

# Fraternal Twins.<sup>©</sup>

## Not-Quite-Look-Alike Socks

Deborah Tomasello



*Calling all sock scraps! They say necessity is the mother of invention. Need a way to use all those great left-over sock yarns? This is the pattern for you. I am including several motif options from which you can choose to design your unique pair of almost--but not quite--matching socks. I provide some rules by way of guidance. Beyond that, you're on your own. This is the featured pattern used in the February 2019 MKAL in our Colorworks By Debi Ravelry Group. Because the socks are stranded, you achieve double the warmth of a single strand of yarn without any bulk. I have included important information on color dominance.*

**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 x-small, #2 needle for small. For a women's medium/large and men's small/med, use a #3 or #4 needle.) Pattern socks used #3 DPNs, for a woman's medium/large. CO 64 or 72 sts, depending on desired size. Great size flexibility here.

**Men:** Use needle size that is required to achieve the size you need. Leg and foot length can be worked to desired lengths. CO 72 sts, rather than 64.

**MATERIALS:** Calling all sock yarn scraps! Be sure each has some nylon in it.

Five #1, or #2 or #3 DPNs (or size needed to obtain desired size)

Tapestry needle

**GAUGE:** 8 sts = approx. 1 inch using #3 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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## A few “rules.”

- The motifs you choose from the chart options below will be used in the same position on both socks. Only colors are varied according to what you have by way of left-over yarns.
- Each motif is separated by working one knit round and three purl rounds, using a contrasting color.
- Background and design yarns should be highly contrasting solids. Avoid variegated yarns.
- Vary the number of repeat rounds per motif, but do the same number on both socks. The only thing that varies sock to sock is color.
- Work as many rounds and motifs to make your leg as long as you want it (approx. 55-60 rounds is good).

### SOCKS: Make 2

**Instructions:** Socks are worked top-down. Using *colors of choice*, CO **64** or **72** sts, split evenly among 4 DPNs, using needle size that suits your needs. (Join to work in round, placing marker and being careful not to twist stitches if using a circular needle.) Knit **18** rounds 2x2 rib. Different cuff colors can be used on each sock.

\*\*\*\*\*On the chart, sts on the right are at the center back of the sock.

**LEG:** (Instructions are given for Woman/Teen. 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 x-small, however, use #1 DPNs throughout.) Switch to larger needles for leg and foot, if desired.

Choose motif, use highly contrasting colors, decide which will be design color and which will be background. Proceed to knit first motif. Before starting next motif, attach contrasting color and knit 1 round followed by 3 purl rounds. Now attach two different and contrasting colors to work next motif of choice for as many rounds as you want. Proceed this way, separating motifs with contrasting rounds (1knit and 3 purl) as above until leg is as long as you want. (Between 50-60 rounds, usually).

**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. 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 *contrasting solid*.

**For the 64-st sock, work as follows:** Work three wedges on the **32** sts on needles 1 and 4. Work wedges leaving **7 or 8** stitch pairs on each side (**4** heel sts left unpaired between pairs—depending on how you want the heel to fit). Knit across the instep stitches between wedges. Follow the chart for the instep stitches (the sts you have on needles **2** and **3**, which for this pattern are just knit in heel color). After working the first half of wedge **1**, work across the instep per round **50** of the chart. (or whatever number corresponds to the round following your last leg round). Then work one round even before starting second wedge. The instep of the **2<sup>nd</sup>** wedge will use the appropriate part of round **52**, and the instep of the **3<sup>rd</sup>** wedge will use the appropriate part of round **54**. 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.

**For the 72-st sock, work as follows:** Work three wedges on the **36** sts on needles 1 and 4. Work wedges leaving **8** stitch pairs on each side (**4** heel sts left unpaired between pairs—depending on how you want the heel to fit). Knit across the instep stitches between wedges. Follow the chart for the instep stitches (the sts you have on needles **2** and **3**, which for this pattern are just knit in heel color). After working the first half of wedge **1**, work across the instep per round **50** of the chart. (or whatever number corresponds to the round following your last leg round). Then work one round even before starting second wedge. The instep of the **2<sup>nd</sup>** wedge will use the appropriate part of round **52**, and the instep of the **3<sup>rd</sup>** wedge will use the appropriate part of round **54**. 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 until you have the desired foot length (between 50 and 55 rounds). **To avoid discomfort when walking, it might be a good idea to not use several motifs on the foot, but to choose one and work the entire foot that way. Do NOT purl rounds to separate motifs on foot. Again, this is for comfort. If you want to repeat leg motifs on foot and you want to separate them similarly, work all 4 rounds as knit sts—no purls.**

**NOTE:** In order to keep the pattern on the top of the foot portion symmetrical, the last stitch on needle 1 will not be part of the sole design for some motif choices, as with the cover socks, but it will contain top-of-foot-design stitches, and will actually be part worked as top of the sock, rather than the sole. Your motif choices might not dictate the need for this.

**TOE:** Using a single strand of *contrasting color*, 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

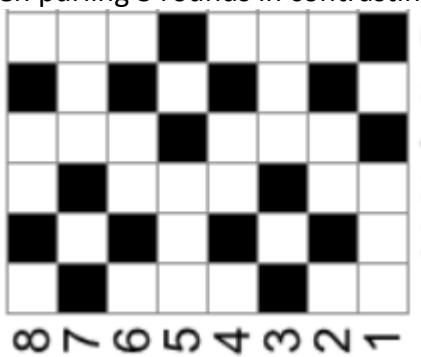
Needle 4: K1, K2TOG, knit remaining sts.

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.

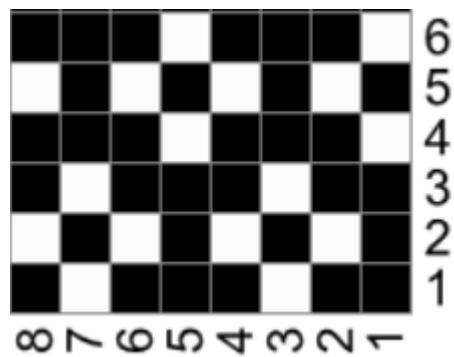
Graft the remaining stitches together using Kitchener st. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7i5JwEReW0>

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

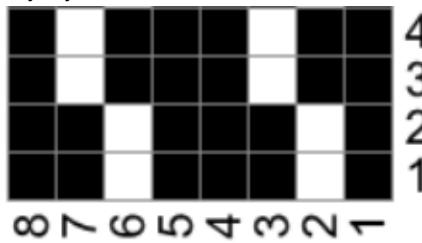
**CHARTS:** All can be used with either 64-st socks or 72-st socks. Do one or two round repeats. For example, the first chart uses 6 rounds. You can choose to work it once or twice through for 12 rounds of this motif. Whichever you choose, do the same thing on both socks, changing colors only. Remember to separate motifs by knitting one round and then purling 3 rounds in contrasting color.



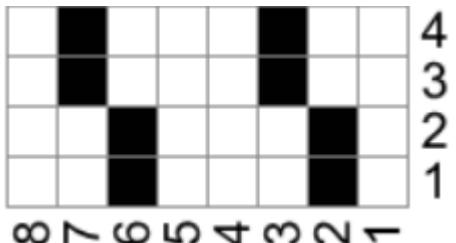
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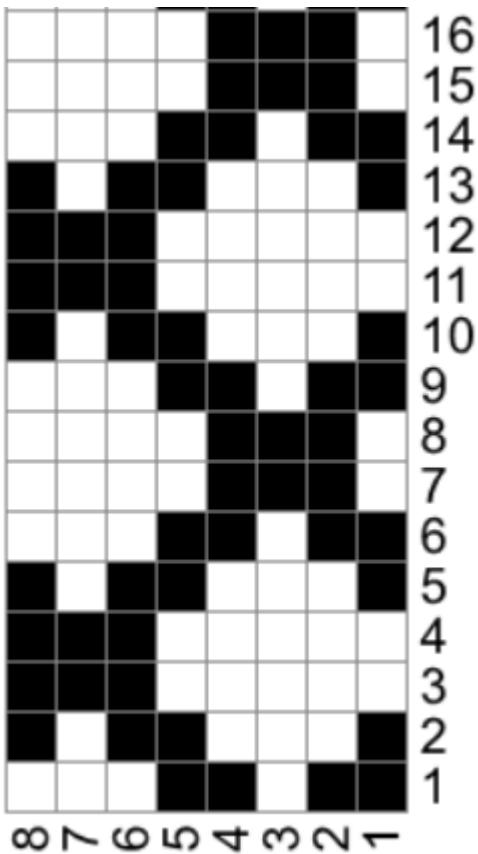
**Work either 4, 6, 8, or 10 rounds:**



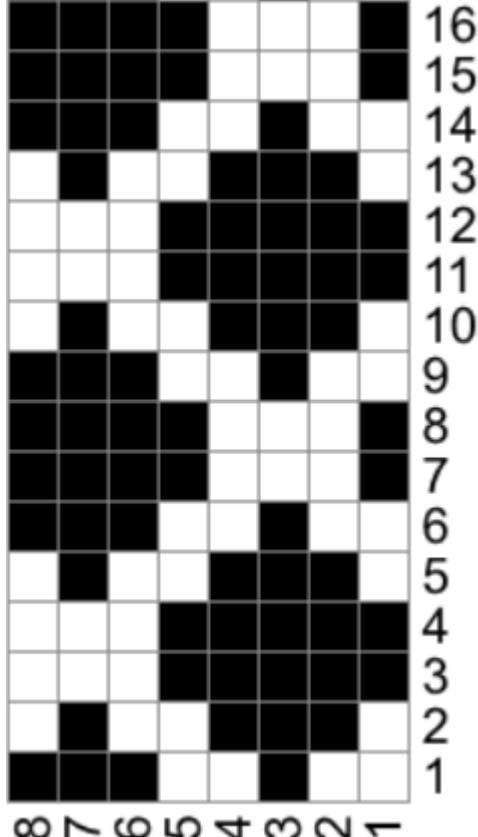
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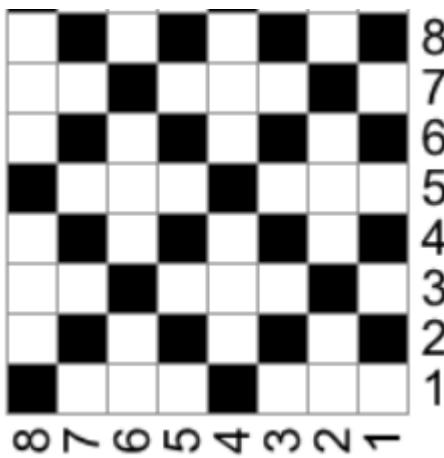
**Work either 8 or 16 rounds:**



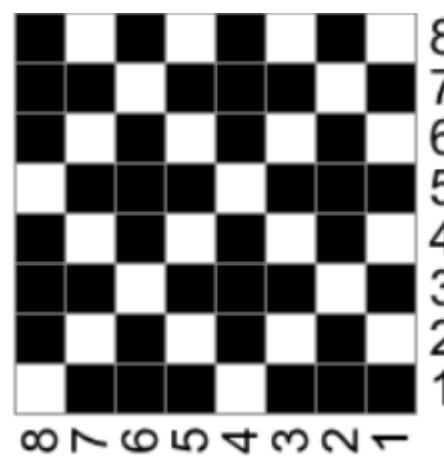
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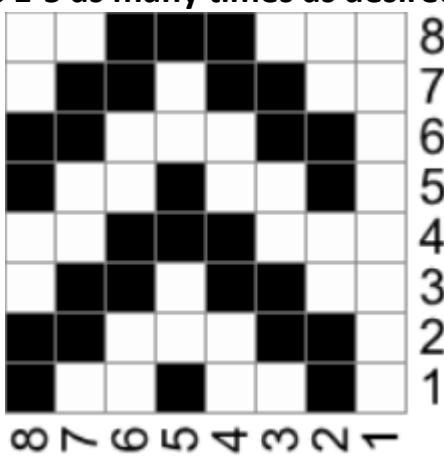
**Work either 4, 8, or 12 rounds:**



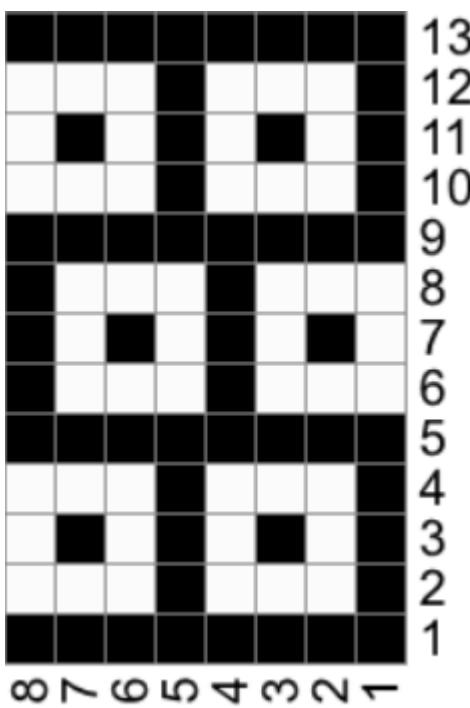
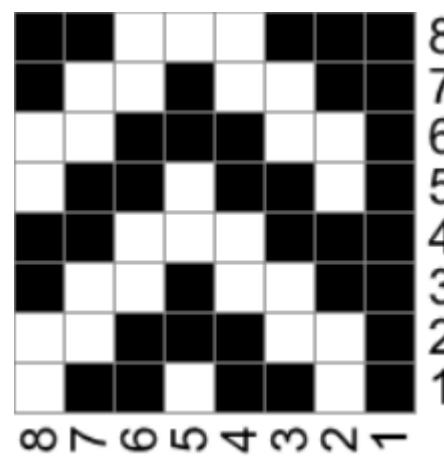
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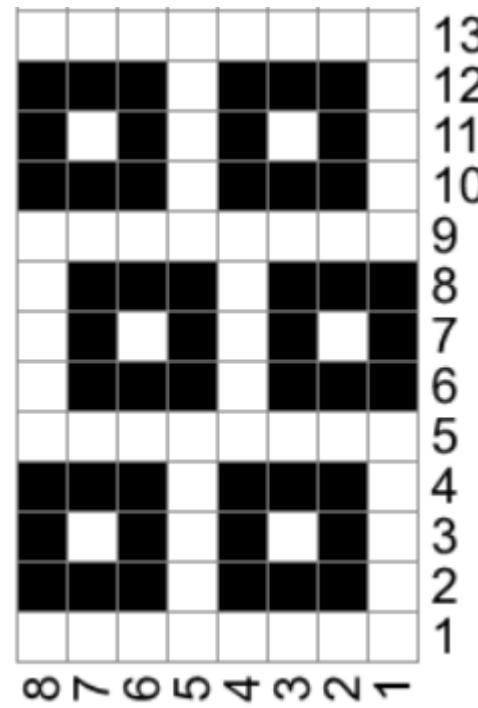
Work rounds 1-5 as many times as desired:



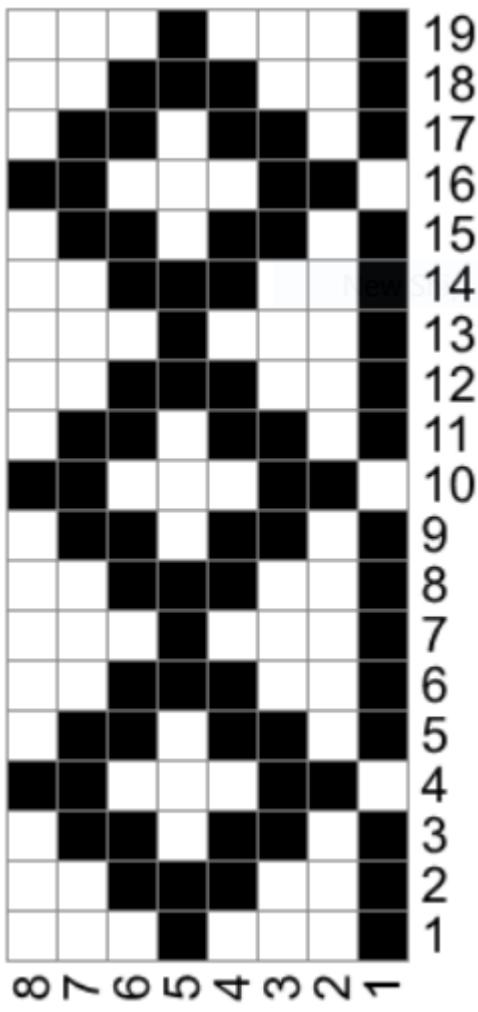
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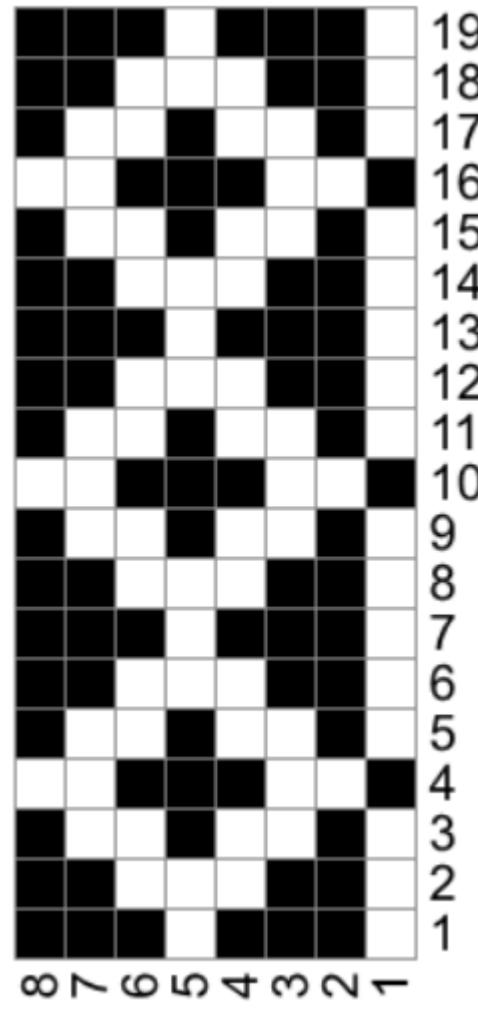
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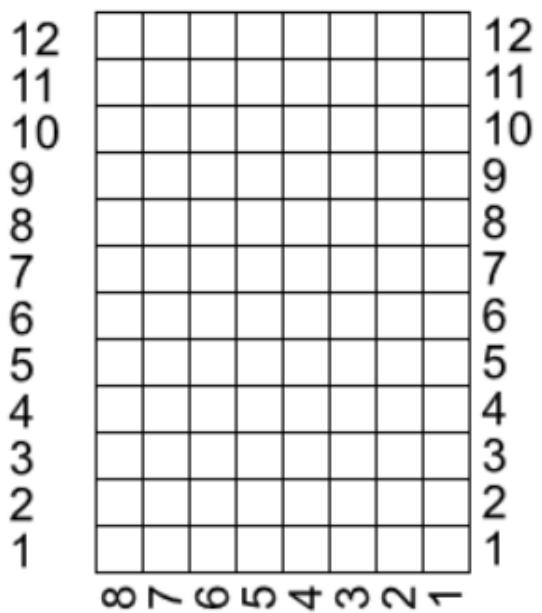
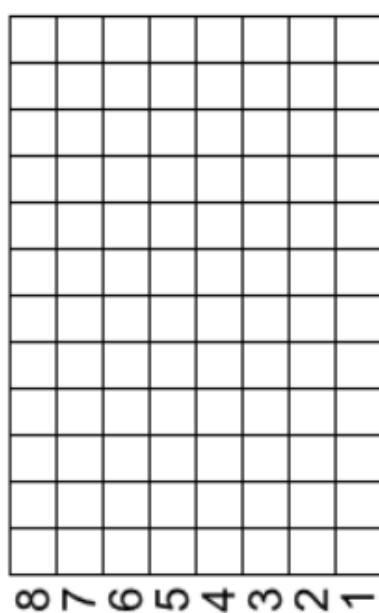
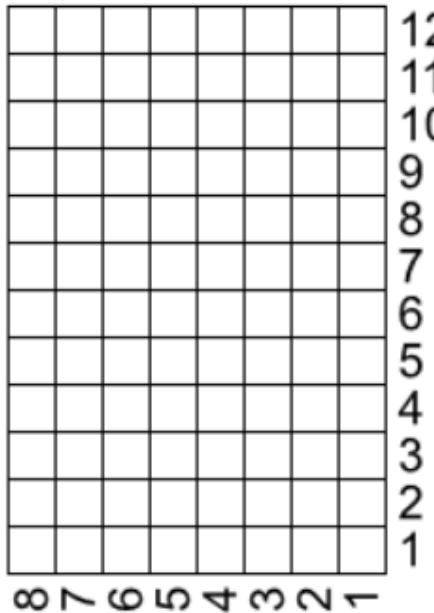
Work either 7, 13, or 19 rounds:



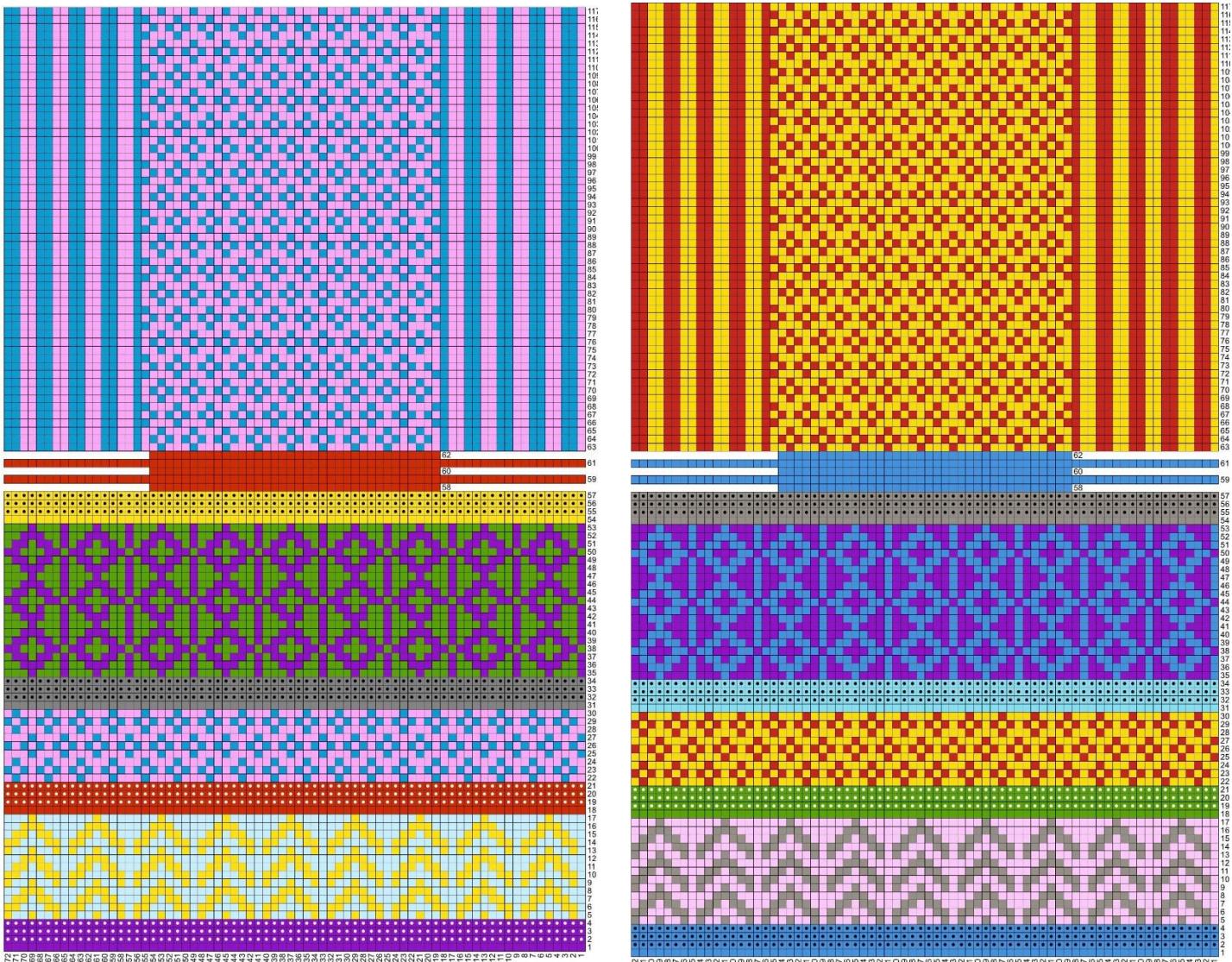
or



Use any combination of the motifs above or make up your own.



Sample charts, followed (mostly) for cover socks. (Heel on right sock was worked in green, not blue.)



Below, I have included blank charts for both 64-st and 72-st socks. You may knit more or fewer rounds on leg and foot portions to suit your needs. The charts reflect average lengths for each. It might be a good idea to print extra copies before you draw in the boxes for future use.



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## 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:

