

Brick by Brick Socks

by Fishhead Creations



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When reading the Six of Crows duology, I'm always torn between wanting to be with Kaz Brekker or plainly *be* Kaz Brekker. Usually, the latter wins out, as I've always been drawn to the misfits, the odd one out, the morally grey antiheroes. Inspired by the many brick buildings and decorative patterns that can be found around the area I live in, these socks illustrate Kez's motto: brick by brick he is going to bring down his enemies. And brick by brick these socks will fly off your needles.

Materials

- approx. 60g of MC yarn (grey)
- approx. 35g of CC yarn (white)
- 2.5mm DPNs or needles for magic loop or size required to get gauge
- 2mm DPNs or needles for magic loop or size required to get gauge
- tapestry needle

The pattern is written for knitting on a set of five DPNs, but can easily be adjusted to your favourite style of knitting socks.

Gauge

36 stitches/10cm in stockinette on smaller needles

This will result in a very dense fabric. If you have knit socks before, feel free to adjust the gauge. The four sizes use 56, 64, 72 and 80 stitches in the stockinette part, so choose your size based on that number and your preferred stitch count for vanilla socks.

Size

Sizes 1 (2, 3, 4) with a stitch count of 48 (60, 72, 84). The foot circumference at the suggested gauge is 13.5cm (16.5cm, 20cm, 23cm). Length can easily adjusted.

Yarn

Any regular fingering weight sock yarn in solid or semisolid colours will work well. Using variegated or even speckled yarns might also lead to interesting results, but keep the contrast to the between the colours used next to each other high enough.

Techniques

To knit these socks, you need the following skills:

- longtail cast-on
- knit
- purl

- knit in the round with two colours, stranding
- increasing and decreasing stitches
- picking up stitches (for the heel flap)
- grafting/kitchener stitch

If you are unfamiliar with any of these techniques please head to YouTube. There are many very helpful tutorials on these things to suit several knitting styles. In general you should be fine if you have basic sock knitting experience or basic colourwork experience. These are good first colourwork socks!

Abbreviations

- k = knit
- p = purl
- m1 = make one stitch by lifting the bar between the stitches onto your left hand needle and knitting it twisted to avoid a hole forming
- sl1 = slip one stitch purlwise
- RS/WS = right side/wrong side
- k2tog = knit two stitches together
- ssk = slip, slip, knit, i.e. individually slip the next two stitches purlwise, insert the left hand needle into them again and knit them together through the back loop
- p2tog = purl two stitches together

Instructions

TIP: To avoid having loads of ends to weave in after finishing the socks, knit them in as you go: Simply knit as if you were catching a float on every other stitch for 10–12 stitches before you need to start the colour or after you are done with it. The pattern has plain rows between the colour changes in most places to make this easy.

Cuff

With smaller needles and MC, cast on 48 (60, 72, 84) stitches and join in the round, careful not to twist the stitches. Knit in 1x1 rib (k1, p1) for 12 (12, 15, 15) rounds. Knit one round.

Leg

Switch to larger needles, join CC and knit from chart, completing it 8 (10, 12, 14) times per round. Knit all rounds a total of five times or until the desired length of the leg is reached. Break CC.

Heel

With MC knit the **heel flap** over the next two needles (i.e. 24 (30, 36, 42) stitches) as follows:

Set-up row 1 (RS): Sl1, knit across, turn work

Set-up row 2 (WS): Sl1 purl across, turn work

Row 1 (RS): *sl1, k1*, repeat between * across, turn work

Row 2 (WS): sl1, purl across, turn work

Repeat these two rows a total of 12 (15, 18, 21) times, which gives you 12 (15, 18, 21) slipped stitches along the edge of the heel flap. **Turn the heel** as follows:

Row 1: sl1, 14 (17, 20, 23), ssk, k1, turn work

Row 2: sl1, p7, p2tog, p1, turn work

Row 3: sl1, knit to one stitch before gap, ssk, k1, turn work

Row 4: sl1, purl to one stitch before gap, p2tog, p1, turn work

Your ssk and p2tog should always work the stitches on either side of the gap together. Repeat rows 3 and 4 until all stitches have been worked (18 (20, 22, 24) heel stitches remain). K9 (10, 11, 12) – this is the middle of the heel/sole and the **new beginning of the round**. Needles 1–4 are counted from here. Rejoin second colour as indicated by the pattern.

Note: For sizes 2 and 4, the last decreases will be worked differently: Row 3: sl1, knit to one stitch before gap, ssk, turn work

Row 4: sl1, purl to one stitch before gap, p2tog, turn work

Knit 7 (10, 11, 12) according to the established pattern, making sure to align them to the instep, then pick up 4 (5, 7, 9) stitches along the slip stitch edge of the heel flap in the same pattern. Place marker to indicate gusset stitches. Continue to pick up another 9 (11, 12, 13) stitches along the slipped stitch edge including one to close the gap between the needles while alternating colours to establish the striped gusset.

Knit across 28 (32, 36, 40) instep stitches in the established pattern.

Pick up one stitch to close the gap and continue to pick up stitches along the slip stitch edge for a total of 9 (11, 12, 13), alternating colours to establish the gusset on the second side. Place marker to indicate gusset stitches. Pick up 4 (5, 7, 9) stitches in the established leg pattern, making sure to match the instep. Knit K9 (10, 11, 12) in the established pattern.

You now have 12 (15, 18, 21) on needles 2 and 3, 21 (26, 30, 34) on needles 1 and 4.

Note: When picking up on a plain coloured row of the chart, the striping pattern will be established on the next round.

Note: If working on magic loop, arrange the stitches as follows: Place those that would be needle 1 and 2 on one needle, with a marker after 23 (26, 30, 33) stitches, place those that would be needle 3 and 4 on the second needle, with a marker after 12 (15, 18, 21)

stitches. The markers will help you keep track of where the gusset and toe decreases need to happen, as they are in the places where the next needle would start on DPNs.

TIP: For a neater transition, knit the last stitch of needle 1 and the first stitch of needle 4 in MC throughout the foot.

Gusset

Continue to knit according to the design specific instructions and maintain the gusset stripes while decreasing as follows:

Round 1: Knit to 2 stitches before the end of needle 1, k2tog. Knit across needles 2+3 in established pattern. Ssk, knit to end of needle 4/round

Round 2: Knit across

Repeat these two round until 12 (15, 18, 21) stitches per needle remain (48 (60, 72, 84) stitches total).

Note: For continuous gusset stripes across the plain coloured rounds, slip the stitches knitted with the contrast colour instead of knitting them on these rounds.

Foot

Decrease the striped gusset until you are back to the initial stitch count while continuing to knit from the chart until the foot measures 3 (4, 5, 6) cm less than the desired full length. Break CC. Switch to smaller needles.

Toe

With MC only, decrease for the toe as follows:

Round 1: Knit to 3 stitches before the end of n1, k2tog, k2, ssk. Knit to 3 stitches before the end of n3, k2tog, k2, ssk. Knit to end of round. Round 2: Knit

Complete both rounds a total of 5 (7, 9, 11) times (9 stitches per needle remain). Repeat Round 1 another 3 times (6 stitches per needle remain). Graft toe closed using kitchener stitch. Weave in ends.

Finishing

Graft the toes using Kitchener stitch. Weave in all ends. Soak in lukewarm water with a mild wool wash for twenty minutes. Press dry by rolling it up in a towel. Lay flat to dry or put on a sock blocker. Enjoy!

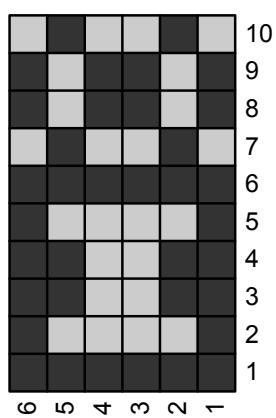
Charts

Legend

 MC

 CC

Chart A



Inverted Charts

If your main and contrast colour do not match the above chart in terms of brightness, use these inverted charts instead to make it easier to follow.

Legend

 MC

 CC

Chart A

