



# PAINTING HONEYCOMBS SOCKS

BY STEPHEN WEST

These socks are perfect for using mini skeins or leftover bits of sock yarn. The pattern features one main color combined with five contrast color pops. You can use as many contrast colors as you like to customize the honeycomb color pops. The pattern is knit top-down in the round, so you can easily customize the length of the ankle or foot by knitting more or fewer honeycomb stripes. Slip stitches form the playful honeycomb motif, so you only work with one color at a time. Dive into your stash and knit yourself some cozy Westknits socks or gift them to a friend!



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**Sizes:** 1 [2, 3, 4, 5]

**Finished Measurements:** 5 [6, 7, 8, 9]" / 13.5 [16, 18, 20.5, 23]cm ankle circumference, 5.5 [7, 8, 9, 10]" / 14 [18, 20, 23, 25]cm foot circumference. Measurements taken after blocking.

Size 4 shown on a US 13 / EU 47 size foot with an actual foot circumference of 10" / 25cm.

Socks are designed to fit an actual foot circumference of 6 [8, 9, 10, 11]" / 15 [20, 23, 25, 28]cm. The socks are designed to fit with negative ease. Choose a size with a finished foot circumference measurement that is approximately 1" / 2.5cm smaller than your actual foot circumference, so that the sock will fit nice and snug on your foot.

The lengths of the cuff, leg, and foot are easily customizable by knitting more honeycomb stripes for a longer leg or foot or fewer honeycomb stripes for a shorter leg or foot.

**Yarn:** Fingering weight

**Yardage:** MC - 275 [325, 350, 400, 450]yds / 251 [297, 320, 366, 411]m  
CC's - 140 [160, 175, 200, 225]yds / 128 [146, 160, 183, 206]m

5 CC's are featured in the sample. You will need about 28 [32, 35, 40, 45]yds / 26 [29, 32, 37, 41]m of each CC.

**Shown in:** Undercover Otter Squirm Sock (80% Merino, 20% Nylon; 437yds / 400m per 100g skein)  
MC - Nilborg

Walk Collection Tough Sock Mini (75% Wool, 25% Nylon; 93yds / 85m per 20g skein)  
CC1 - Apricot  
CC2 - Autumn Glow  
CC3 - Artichoke Hearts  
CC4 - Pebbles  
CC5 - Volcanic Sand

**Needles:** US 0 / 2mm circular in 40" / 100cm length or size needed to obtain gauge

Magic loop method is used for knitting in the rnd. Watch this Westknits video to assist with the Magic Loop technique.  
<https://youtu.be/hpFhbHmrCcc>

You can use DPNs if you prefer. Watch this Westknits video to assist with knitting with DPNs.  
<https://youtu.be/y9bvVy08PeE>

**Notions:** 3 stitch markers, tapestry needle



**Gauge:** 44 sts & 64 rnds = 4" / 10cm in slip stitch honeycomb pattern after blocking  
38 sts & 52 rnds = 4" / 10cm in stockinette stitch after blocking

## Westknits Workshops

Learn all about socks with my How to Knit Socks workshop! This workshop is perfect for beginner sock knitting. Sign up for this workshop and check out all my other online courses to watch and learn new knitting skills at your own pace.

<https://www.westknits.com/collections/workshops>

## Westknits Kits

We have dozens of curated color palettes to inspire your next Westknits project. Collect a Westknits kit at Stephen & Penelope! We ship worldwide!

<https://www.stephenandpenelope.com/pages/westknits-kits>

## Sock Fit Tips

Watch this Westknits video to help measure your feet and knit perfectly fitting socks!

<https://youtu.be/95Cogdr70mA>

## Abbreviations

**CC:** contrast color  
**CO:** cast on  
**k:** knit  
**k2tog:** knit 2 sts together  
**MC:** main color  
**p:** purl  
**p2tog:** purl 2 sts together  
**pm:** place marker  
**rnd/s:** round/s

**sl:** slip stitch purl-wise unless instructed otherwise  
**ssk:** (slip slip knit) slip first stitch knit-wise, slip second stitch knit-wise, knit those 2 sts together tbl  
**st/s:** stitch/es  
**tbl:** through back loop  
**wyib:** with yarn in back  
**wyif:** with yarn in front

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Cuff

The cuff features a folded rib hem beginning with a Long Tail CO. If you don't want a folded hem, you can use your favorite top-down sock CO method instead like a German Twisted CO and knit a regular ribbed cuff without a without folding the hem. You can do a Provisional CO method if you prefer this for working the Folded Hem. This cast on edge will be picked up later to form the folded hem cuff.

Watch this Westknits video to assist with the Long Tail CO.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwLE60tEK5Q>

Watch this Westknits video to assist with the alternative German Twisted CO.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K60RcmjJqiw>

Using MC, CO 60 [72, 80, 92, 100] sts using the Long Tail CO method. Place marker and join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts.

(K2, p2) to end of rnd.

Repeat last rnd 64 more times or until the ribbing measures approximately 5" / 13cm.

### Leg

Watch this Westknits video to assist with the folded hem technique during Rnd 1.

<https://youtu.be/kJLwSJIBRJQ>

If you are not doing a folded hem and you just want a single layer of regular 2x2 ribbing, then just knit all sts normally during Rnd 1 instead of working the folded hem technique.

**Rnd 1:** \*K1 together with a picked up stitch from the CO edge; repeat from \* to end of rnd while attaching all live sts together with picked up sts from the CO edge for a folded cuff.

**Sizes 2 & 4 only:** Decrease 2 sts during Rnd 2 by working p2tog twice. You should have -- [70, --, 90, --] sts after Rnd 2.

**Rnds 2 – 4:** Using MC, p all sts.

Carry MC along the inside of the work while striping colors.

Use the first CC when you work Rnd 5 for the first time. You can use the CC's in any order you like. Each CC will be worked for 6 rows to form the honeycombs.

Weave in your ends as you knit using the Weavin' Stephen technique. Watch this Westknits video to assist with the Weavin' Stephen technique.

<https://youtu.be/Fz292NAjH2M>

There are 6 rnds worked with each CC and 4 rnds worked with the MC to form the honeycomb motif.

## Pattern Repeat

**Rnd 5:** Using next CC, (k7, sl3 wyib) to end of rnd.

**Rnds 6 – 10:** (K7, sl3 wyib) to end of rnd.

Break CC.

**Rnd 11:** Using MC, k all sts.

**Rnds 12 – 14:** P all sts.

**Rnd 15:** Using next CC, (k2, sl3 wyib, k5) to end of rnd.

**Rnds 16 – 20:** (K2, sl3 wyib, k5) to end of rnd.

Break CC.

**Rnd 21:** Using MC, k all sts.

**Rnds 22 – 24:** P all sts.

Repeat Rnds 5 – 24 of Pattern Repeat 3 more times, then repeat rnds 5 – 20 once more or until the leg reaches your desired length. The leg should reach to the part of your ankle above your ankle bone. End with Rnd 20 and break your CC. The sample features 10 CC honeycomb stripes before working the Heel Flap. Remove beginning of rnd marker.



## Heel Flap

Watch this video to assist with the heel flap.

<https://youtu.be/KRZiGnnBPjo>

You will use half of your sts to create a garter stitch heel flap. 30 [35, 40, 45, 50] sts are worked back and forth for the heel flap. Leave the remaining 30 [35, 40, 45, 50] sts on your needle to work later.

**Row 1 (RS):** Using MC, k29 [34, 39, 44, 49], sl1 wyif. Turn to work WS.

**Row 2 (WS):** K29 [34, 39, 44, 49] to last st, sl1 wyif. Turn to work RS.

Repeat last 2 rows 14 [17, 19, 21, 24] more times, resulting in 15 [18, 20, 22, 25] garter ridges on the RS.

## Heel Turn

**Row 1 (RS):** K17 [19, 22, 24, 27], ssk, k1. Turn to work WS.

**Row 2 (WS):** Sl1 purl-wise wyif, p5 [4, 5, 4, 5] p2tog, p1. Turn to work RS.

## Heel Turn Pattern Repeat

**Row 1 (RS):** Sl1 knit-wise wyif, k to 1 st before gap, ssk, k1. Turn to work WS.

**Row 2 (WS):** Sl1 purl-wise wyif, p to 1 st before gap, p2tog, p1. Turn to work RS.

Repeat last 2 rows until you have worked all the way to each end. You should have 17 [19, 22, 24, 27] sts of the sts worked during the Heel Flap remaining on your needle after you have turned the heel. If you are missing a stitch or two or if you have one or two extra sts, you can sneak in a decrease or increase during the next rnd. Depending on your size, the final RS row may end with an "ssk" and the final WS row may end with a p2tog.

## Gusset

Rnd 1 is written out using several lines for easier reading.

**Rnd 1 (RS):** Using MC, k8 [9, 11, 12, 13] sts from the heel, pm to mark the new beginning of rnd at the center of the heel.

K9 [10, 11, 12, 14], pick up and k16 [19, 21, 23, 26] sts along the left edge of the garter stitch heel flap, pm.

K30 [35, 40, 45, 50] (these are the other half of the sts from the ankle that you have not worked during the Heel Flap), pm.

Pick up and k16 [19, 21, 23, 26] along the right edge of the garter stitch heel flap.

K8 [9, 11, 12, 13].

You should now be at the beginning of rnd marker at the center of the heel flap.

79 [92, 104, 115, 129] sts.

**Rnd 2:** K to m, slm, p to m, slm, k to end of rnd.

**Rnd 3:** K to 2 sts before m, k2tog, slm, p to m, slm, ssk, k to end of rnd. 2 sts decreased.

**Rnd 4:** K to m, slm, p to m, slm, k to end of rnd.

The next CC rnds say to “work in slip stitch honeycomb pattern to m”. Make sure you are slipping the 3 sts like you did in the ankle so that the honeycomb motif continues along the top of the foot. Your slip stitches for the foot need to line up and stagger correctly in relation to the ankle fabric. The bottom of the foot and gussets are knit in stockinette stitch while only the top of the foot continues with the honeycomb slip stitch pattern. Carry the MC along the inside of the sock while striping colors.

## Pattern Repeat

**Rnd 5:** Using next CC, k to 2 sts before m, k2tog, slm, work in slip stitch honeycomb pattern to m, slm, ssk, k to end of rnd. 2 sts decreased.

**Rnd 6:** K to m, slm, work in slip stitch honeycomb pattern to m, slm, k to end of rnd.

**Rnds 7 – 10:** Repeat last 2 rnds twice more. Break CC.

**Rnd 11:** Using MC, k to 2 sts before m, k2tog, slm, k to m, slm, ssk, k to end of rnd. 2 sts decreased.

**Rnds 12:** K to m, slm, p to m, slm, k to end of rnd.

**Rnd 13:** K to 2 sts before m, k2tog, slm, p to m, slm, ssk, k to end of rnd. 2 sts decreased.

**Rnds 14:** K to m, slm, p to m, slm, k to end of rnd.

Repeat Rnds 5 – 14 of Pattern Repeat until you decrease all gusset sts and have 60 [70, 80, 90, 100] sts on your needle. For some sizes, this mean that on your final decrease rnd, you may only decrease 1 st to achieve the final recommended stitch count of 60 [70, 80, 90, 100] sts. If you want a larger foot circumference, then you can work fewer Gusset decreases to customize the fit of the foot. Alternatively, you can also work more gusset decreases to achieve fewer sts for tighter fit.



## Foot

Continue working the foot in the rnd with the honeycomb pattern on top and stockinette stitch on the bottom of the foot until your sock reaches just below the top of your smallest toe. Then you should be ready for the toe decreases. Finish the foot with 4 MC rnds.

The toe section measures approximately 1.5 [1.5, 2, 2, 2.5]" / 4 [4, 5, 5, 6]cm long.

Remove beginning of rnd marker. K15 [17, 20, 22, 25]. Place marker to mark this location as the new beginning of rnd.

## Toe

**Rnd 1:** Using MC, k1, ssk, k24 [29, 34, 39, 44], k2tog, k1, pm, k1, ssk, k24 [29, 34, 39, 44], k2tog, k1. 56 [66, 76, 86, 96] sts.

**Row 2:** K all sts.

**Rnd 3:** Using MC, k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before m, k2tog, k1, slm, k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before end of rnd, k2tog, k1. 4 sts decreased.

**Row 4:** K all sts.

Repeat last 2 rnds 6 [7, 8, 8, 10] more times. 28 [34, 40, 50, 52] sts.

Repeat Rnd 3 only 4 [4, 5, 6, 7] more times. 12 [18, 20, 26, 24] sts.

## FINISHING

Graft the remaining sts together using Kitchener stitch.

Watch this Westknits video to assist with the Kitchener stitch technique.

<https://youtu.be/lBfhQa4l66E>

Weave in ends and wet block the finished socks to smooth the fabric.

