

Play socks

Pattern by Charlotte Stone, Stoneknits



These socks are an all over colourwork sock pattern which were inspired by the bright and summery 'Crimson Sunset' mini skein set from Snail Yarns. I started knitting these socks during a snowfall in Switzerland and the bright colours helped feel like I was bringing warmer weather in. My daughter, when seeing them in creation commented how much the repeating triangle looks like the 'Play' button from that well known company that we like to watch our favourite knitting podcasts on! Hence they become the 'Play' socks. The pattern has a simple, easy to memorise chart and can be used with any five 20g mini skeins or leftovers in any colour combination as long as the colours are contrasting. This makes it a perfect scrappy sock project for you to enjoy experimenting and playing with colours.

These socks are knit from the cuff down with a ribbed cuff and a simple short row heel also known as a Boomerang heel (and has no wraps and turns). The instructions are written for 3 different size socks using different stitch counts for small (or child), medium and large. This pattern uses the magic loop circular needle method (but can easily be knit with dpns)

Yarn.

This pattern was created in collaboration with Snail Yarn. The sample shown is knit in size Medium and uses yarn from Snail Yarns mini skein sock gradient set in colourway Crimson Sunset. This set has five 20g mini skeins in yarn that is 75% Merino Superwash and 25% Nylon. The colours included were purple, yellow, dark pink, orange and light pink. (I tried to pair the most contrasting colours together).

Any Fingering weight 4 ply sock yarn can be used to create these socks, approximately 350m (382 yds) in total

Size

(Small), Medium or (Large)

Needle size recommended is whichever size needle obtains the gauge for the colourwork section. I would recommend going up a needle size for the colourwork sections to what you normally use to knit non-colourwork socks if you are unsure. For example, the colour work section was knit on the sample shown with a 2.5mm needle. I normally knit plain socks with a 2.25mm needle. My foot circumference is 22cm.

Size Small (foot circumference 18 - 20.5cm or 7 to 8 inches)

Size Medium (foot circumference 20.5cm – 23.5cm or from 8 to 9.25 inches),

Size Large (foot circumference 23.5 – 26cm or from 9.25 to 10.5 inches)

(If the foot size you are knitting the sock for is not listed here you could go up or down a needle size to make the sock bigger or smaller).

Length of foot is adjustable according to the foot length you are knitting the sock for.

Gauge for Colourwork section)

Small: 2.25mm (US 1) needles 38sts x 40 rounds 10cm (4 inches)

Medium: 2.5mm (US 1.5) needles 36sts x 38 rounds 10cm (4 inches)

Large: 2.75mm (US 2) needles 34sts x 36 rounds 10cm (4 inches)

Colourwork

When knitting stranded colourwork, be consistent with how you hold the yarns. The yarn used to knit the contrast pattern should always cross below the yarn knit for the background colour at the back of your work. Be sure to knit the floats loosely.

Ends Tip: It is possible to knit these socks without cutting the ends and instead carrying the yarn up through the sock using them whenever the colour is repeated rather than having lots of ends to sew in at the end. Be warned however this can result in the 5 balls of yarn getting tangled if you transport your sock project around!

Abbreviations

K= Knit

P= Purl

st(s)= Stitch(es)

K2tog= Knit 2 stitches together

SI1 = Slip one stitch purlwise from the left hand needle to the right hand needle.

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

P2tog= Purl 2 stitches together

M1L= Make 1 left. Pick up the bar between the stitch you knit and the one you are about to knit, bringing the needle from the front to the back. Then knit in to the back of the stitch making a new stitch.

M1K= M1 stitch in the stitch under the K2tog stitch (see diagrams A) and knit the picked up stitch

M1P= M1 stitch in the stitch under the P2tog stitch (see diagrams B) and purl the picked up stitch.

RS= Right Side

WS= Wrong Side BOR= Beginning of the round

The colour sequence for the sock will be written as C1 (purple), C2 (yellow), C3 (dark pink), C4 (orange), C5 (light pink). There is a colour work chart on page 6 which can be used for you to colour in with the colours you have chosen if you are not knitting with the colours shown in the sample.

Instructions

Cuff

Cast on (60), 64, (68) sts with CC1. Divide sts evenly over 2 circular needles. (30), 32, (34) sts on each needle. Now place a marker at the beginning of the round. Be careful when joining in the round not to twist your stitches. Knit ribbing K2 P2 for a total of 10 rows.

Leg

With CC1, Knit the increase round.

- Small size only: *K7, M1L* 8 times then K4. 8sts increased. 68sts total
- Medium size only: *K8, M1L* repeat until the end of the round. 8sts increased. 72sts total.
- Large size only: *K9, M1L, K8, M1L* repeat to end. 8sts increased. 76sts total

All sizes: Start knitting the colourwork chart (on page 6) joining each colour where shown. The chart is worked from right to left, bottom to top and is knit (17), 18, (19) times in one round. The rows are repeated again after row 40.

Knit the leg and finish on row 4 of the chart (after having knitted the 40 rows once). You can modify the length by finishing on a row that uses only one colour in that round. The colour you finish on will be the colour of your heel.

Cut all yarns except the yellow (or whichever colour you will knit the heel with).

No Wraps Short Row heel

The short row heel will now be worked **flat and knit back and forth** using needle 1 and CC2 (yellow). Currently needle 1 is holding (34), 36, (38) sts.

Small size only:

Row 1: *K6, K2tog,* 4 times, Knit 1st (decreases 4sts now 30sts total on needle 1) and turn sock to the (WS) Purl side. (There was one remaining last stitch unknitted).

Row 2: SI1, P27 (leaving again 1 stitch unworked at the end) and turn sock to the RS (Knit side.)

Row 3: SI1, K26 (this leaves 2sts unworked at the end) and turn sock to the WS (Purl side).

Row 4: SI1, P25 (you are turning at the last stitch before the gap)

Row 5: SI1, K24 (turning the stitch before the gap)

Row 6: SI1, P23 (turning the stitch before the gap)

Continue the knit and purl sides, slipping 1st and turning work at the stitch before the gap ending on...

Row 16: SI1, P11 (turn). There are now 9 sts on the left side and 9 sts on the right side of the purl sts.

The heel now needs to be worked back and forth closing the gaps that have been created from turning the work.

Row 17: SI1, K10, K2tog (this is 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap, knitted together). M1K stitch, picking up the stitch **under** the K2tog stitch (*please see diagram A). Do not twist the stitch. Turn work to WS (purl side)

Row 18: SI1, P11, P2tog (again 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap, purled together). M1P stitch picking up the stitch **under** the P2tog stitch (**please see diagram B). Do not twist stitch. Turn work to RS (knit side).

Row 19: SI1, K12, K2tog. M1K

Row 20: SI1, P13, P2tog. M1P

Continue in this manner K2tog or P2tog the 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap together and then M1K or M1P in the stitch under the K2tog or P2tog stitch and turning until...

Row 36: SI1, P28, Turn

Row 37: *K7, M1L* to 7sts before the end then K2 (4sts increased). There are now 34sts on needle 1. Then rejoin CC and working back in the round, continue knitting the colourwork Chart, using needles 1 and 2.

Medium size only:

Row 1: *K6, K2tog,* 4 times (decreases 4sts now 32sts total on needle 1). There are 4 remaining sts.

Knit 3 sts and turn sock to the (WS) Purl side. (There was one remaining last stitch unworked).

Row 2: SI1, P29 (leaving again 1 stitch unworked at the end) and turn sock to the RS (Knit side.)

Row 3: SI1, K28 (this leaves 2sts not unworked at the end) and turn sock to the WS (Purl side).

Row 4: SI1, P27 (you are turning at the last stitch before the gap)

Row 5: SI1, K26 (turning the stitch before the gap)

Row 6: SI1, P25 (turning the stitch before the gap)

Continue the knit and purl sides, slipping 1st and turning work at the stitch before the gap ending on...

Row 20: SI1, P11 (turn). You will have 10 unworked sts on the left side and 10 unworked sts on the right side of your 12 purl sts.

The heel now needs to be worked back and forth closing the gaps that have been created from turning the work.

Row 21: SI1, K10, K2tog (this is 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap, knitted together). M1K stitch, picking up the stitch **under** the K2tog stitch (*please see diagram A). Do not twist the stitch. Turn work to WS (purl side)

Row 22: SI1, P11, P2tog (again 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap, purled together). M1P stitch in the stitch **under** the P2tog stitch (**please see diagram B). Do not twist stitch. Turn work to RS (knit side).

Row 23: SI1, K12, K2tog. M1K

Row 24: SI1, P13, P2tog. M1P

Continue in this manner K2tog or P2tog the 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap together and then M1K or M1P in the stitch under the K2tog or P2tog stitch and turning until...

Row 40: SI1, P31, Turn

Row 41: *K8 M1L* increasing 4sts. There are now 36sts on needle 1. Then rejoin CC and working back in the round, continue knitting the colourwork Chart using needles 1 and 2.

Large size only:

Row 1: *K7, K2tog,* 4 times, K1, (now 34sts total on needle 1). Turn to the (WS) Purl side. (There was one remaining last stitch unknitted).

Row 2: SI1, P31 (leaving again 1 stitch unworked at the end) and turn sock to the RS (Knit side.)

Row 3: SI1, K30 (this leaves 2sts unworked at the end) and turn sock to the WS (Purl side).

Row 4: SI1, P29 (you are turning at the last stitch before the gap)

Row 5: SI1, K28 (turning the stitch before the gap)

Row 6: SI1, P27 (turning the stitch before the gap)

Continue the knit and purl sides, slipping 1st and turning work at the stitch before the gap ending on...

Row 22: SI1, P11 (turn). You will have 11 unworked sts on the left side and 11 unworked sts on the right side of your purl sts.

The heel now needs to be worked back and forth closing the gaps that have been created from turning the work.

Row 23: SI1, K10, K2tog (this is 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap, knitted together). M1K stitch in the stitch **under** the K2tog stitch (*please see diagram A). Turn work to WS (purl side)

Row 24: SI1, P11, P2tog (again 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap, purled together). M1P stitch in the stitch **under** the P2tog stitch (**please see diagram B). Turn work to RS (knit side).

Row 25: SI1, K12, K2tog. M1K

Row 26: SI1, P13, P2tog. M1P

Continue in this manner K2tog or P2tog the 1st before the gap and 1st after the gap together and then M1K or M1P in the stitch under the K2tog or P2tog stitch and turning until...

Row 42: SI1, P33, Turn

Row 43: *K8, M1L* 4 times, K2 (increasing 4sts). There are now 38sts on needle 1. Then rejoin CC and working back in the round, continue knitting the colourwork Chart using needles 1 and 2.



*Diagram A: Where to pick up the stitch for M1 for the short row heel after a K2tog.



**Diagram B: Where to pick up the stitch for M1 for the short row heel after a P2tog.

Foot

- Knit the foot using the colourwork chart pattern until you are 4cms (1.5 inches) before the desired length of your sock and ending on a row of the chart that is knit in only one colour (so either row 4, 8, 12, 16 etc).
- Cut all colours except the colour that will be your toe. In the sample this is CC3. Continue to knit with only this colour.

Small size only: *K9, K2tog,* repeat until 2sts before the end of the round. K2. 6sts decreased (60 sts in total)

Medium size only: *K7, K2tog,* repeat until end of the round. 8sts decreased. (64 sts in total)

Large size only: *K6, K2tog* repeat until 6 sts from the end of the round and K4. 8sts decreased. (68sts total)

Toe

With the sts placed equally on needles 1 and 2, move the BOR stitch marker to the middle at the bottom of your foot. Needle 1 holds the stitches at the top of your foot. Needle 2 holds the stitches at the bottom of your foot.

Set up row: Knit with MC round to the BOR stitch marker.

Round 1: (decrease round)

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

Needle 1: K1, SSK, knit until 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).

Now continue just knitting round 1 (decreasing every round) until there are 10sts remaining on both needles (20sts total). Remove BOR stitch marker then knit 5 stitches to the side of the sock. Kitchener stitch the remaining sts together.

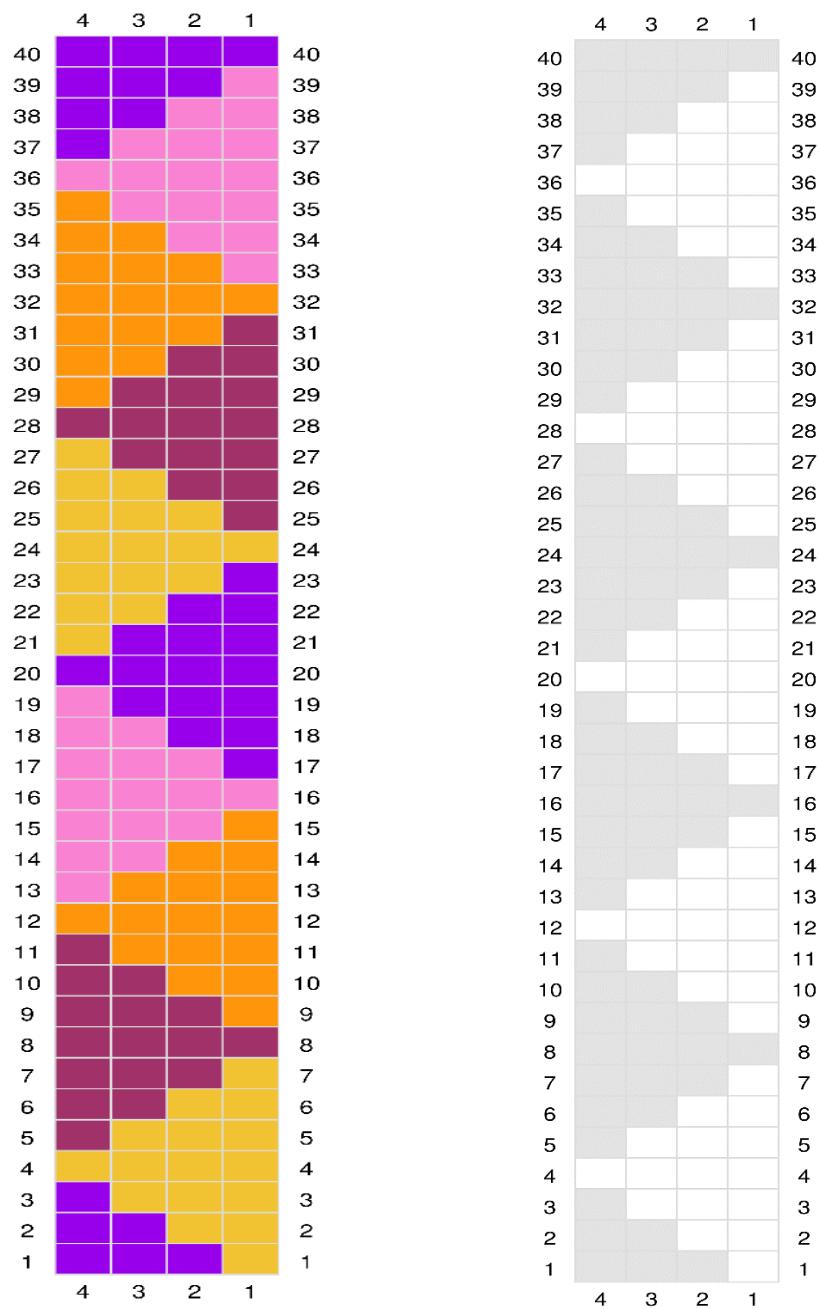
Weave in all ends. Knit your second sock. Hand wash gently in cool water, dry flat and enjoy!

Helpful Tutorials:

For Kitchener stitch I recommend the video 'How to Kitchener Toe without ears' on Youtube by Suzanne Bryan - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=eFHXnfvfmoBE>

For Short Row heel I recommend 'How to knit a short row heel for a sock' by Arne & Carlos on Youtube https://youtu.be/lxVxsmP58_o

Colourwork Chart



(Please, if you would like to, share your work and finished socks using the tags #playsocks or #stoneknits on Instagram or on Ravelry. I love seeing your creations. Snail yarn mini skein sock sets can be purchased at www.snailiyarn.com)