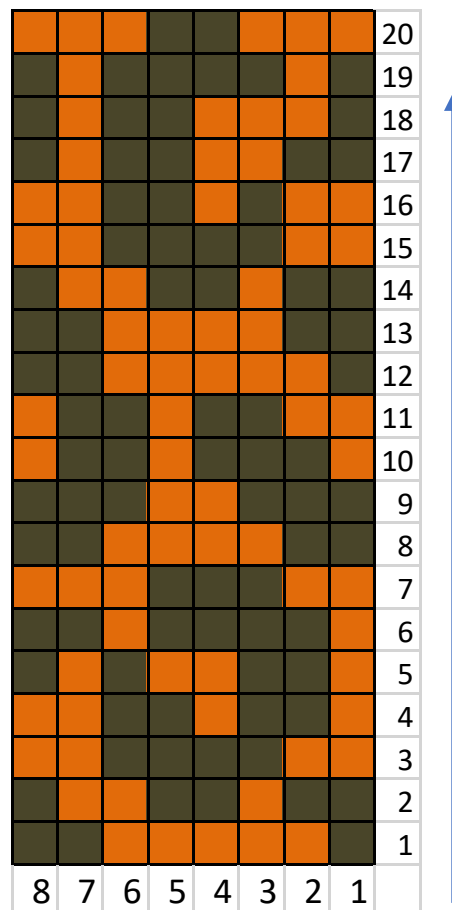
Cuff:

- Using the smaller needles, cast on 56 (64, 72) stitches with the MC yarn, spreading the stitches out over 4 DPNs.
- Join in the round making sure not to twist the stitches and place a marker to indicate the beginning of the round
- Rounds 1-9: \*k1 p1\*. Repeat for the rest of the round.
- Round 10: \*k1 p1\* Repeat for the rest of the round, placing a marker every 8 sts

### Leg:

Switch to the larger needles and knit the leopard chart, joining in the CC as indicated by the chart (in the chart orange represents the MC and dark brown represents the CC). There are 7 (8, 9) eight stitch repeats around for a total of 56 (64, 72) sts. Use the stitch markers to keep track of the repeats. Knit the whole chart (rounds 1-20) once

Leopard Print Chart:



Very important: Do not pull your floats too tightly! It is important to keep your floats fairly loose, as the sock will need to stretch enough to fit over your foot.

8 stitch repeat (repeat 7 (8, 9) times around)

### Setting the heel position

Knit 28 (32, 36) sts in the contrasting waste yarn. Then slip those 28 (32, 36) sts back onto the left needles and reknit those same 28 (32, 36) sts following Round 1 of the leopard chart (using the MC and CC). Finish knitting Round 1 of the chart (another 28 (32, 36) sts).

### Foot

- Continue following the chart, beginning on Round 2 (Round 1 was already completed during the heel placement)
- The leopard colorwork chart should be repeated until the foot measures 4.5" less than the desired sock length. (Measure foot length from the contrasting waste yarn used for heel placement). (The 4.5" will be made up by the toe and the heel)

### Toe

Break the CC yarn. The toe will be knit entirely in the MC. Switching to the smaller needles, divide the 56 (64, 72) sts evenly between the 4 DPNs as follows, removing all markers except the marker indicating the beginning of the round.

- Needle 1: sts 1-14 (1-16, 1-18)
  - Needle 2: sts 15-28 (17-32, 19-36)
  - Needle 3: sts 29-42 (33-48, 37-54)
  - Needle 4: sts 43-56 (49-64, 55-72)
- Round 1: k around
  - Round 2:
    - Needle 1: k1, ssk, k remaining sts on needle
    - Needle 2: k until 3 sts remain on needle, k2tog, k1
    - Needle 3: k1, ssk, k remaining sts on needle
    - Needle 4: k until 3 sts remain on needle, k2tog, k1
  - Round 3: Knit sts on all 4 needles

Repeat rounds 2 and 3 until 20 (24, 28) sts remain (5, (6, 7) sts per needle).

Combine sts from needles 1 and 2 together on one needle and combine sts from needles 3 and 4 together on one needle (10 (12, 14) sts per needle).

Break the yarn, leaving a 16" tail and then Kitchener stitch the toe closed.

*\*\* At this point you will have a tube sock. The next and final step is adding the heel. \*\**

## Heel

This technique is called an “afterthought heel”. There are many great tutorials out there on how to pick up the sts for an afterthought heel if you’re having trouble.

Picking up the heel stitches (Use the smaller needles to pick up and knit the heels):

- Use the smaller needles. Using one DPN, pick up 14 (16, 18) sts directly below the right half of waste yarn (needle 1). Using another DPN, pick up the remaining 14 (16, 18) sts under the left half of the waste yarn (needle 2). Using another DPN, pick up 14 (16, 18) sts directly above the left side of the waste yarn stitches (needle 3). Using another DPN, pick up the 14 (16, 18) sts above the right half of the waste yarn (needle 4). You will have picked up a total of 56 (64, 72) sts. Remove the waste yarn.

*Note: Some of the stitches you pick up on needles 3 and 4 will look like a bit wonky after you remove the contrasting yarn, like big loops. This is because these stitches are both the stitch and the float. Treat these as you would any stitch and knit them as normal.*

- Begin to knit in the round using the MC starting with needle 1. When you get to the first gap between the top and bottom heel sts (between needles 2 and 3) pick up an additional 2 sts, placing one of the sts on needle 2 and one on needle 3. When you get to the second gap between the top and bottom sts (between needles 4 and 1) pick up an additional 2 sts, placing one on needle 4 and one on needle 1. You should now have a total of 60 (68, 76) sts (15 (17, 19) sts per needle).

*Note: The extra 4 stitches are added to close the gap that forms at the heel*

Heel shaping:

- Round 1:
  - Needle 1: k1, ssk, k remaining sts
  - Needle 2: k until 3 sts remain, k2tog, k1
  - Needle 3: k1, ssk, k remaining sts
  - Needle 4: k until 3 sts remain, k2tog, k1
- Round 2: Knit all sts on all 4 needles
- Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until 20 (24, 28) sts remain (5, (6, 7) sts per needle).
- Combine sts from Needles 1 and 2 onto one needle (10 (12, 14) sts) and combine sts from Needles 3 and 4 onto one needle (10 (12, 14) sts).
- Break the yarn, leaving a 16” tail. Close the heel using Kitchener stitch.

Finishing: Weave in all ends and block.

Now it’s time to make another sock!