

# Winter 2017: SNOW socks<sup>©</sup>

Deborah Tomasello



**Winter 2017: SNOW socks** is a stranded pattern with an all-over snowflake design. The snowflakes are more random than they are in most other fair isle patterns, which means the repeats are sometimes longer, and carrying yarns less predictably even. A fun challenge to colorwork lovers! The result is a pair of uniquely beautiful winter socks that are warm without being bulky. And, because you knit it with Knit Picks Stroll fingering yarn, the socks are machine washable. You can easily tweak sizing by going up or down a needle size or two. *I have included important information on color dominance.* Look for the fingerless mitts, hat and headband patterns featuring the same all-over snowflake design, too.

**SIZE: Woman and Teen:** Small-Medium-Large You can tweak the sizing on this one by going up or down a needle size or two. Use a #1(US) needle for small, #2 needle for medium. For a women's large and men's small/med, use a #3 or #4 needle.) Pattern socks used #2 DPNs, for a woman's medium.

**MATERIALS:** Two balls of Knit Picks Stroll Sock Yarn: *Hollyberry* and one ball of *White*.

Five #2 DPNs (or size needed to obtain desired size)

Tapestry needle

**GAUGE:** 9 sts = approx. 1 inch using #2 needles

**ABBREVIATIONS:** K = knit

P = purl

K2TOG = knit 2 stitches together

**Before starting, please read *A Word about Color Dominance* at end of pattern.**

**NOTE: Remember LEO when catching floats—  
float Loosely, Evenly, and Often to avoid puckering.**

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## SOCKS: Make 2

**Instructions:** Socks are worked top-down. On the chart, sts on the right are at the center back of the sock.

**LEG:** (Instructions are given for Woman/Teen medium. Adjust needle size to suit your specs.) If desired, for a snugger-fitting cuff, work your top cuff on #1 or #2 needles. (If making small, however, use #1 DPNs throughout.) Switch to larger needles for leg and foot, if desired. Using *Hollyberry*, CO 76 sts, split evenly among 4 DPNs. (19 sts per needle. Join to work in round, placing marker and being careful not to twist stitches, if using a circular needle.) Knit 12-18 rounds 2x2 rib.

After ribbing, continue or change needle for larger sock. Begin following sock CHART. Add *White* and begin working chart through round 55. I have added vertical blue lines to the chart to indicate number of sts on each of four needles.

**HEEL:** My socks feature the Sweet Tomato Heel (STH). You may use the heel of your choice, but I recommend one that does not employ a heel flap or gussets to allow for an even design flow through the instep and foot. For a tutorial on the STH, see this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRc3309JUyc>

Once you understand how to knit the STH, proceed using the STH heel instructions, knitting heel with *Hollyberry*. Work three wedges on the 38 sts on needles 1 and 4. Work wedges leaving 8 stitch pairs on each side (6 heel sts left unpaired between pairs—depending on how you want the heel to fit). Knit according to chart across the instep stitches between wedges. When you begin the first half of the first wedge, carry *White*, every second st, down and leave it at the end so it is in place when you need it to work across the instep. Follow the chart for the instep stitches (the sts you have on needles 2 and 3). After working the first half of wedge 1, work across the instep per round 56 of the chart. When closing up gaps on the second half of the chart, carry the white loosely, as you go. When beginning wedge 2, carry the white, leaving it at the end so it is in place when you are ready to work the instep. The instep of the 2<sup>nd</sup> wedge will use the appropriate part of round 57. Carry the white back up with you as you complete the second wedge and back down again as you begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> wedge. The instep of the 3<sup>rd</sup> wedge will use the appropriate part of round 58.

Note that in the STH tutorial, the heel begins on one side of the heel. In this pattern, the heel rounds begin in the center back of the sock, but the principle and method of creating the STH is the same.

**FOOT:** Working all sts on circular needle or split on DPNs as with leg, work chart from through round 111. Detach *White*.

**TOE:** Using a single strand of *Hollyberry*, decrease for toe as follows:

Needle 1: K to last 3 sts of NEEDLE 1, K2TOG, K1

Needle 2: K1, K2TOG, knit remaining sts.

Needle 3: K to last 3 stitches of NEEDLE 3, K2TOG, K1

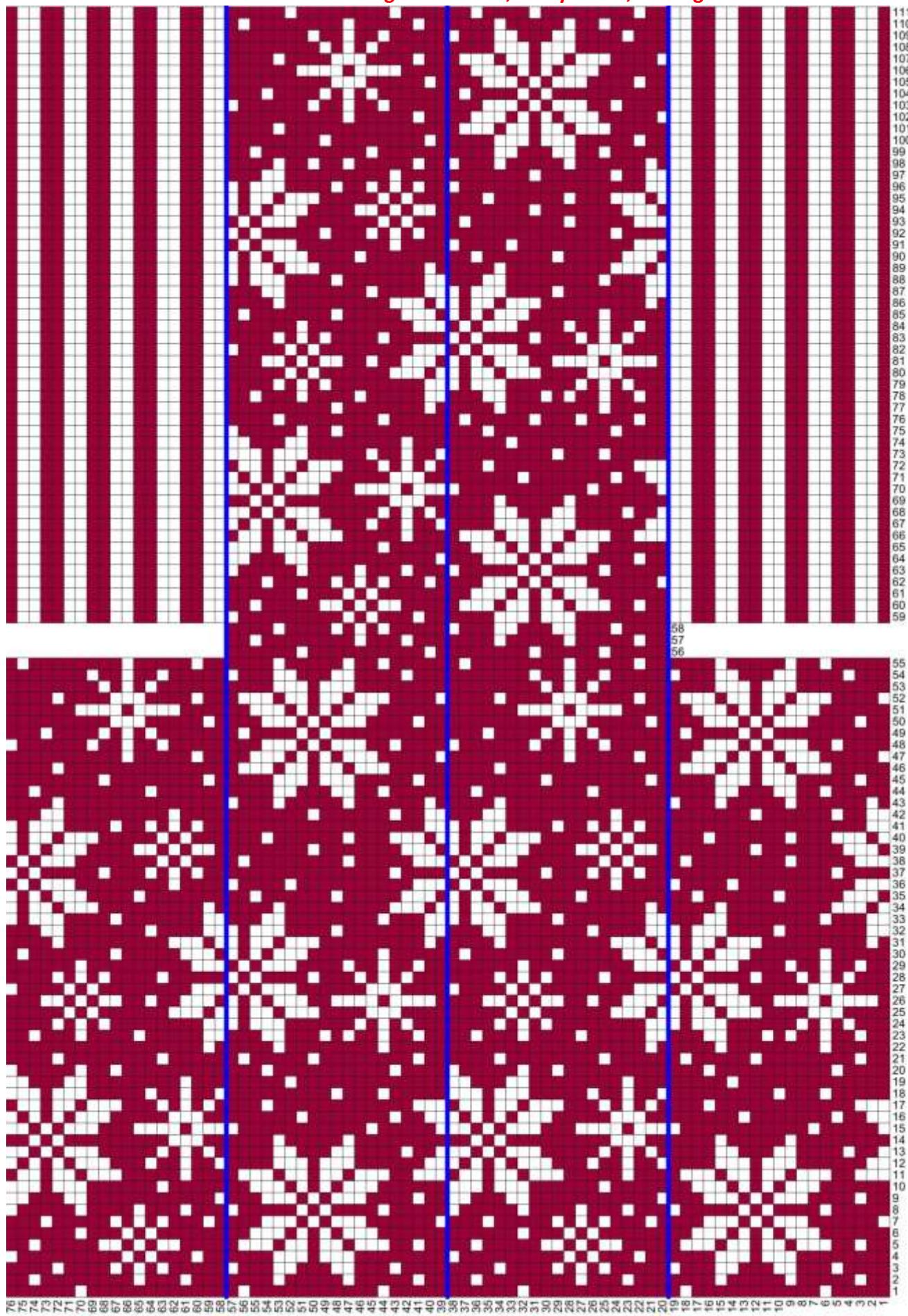
Needle 4: K1, K2TOG, knit remaining sts.

Repeat until there are 14 sts total on needles 1 and 4 and 14 sts total on needles 2 and 3 (7 sts on each of the 4 needles). Place sts from needles 4 and 1 onto one needle. Place sts from needles 2 and 3 onto one needle.

Graft the remaining stitches together using Kitchener st. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7i5JwEReW0>

**FINISHING:** Tie and weave in or trim all yarn ends at beginning and ends of rounds. Wash & block to fit.

CHART: Blue lines in chart indicate change of needles, every 19 sts, if using DPNs



## A Word about Color Dominance



In the above swatch, I knitted the same motif across the piece, and then I repeated it. The only difference I made was the position in which I held my yarns. In the bottom half, I held my yarns so that the blue was dominant, that is to say more obvious than the white, on the front of the work, and the white receded into the background. On the top half, I knitted the same stitches but I held my yarns so that the white dominated and the blue receded. You see a definite difference in the appearance of the motifs when comparing the top and bottom halves of my swatch.



Viewing my swatch from the back, you notice that the color that dominated on the front recedes on the back, and the color that was recessive on the front dominates on the back. A color cannot be dominant both on the front and the back at the same time.

So, how do you control for this? How does a color become dominant? I have read many explanations of color dominance, and frankly, they all leave me scratching my head. Terms are used like “over” and “under,” which are nonsensical to me. Over where? Under where? Also, each knitter has her own yarn-holding method. We need an explanation that works no matter how we hold our yarns.

First, it is important to point out that, whatever way you hold your yarns when stranding, you want to maintain the same position throughout the piece so that you catch your floats the same way, consistently. That said, here’s how color dominance happens. (And it happens whether you like it or not!) The color that will dominate---or stand out---on the front of your work is the color that consistently *lies closer to your work* as you go. In the above example, on the bottom half of the front of the piece, the blue is more prominent than it is on the top portion of the piece. This is because it lay closer to the piece as I was working the bottom half. How do we know this? Look at the back of the swatch. The bottom on the back shows more white relative to the top of the swatch. You see more white because the floating yarn, the white, is floating over, or around, the blue...it lies further from the piece, has farther to travel, than the blue. Because the white lies closer to you on the bottom half when viewing the back, it is more visible to you than is the blue. Because it is more visible—dominant—on the back, it cannot be, at the same time, the dominant color on the front.

No matter how you choose to hold your yarns, one in each hand, both in the right hand, or between your toes as I do, the above rules apply. Try a swatch as I did. Try knitting with the yarns in one position and then switching them. Take note of the color that has to travel to float around the color that lies closer to the work. The one that has to travel to float around the close color is not the color that will dominate on the front of your swatch, but it is the color that will be most evident on the back.

Try knitting this chart with two, highly-contrasting colors and DPNs so that you are working in-the-round. You will cut the swatch open when you complete it:

