

LAMPROPELTIS

BY NATALIA VASILIEVA



SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

TECHNIQUES USED: FOLLOWING CHARTS, PROVISIONAL CAST-ON (ANY METHOD), SLIP-STITCH KNITTING IN THREE COLORS, FORETHOUGHT (STAR) HEEL, STAR TOE, TRICORNER TRICK.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Sock length: 9 {9¾} in. (23 {25} cm), to fit foot length 9¾ {10¾} in. (25 {27} cm), adjustable.

Sock circumference: 7 {8¼} in. (17.5 {21} cm), to fit foot circumference 8 {9} in. (20 {23} cm).

Leg length: 6 in. (15 cm) above heel, adjustable.

The sample socks are shown in the bigger size.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- **Schachenmayr Regia 4-fädig Color** (75% wool, 25% nylon; 230 yd. (210 m) per 50 g):
 - 1 skein in #01933 (tonal dark gray) as MC (“dark”)
- **Zwerger Garn Opal Uni Solid 4 ply** (75% wool, 25% nylon; 465 yd. (425 m) per 100 g):
 - 1 skein in #3081 Natur as CC1 (“light”)

About 1/2 of the skein will be used.

- **Lang Yarns Jawoll Superwash** (75% wool, 25% nylon; 230 yd. (210 m) per 50 g):
 - 1 skein in #83.0228 Apricot as CC2 (“bright”)
- **Needles US 1 (2.25 mm)** or size to get the gauge.
- Crochet hook, any size
- Spare dpn, any size (optional)
- Waste yarn
- Stitch markers (optional, preferably locking type)
- Blunt sewing needle

GAUGE

2x2 repeats of **Leg Chart**: 24 sts x 72 rows = 2¾ x 3½ in. (7 x 9 cm).

Slip-stitch stockinette in stripes: 18 sts x 34 rows = 2 x 2 in. (5 x 5 cm).

Stockinette in stripes: 8 sts x 13 rows = 1 x 1 in. (2.5 x 2.5 cm).

PATTERN NOTES

The socks are worked from the cuff down with the beginning of the round (BOR) at the inner side of leg. You may employ any technique of working in the round preserving BOR position.

The sock starts with a twisted ribbing cuff in 3 colors that flows into a slip-stitch pattern of diamonds and striped bands inspired by the vivid exterior of kingsnakes and milk snakes. A space for a forethought heel is reserved, then the foot continues with a patterned instep and a striped sole, and ends with a striped Star toe. Lastly, the striped heel is worked in the same way as the Star toe.

STITCH PATTERN NOTES

Usually, if a creature is brightly colored, it may be dangerous. Kingsnakes and milk snakes imitate the look of quite venomous coral snake, but actually are not poisonous.

The stitch pattern may look intimidating, but you will always work with only one color at a time, and cleverly placed tucks force the otherwise ordinary stripes to slant in multiple directions.

Since tuck stitch patterns tend to pull the rows in vertically, the sole is worked in slip-stitch stockinette to mitigate the difference in height.

DESIGNER'S INTENT NOTE

The color scheme calls for one dark, one light, and one bright color for this pattern. It is okay to use a not-so-bright third color as well since some snakes of the family that gave inspiration for these socks seem pretty modest.

Recommended colorways: solid, semi-solid, tonal, gradient; with good contrast between light and dark. You may use a variegated colorway as the bright color, preferably without color overlap with the dark color, as this may make your life unnecessarily more difficult. Self-striping yarns with crisp color changes are NOT recommended: use at your own risk. Fraternal socks are always welcome.

DIRECTIONS

CUFF

With waste yarn, provisionally cast on 60 {72} sts – crocheted cast-on around the needle is recommended as it is the easiest one to undo later.

Introduce MC and knit 1 row. Join in the round being careful not to twist the stitches.

Now proceed to twisted-stitch ribbing as follows: (*) k1 tbl, p1, repeat from (*), and work for 15 rounds or until desired height of cuff, changing colors as follows:

Rounds 1-2: CC1.

Round 3: MC.

Rounds 4-5: CC2.

Round 6: MC.

Repeat these 6 rounds for color sequence, twisting the yarns at the color change, ending the cuff with Round 3 or Round 6. This color sequence should be kept throughout the whole sock.

***Hint:** When changing for MC, wrap it around both CC's thus pulling them close to WS, and make sure you keep the floats of unused yarns reasonably stretchy.*

Sample socks have a 19-rounds cuff (1 set-up round plus 3 repeats of color sequence).

You may undo the waste yarn now. (No, your cast-on won't unravel. Promise.)

LEG

Proceed to the corresponding *Leg Chart*: if you stopped after Round 6 (i.e. your last used CC yarn is CC2), then follow *Leg Chart 1*; if you stopped after Round 3 (i.e. your last used CC yarn is CC1), then follow *Leg Chart 2*. Work the applicable *Leg Chart* 5 {6} times around.

NOTE ON TUCK STITCHES

Tuck stitch is a 2-row affair, and some knitters reported it was easier for them to work it as follows:

On MC round: slip 1 with yarn at back knitwise, insert the right needle under both CC strands from RS to WS, grab the working yarn and pull it to RS thus creating a new stitch = 1 st added for each tuck stitch.

On the next CC round: make a left-slanting decrease out of 2 MC stitches (this replaces 'k1 below').

Repeat Rows 1-36 2.5 times total (= 90 rounds ending with Row 18), or until desired height of leg ending with any MC row: Row 18 or Row 36 is recommended for the best looking heel transition. Note the following directions and charts are arranged for 90-rounds leg, so if you stop after Row 36 (or any other place of your choice), please adjust accordingly. *Hint: If in the forthcoming sections you won't be able to perform a proper 'tuck stitch' or proper 'k1 below' as described in the key to charts, simply knit the offending stitch instead (known cases are highlighted in yellow).*

HEEL PLACEMENT

Next round: With the appropriate CC, work in pattern as set (= Row 19).

<u>LEFT SOCK</u>	<u>RIGHT SOCK</u>
Next round: With the same CC, work the next 29 {35} sts in pattern as set for the instep (= <u>Row 20</u>). Using waste yarn, bind off the next 31 {37} sts. Using another length of waste yarn, provisionally cast on 31 {37} sts onto the left needle or a spare dpn, then knit them with the same CC.	Next round: Slip the last stitch of previous round back to left needle. Remove the BOR marker if you use one. Using waste yarn, bind off the next 31 {37} sts. Using another length of waste yarn, provisionally cast on 31 {37} sts onto the left needle or a spare dpn, slip first stitch, place the BOR marker, knit the next 30 {36} sts with the same CC. Work the next 29 {35} sts in pattern as set for the instep (= <u>Row 20</u>). Knit the last stitch – you should be at the BOR marker again.

FOOT

Continue working in the round, keeping the instep in pattern as set and the sole in striped slip-stitch stockinette, and maintaining your color sequence – see corresponding *Foot Chart* depending on the size and the sock you're making:

LEFT SOCK (60-STs)	RIGHT SOCK (60-STs)
<u>Instep:</u> Work the 12-sts Instep repeat 2 times, work the next 6 sts once.	<u>Sole:</u> Work the first 4 sts once, work the 2-sts Sole repeat 10 times, work the next 6 sts once.
<u>Sole:</u> Work the next 4 sts once, work the 2-sts Sole repeat 10 times, then work the last 6 sts once.	<u>Instep:</u> Work the next 6 sts once, work the 12-sts Instep repeat 2 times.

LEFT SOCK (72-STs)	RIGHT SOCK (72-STs)
<u>Instep:</u> Work the 12-sts Instep repeat 3 times.	<u>Sole:</u> Work the first 4 sts once, work the 2-sts Sole repeat 13 times, work the next 6 sts once.
<u>Sole:</u> Work the next 4 sts once, work the 2-sts Sole repeat 13 times, work the last 6 sts once.	<u>Instep:</u> Work the 12-sts Instep repeat 3 times.

Please note that the instep patterning extends onto the sole, and the CC stripes of the sole are worked in a slip-stitch pattern to keep the sole from being significantly longer than the instep.

Work in this manner until the desired length of the foot minus the estimated length of the toe, which is 24 rows in striped stockinette. Unfortunately, at this moment you have zero point of reference for that in the sock on the needles, so you have 2 options now:

- Complete the heel first, using the other ends of your skeins; or
- Measure along 12 rounds of the ribbed cuff and multiply by 2 (and hope for the best).

Try to complete the foot with any **MC** round: Row 3 or Row 21 is recommended for the best looking toe transition. If that is slightly shorter than your desired foot length, work additional number of rounds after **Toe Transition round** (and before beginning the toe decreases), maintaining your color sequence. (See *Tip* in the **Toe** section below.)

The sample socks in the bigger size have 3 repeats of *Foot Chart* (= 110 rounds ending with Row 3).

TOE

Toe Transition round: With the appropriate CC, knit around, working k1 belows on the instep to complete the tucks of previous round as needed.

Next round: With the same CC, (*) k6, place marker on the stitch just worked, k6, repeat from (*) 5 {6} times total = 5 {6} markers spaced around, 11 sts between the marked stitches.

The marked stitches on the instep should line up with the central stitches of the diamonds.

***Tip:** If you need to add some length to the foot, do it here maintaining the color sequence. Your last added round should be the second CC round.*

Decrease round 1 (MC): (*) Knit to the marked stitch, k2tog, repeat from (*) 5 {6} times total, knit to the end of the round = 5 {6} sts decreased. ***Note:** For the 60-sts sock you may need to borrow the stitch from the adjacent needle to perform the decrease at the side of leg.*

***Hint:** The marked stitches always end up at the 'bottom' of the decreases, for k2togs and ssks alike.*

Next 2 rounds: With the appropriate CC, knit.

Decrease round 2 (MC): (*) Knit to 1 stitch before the marked stitch, ssk, repeat from (*) 5 {6} times total, knit to the end of the round = 5 {6} sts decreased. ***Note:** For the 60-sts sock you may need to borrow the stitch from the adjacent needle to perform the decrease at the side of leg.*

Next 2 rounds: With the appropriate CC, knit.

Work **Decrease round 1** with the following 2 plain rounds once more = 45 {54} sts.

For the next 10 rounds proceed as follows, while maintaining the color sequence:

Work **Decrease round 2** with only 1 plain round following = 40 {48} sts.

Work **Decrease round 1** with only 1 plain round following = 35 {42} sts.

Work **Decrease round 2** with only 1 plain round following = 30 {36} sts.

Work **Decrease round 1** with only 1 plain round following = 25 {30} sts.

Work **Decrease round 2** with only 1 plain round following = 20 {24} sts.

Work **Decrease round 1, Decrease round 2, Decrease round 1** = 5 {6} sts. You should end with a MC round.

Cut the yarns leaving tails 4-8 in. (10-20 cm) long, pull MC tail through the remaining stitches and draw tight.

HEEL

Undo the waste yarn bind-off, collecting the live stitches as you release them = 31 {37} sts at the back of leg side. Undo the provisional cast-on, collecting the live loops as you release them = 32 {38} sts at the sole side.

Heel Transition round: Holding the sock with the sole side facing, knit 32 {38} sole stitches with the appropriate CC working the first and last half-stitches through the back loop to prevent holes; pick up the left leg of the same colored CC stitch in the corner and knit it through the back loop, work the next 31 {37} back of leg stitches in pattern as set (*Hint: These stitches complement the instep half of Row 20 worked during Heel placement*):

LEFT SOCK	RIGHT SOCK
starting from stitch #6 {12} of <u>Row 20</u> of <i>Leg Chart</i> .	starting from stitch #12 of <u>Row 20</u> of <i>Leg Chart</i> .

Finally, pick up the right leg of the same colored CC stitch in the corner and knit it through the back loop = 33 {39} back of leg stitches.

Next round (MC): *Sole:* Knit. *Back of leg:* K1, work the next 31 {37} sts in pattern as set above (= Row 21 of *Leg Chart*), k1.

Next round: Introduce another CC, knit around working k1 belows at the back of leg side to complete tucks of previous round as needed.

Next round: With the same CC, depending on the size and the sock you're making:

LEFT SOCK (65-STs HEEL)	RIGHT SOCK (65-STs HEEL)
k6, place marker on the stitch just worked, [k14, place marker] 2 times, [k12, place marker] 2 times, k7 = 5 markers spaced around.	k12, place marker on the stitch just worked, [k14, place marker] 2 times, [k12, place marker] 2 times, k1 = 5 markers spaced around.

BOTH SOCKS (77-STs HEEL)
(*) [k8, place marker on the stitch just worked, k4] 3 times, k2, repeat from (*) once more, k1 = 6 markers spaced around.

***Hint:** The marked stitches at the back of leg side should line up with the central stitches of the diamonds.*

Decrease round 1 (MC): (*) Knit to the marked stitch, k2tog, repeat from (*) 5 {6} times total, knit to the end of the round = 5 {6} sts decreased. ***Note:** For the 60-sts sock you may need to borrow the stitch from the adjacent needle to perform the decrease at the side of leg.*

***Hint:** The marked stitches always end up at the 'bottom' of the decreases, for k2togs and ssks alike.*

Next 2 rounds: With the appropriate CC, knit.

Decrease round 2 (MC): (*) Knit to 1 stitch before the marked stitch, ssk, repeat from (*) 5 {6} times total, knit to the end of the round = 5 {6} sts decreased. ***Note:** For the 60-sts sock you may need to borrow the stitch from the adjacent needle to perform the decrease at the side of leg.*

Next 2 rounds: With the appropriate CC, knit.

Repeat these 6 rounds 3 times more, then work **Decrease round 1 (MC)** once = 10+10 {11+12} sts.

Next half-round: With the appropriate CC, k10 {11} sts, cut the yarn leaving 8-12 in. (20-30 cm) tail and graft the remaining stitches. Cut the other two yarns.

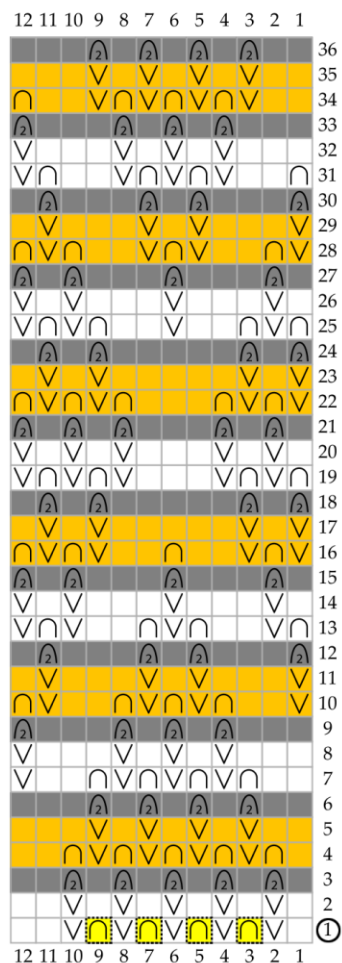
***Hint:** When grafting unequal numbers of stitches, start and end at the side with the bigger number of stitches.*

Finishing

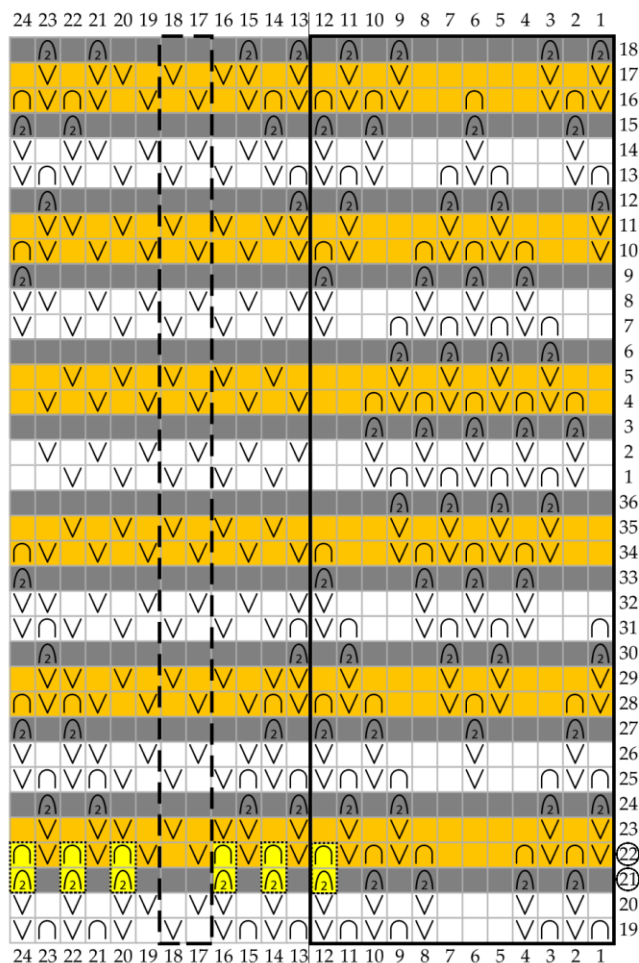
Weave in all the ends. Block if desired.



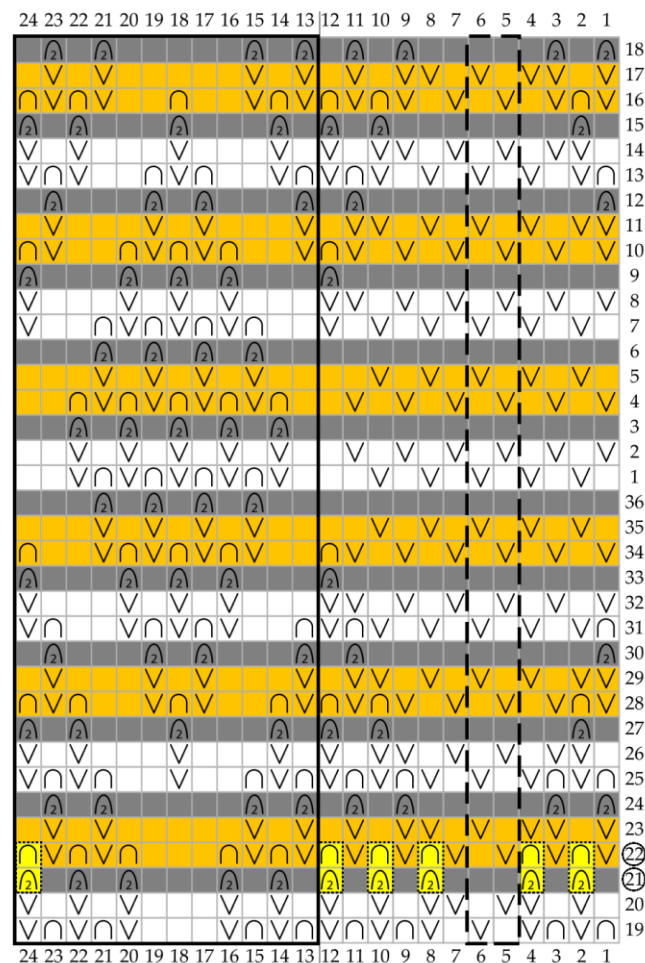
Leg Chart 1



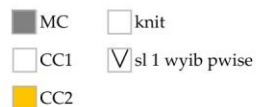
Left Foot Chart 1 (72 sts)



Right Foot Chart 1 (72 sts)



Key



⌋ k1 below: lift the right leg of MC stitch one row below onto left needle and knit it together with the next MC stitch on the needle

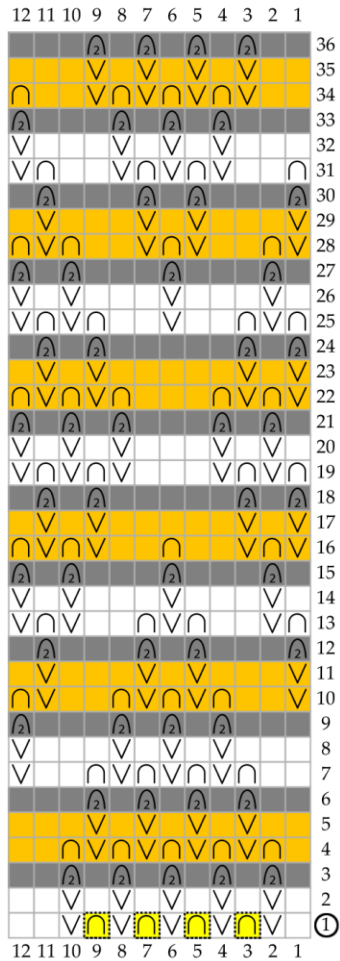
⌋ tuck stitch: sl 1 wyib kwise, insert right needle under both CC strands from RS to WS, grab the working yarn (= k1), psso

if this k1 below or tuck stitch can not be completed: knit

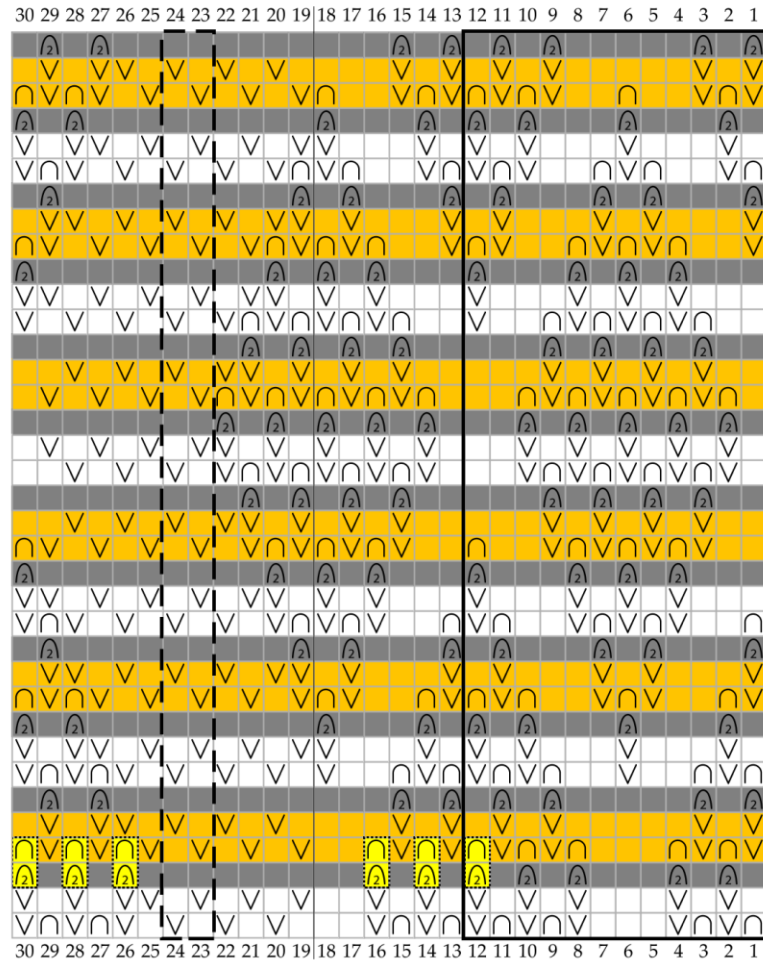
Instep repeat 12-sts

Sole repeat 2-sts

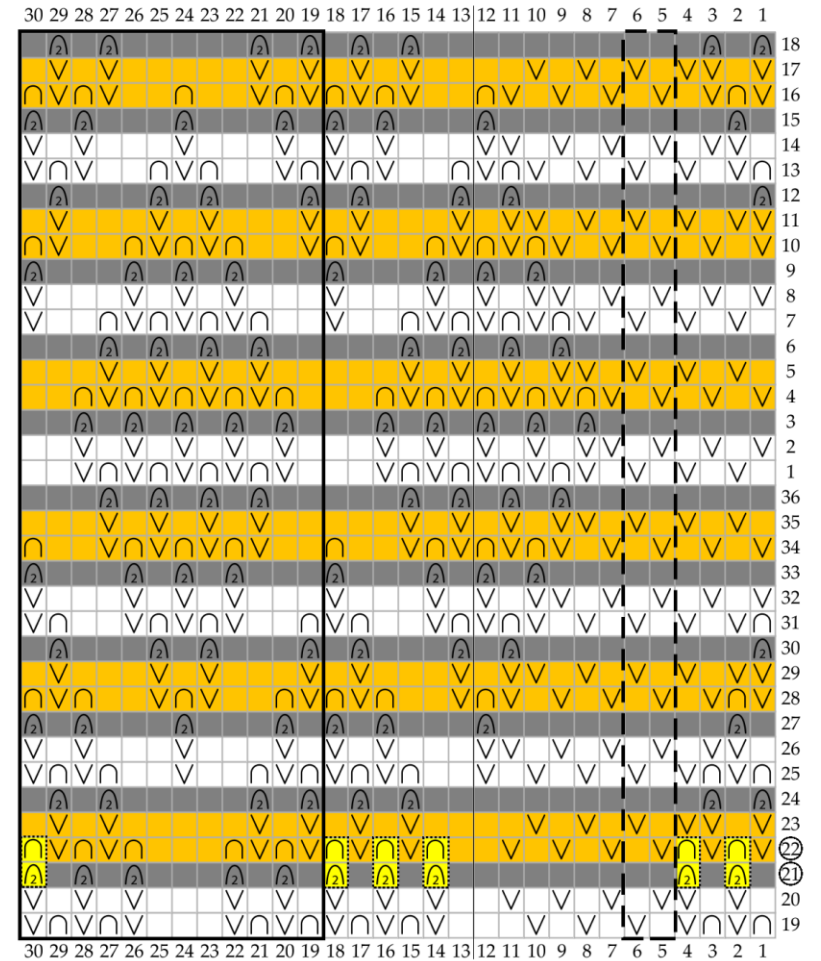
Leg Chart 1



Left Foot Chart 1 (60 sts)



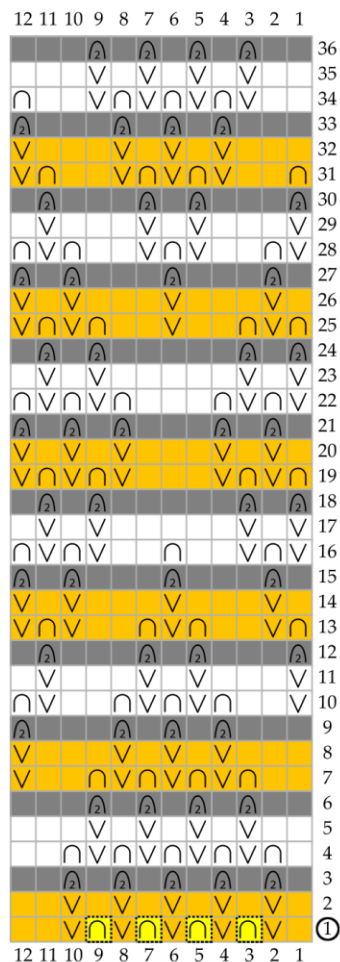
Right Foot Chart 1 (60 sts)



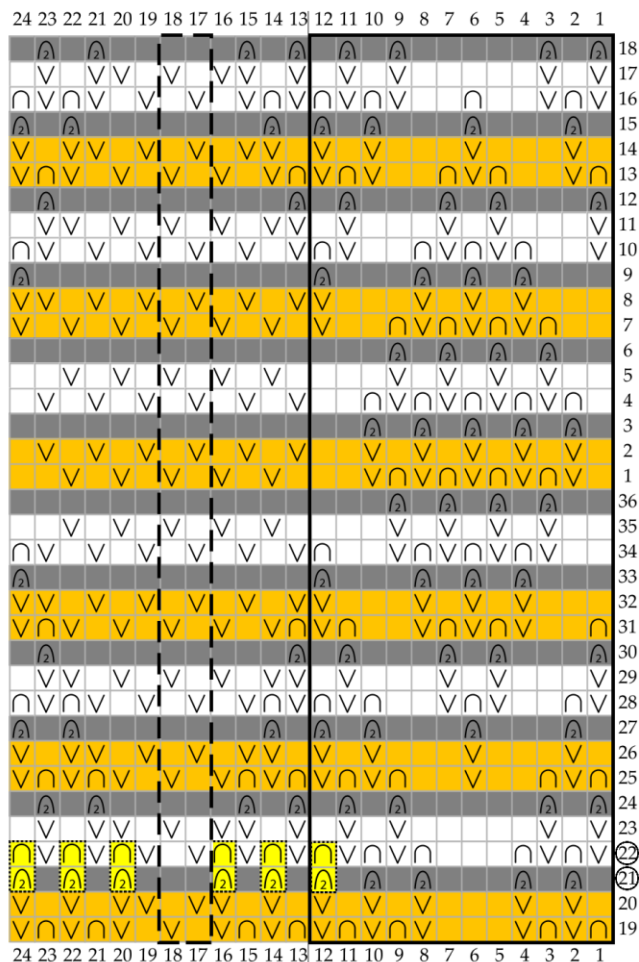
Key

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|--|--|
| MC | knit | k1 below: lift the right leg of MC stitch one row below onto left needle and knit it together with the next MC stitch on the needle | tuck stitch: sl 1 wyib kwise, insert right needle under both CC strands from RS to WS, grab the working yarn (= k1), pssso | if this k1 below or tuck stitch can not be completed: knit |
| CC1 | sl 1 wyib pwise | | | Instep repeat 12-sts |
| CC2 | | | | Sole repeat 2-sts |

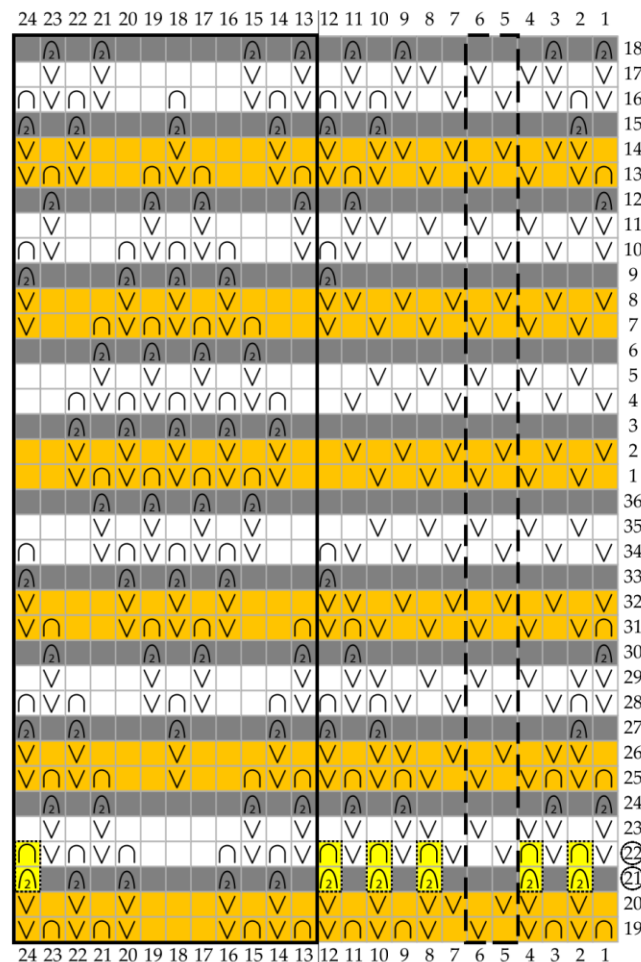
Leg Chart 2



Left Foot Chart 2 (72 sts)



Right Foot Chart 2 (72 sts)



Key

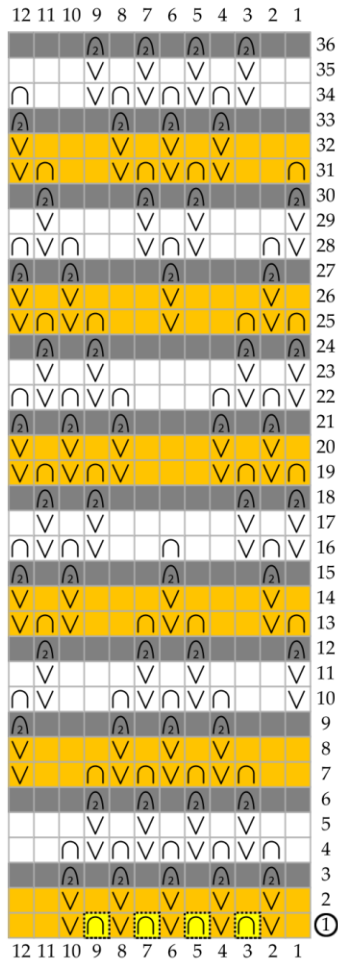
MC
CC1
CC2

k1 below: lift the right leg
of MC stitch one row below
onto left needle and knit it
together with the next MC
stitch on the needle

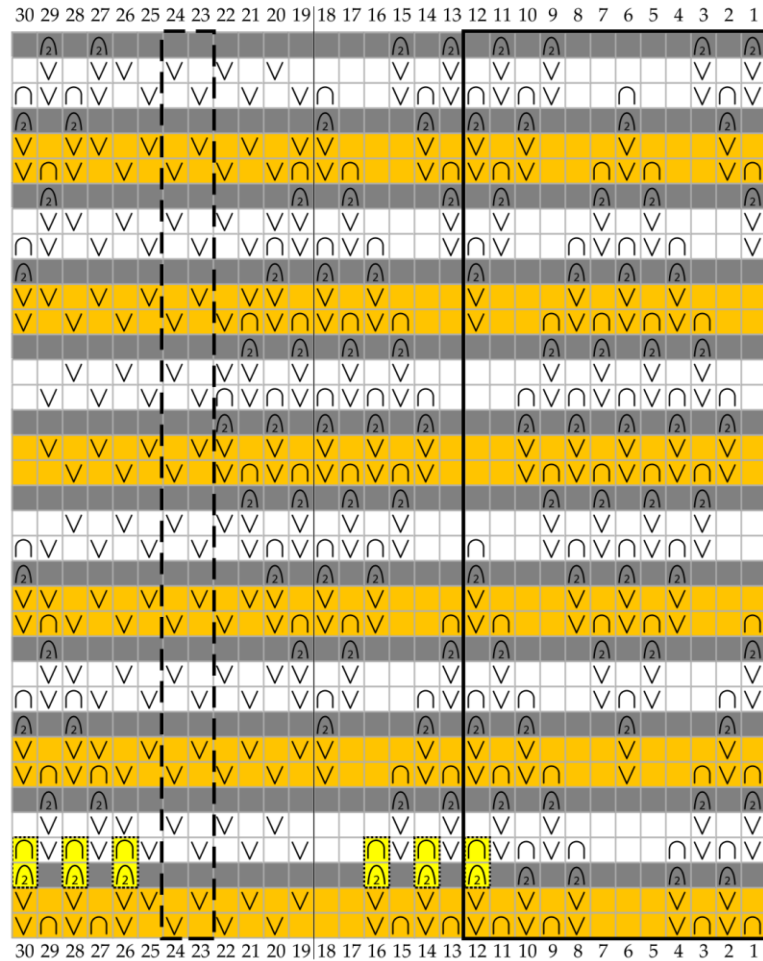
tuck stitch: sl 1 wyib kwise,
insert right needle under
both CC strands from RS
to WS, grab the working
yarn (= k1), psso

if this k1 below
or tuck stitch can not
be completed: knit
Instep repeat 12-sts
Sole repeat 2-sts

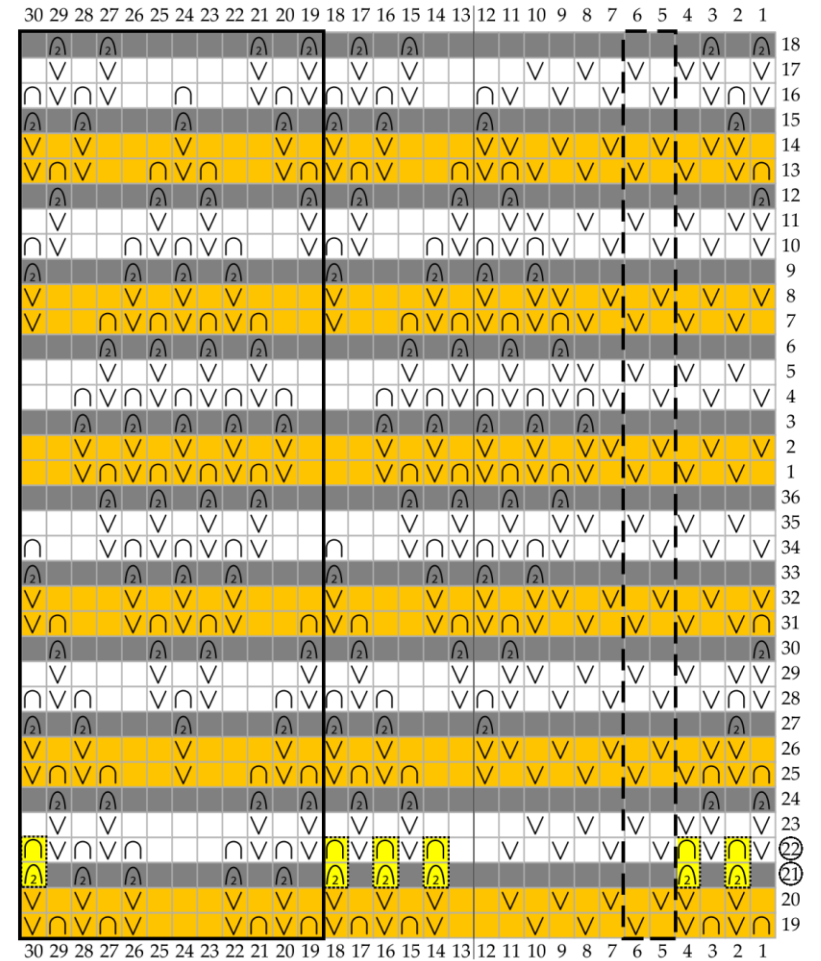
Leg Chart 2



Left Foot Chart 2 (60 sts)



Right Foot Chart 2 (60 sts)



Key

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|--|--|
| MC | knit | k1 below: lift the right leg of MC stitch one row below onto left needle and knit it together with the next MC stitch on the needle | tuck stitch: sl 1 wyib kwise, insert right needle under both CC strands from RS to WS, grab the working yarn (= k1), pso | if this k1 below or tuck stitch can not be completed: knit |
| CC1 | sl 1 wyib pwise | | | Instep repeat 12-sts |
| CC2 | | | | Sole repeat 2-sts |