

# POOLING THE STRINGS

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**SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE**

**TECHNIQUES USED: SINGLE STRIPES IN TWO COLORS, ELASTIC CROCHETED CAST-ON, SHORT-ROWS, SLIP-STITCH KNITTING.**

## FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Sizes: S [M, L]. *Shown in size S.*

Ankle circumference: 18 [20, 22] cm (7.25 [8, 8.75] in.).

Foot circumference: 18 [20, 22] cm (7.25 [8, 8.75] in.).

Leg length and foot length are adjustable.

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- **Vita Brilliant Print** (45% wool, 55% acrylic; 380 m (416 yds) per 100 g):

- 1 skein in #2609 (shades of pink);
- 1 skein in #2610 (white with lavender and pale pink).

Less than half of each skein is required.

- **Needles 2.5 mm (US 1.5)** or size to get the gauge, for working in the round
- **Crochet hook 2.5 mm**
- **Stitch markers**, preferably locking type (optional)

## GAUGE

Striped chevrons: 36 sts x 42 rows = 10 x 10 cm (4 x 4 in.)

Striped stockinette: 32 sts x 42 rows = 10 x 10 cm (4 x 4 in.)

## PATTERN NOTES

As knitters we often get seduced by pretty variegated skeins, which being brought home finally show their true nature and reject any pattern we enthusiastically (but more and more desperately) offer.

Despair no more! Use your two most uncooperative variegated yarns for these socks, or maybe those that look like twins separated at birth, – and suddenly all the unsightly blotches you would get from each of them alone blend into nice ripples, hardly ever disturbed by heel and toe shaping.

Sock starts with double-chain cast-on and twisted-stitch ribbed cuff. Chevron pattern consists of 4-row repeat, with colors changing every round. Increases for leg gusset blend in with chevron peaks at the back of leg. Innovative heel turn (devised by Ljubov Negatina) combines short-rows with shaping for great fit, and features single-row stripes that complement the overall striped appearance. Toe shaping is based on Star toe formula, with decrease lines growing naturally out of chevron valleys.

## DIRECTIONS

### CUFF

With MC, cast on 56 [64, 70] sts around the needle using Elastic Crocheted method as follows: make a slipknot and put it on the hook, (\*) yarnover, wrap the yarn around the needle and pull through both loops on the hook, repeat from (\*) until required number of stitches around the needle and slide the last loop from the hook onto the needle as well = 57 [65, 71] sts.

*Tip: You may find a photo-tutorial on the technique here:*

<http://www.ravelry.com/projects/skeincharmer/elastic-crocheted-cast-on>

Join in the round being careful not to twist the stitches and pass the last loop (which working yarn is attached to) over the first cast-on stitch = 56 [64, 70] sts.

Introduce **CC** and work cuff in **twisted-stitch ribbing** changing colors every round, as follows:

**Round 1 (CC):** {k1tbl, p1} across.

**Round 2 (MC):** {k1tbl, p1} across.

Repeat these 2 rounds until desired height of cuff, ending with **CC** round, then work 2 transition rounds depending on the size you're making.

<b>For S and L socks</b>	<b>For M socks</b>
<b>Transition round 1 (MC):</b> {backward yo, k7} for x8 [ -, 10] times = 64 [ -, 80] sts.	<b>Transition round 1 (MC):</b> {backward yo, k7} for x4 times, {backward yo, k3, k2tog, k3}, {backward yo, k7} for x4 times = - [72, - ] sts.
<b>Transition round 2 (CC):</b> {k1 closing the hole, k7} for x8 [9, 10] times.	

These 2 rounds count as first 2 rounds of striped chevrons.

## LEG

Continue in striped chevrons as follows:

**Round 3 (MC):** {k3, ssk, k3, yo} for x8 [9, 10] times. (See **Note** below.)

**Round 4 (CC):** {k7, k1tbl closing the hole} across. (See **Note** below.)

**Round 1 (MC):** {backward yo, k3, k2tog, k3} for x8 [9, 10] times.

**Round 2 (CC):** {k1 closing the hole, k7} across.

**Note:** If you have difficulties dealing with yarnovers at the end of needle on Round 3, you may omit those yarnovers and replace them with M1L instead of k1tbl on Round 4.

Repeat these 4 rounds until desired height of leg ending with Round 4. Sample socks have 40 rounds in the leg.

## LEG GUSSET

**Set-up round 1 (MC):** {backward yo, k3, k2tog, k3} across, place marker, then backward yo = 1 stitch increased at the end of round for right side of gusset.

**Set-up round 2 (CC):** {k1 closing the hole, k7} across, slip marker, k1 closing the hole.

**Set-up round 3 (MC):** yo, place marker, {k3, ssk, k3, yo} across, slip marker, k1 = 1 stitch increased at the beginning of round for left side of gusset.

**Set-up round 4 (CC):** k1tbl closing the hole, slip marker, {k7, k1tbl closing the hole} across, slip marker, k1.

**Increase round 1 (MC):** knit to first gusset marker and slip it, work in pattern as established (as for Round 1) to second gusset marker and slip it, backward yo, knit to end of round = 1 stitch increased at right side of gusset.

**Next round (CC):** knit to first gusset marker and slip it, work in pattern as established (as for Round 2) to second gusset marker and slip it, k1 closing the hole, knit to end of round.

**Increase round 2 (MC):** knit to first gusset marker, yo, slip marker, work in pattern as established (as for *Round 3*) to second gusset marker and slip it, knit to end of round = 1 stitch increased at left side of gusset.

**Next round (CC):** knit to yo before first gusset marker, k1tbl closing the hole, slip marker, work in pattern as established (as for *Round 4*) to second gusset marker and slip it, knit to end of round.

Repeat last 4 rounds for x8 [10, 12] times more = 84 [96, 108] sts.

## HEEL TURN

Remove leg gusset markers, place marker at the beginning of round (BOR) if you haven't already, then count stitches (without working them) and place markers at each side from BOR marker: after 4 stitches, after 10 [12, 14] stitches from first markers, after 12 [14, 16] stitches from second markers = 32 [36, 40] instep sts between third markers (at the opposite side from BOR marker).

**Set-up row 1 (RS):** with MC, {k1, sl1 with yarn in back (= wyib)} to first marker and slip it, k1, turn.

**Set-up row 2 (WS):** slip the first stitch and pull the working yarn over the right needle (to RS) and under creating double stitch, slip marker, {p1, sl1 with yarn in front (= wyif)} to BOR marker, {p1, sl1 wyif} to first marker and slip it, p1, turn.

**Set-up row 3 (RS):** slip the first stitch and pull the working yarn over the right needle (to RS) and under creating double stitch, slip marker, {k1, sl1 wyib} to BOR marker, drop MC, pick up **CC**.

From now on, if not mentioned slip markers as you pass them.

**Short-row 3' (RS):** with **CC**, {k1, sl1 wyib} to double stitch and knit it as single stitch, k1, turn.

**Short-row 4 (WS):** make double stitch, sl1 wyif, {p1, sl1 wyif} to double stitch and purl it as single stitch, p1, turn.

**Short-row 5 (RS):** make double stitch, sl1 wyib, {k1, sl1 wyib} to BOR marker, drop **CC**, pick up MC.

**Short-row 5' (RS):** with MC, {k1, sl1 wyib} past the double stitch slipping it wyib as single stitch, k1, turn.

**Short-row 6 (WS):** make double stitch, purl double stitch as single stitch, sl1 wyif, {p1, sl1 wyif} past the double stitch slipping it wyif as single stitch, p1, turn.

**Short-row 7 (RS):** make double stitch, knit double stitch as single stitch, sl1 wyib, {k1, sl1 wyib} to BOR marker, drop MC, pick up **CC**.

Repeat **Short-rows 3'-7** until reaching second markers ending with **Short-row 5** = 28 [32, 36] sts between second markers. Remove second markers.

**Short-row 7' (RS):** with MC, {k1, sl1 wyib} to first marker and slip it, ssk, {k1, sl1 wyib} past the double stitch slipping it wyib as single stitch, k1, turn.

**Short-row 8 (WS):** make double stitch, purl double stitch as single stitch, sl1 wyif, {p1, sl1 wyif} to 1 st before marker, sl1 wyif, {p1, sl1 wyif} to BOR marker, {p1, sl1 wyif} to first marker and slip it, p2tog, {p1, sl1 wyif} past the double stitch slipping it wyif as single stitch, p1, turn.

**Short-row 9 (RS):** make double stitch, knit double stitch as single stitch, sl1 wyib, {k1, sl1 wyib} to 1 st before marker, sl1 wyib, {k1, sl1 wyib} to BOR marker, drop MC, pick up **CC**.

**Short-row 9' (RS):** with **CC**, {k1, sl1 wyib} to first marker and slip it, ssk, {sl1 wyib, k1} to double stitch knitting it as single stitch, k1, turn.

**Short-row 10 (WS):** make double stitch, sl1 wyif, {p1, sl1 wyif} to BOR marker, {p1, sl1 wyif} to first marker and slip it, p2tog, {sl1 wyif, p1} past the double stitch purling it as single stitch, p1, turn.

**Short-row 11 (RS):** make double stitch, sl1 wyib, {k1, sl1 wyib} to BOR marker, drop **CC**, pick up MC.

Repeat **Short-rows 7'-11** until reaching third markers ending with **Short-row 11**  
(CC) = 28 [32, 36] sts in the sole, 32 [36, 40] sts in the instep. Remove first markers.

## FOOT

### **Set-up round for S socks:**

With MC, k13 to double stitch and knit it as single stitch, slip first instep marker, work across 32 instep stitches in striped chevron pattern as set starting with Round 1, slip second instep marker, knit double stitch as single stitch, k13 to BOR = 28 sts in the sole, 32 sts in the instep. Proceed to next round (CC).

### **Set-up round for M socks:**

With MC, k15 to double stitch and knit it as single stitch, remove marker, k1, place first instep marker, work across 34 instep stitches in striped chevron pattern as set (*see Note on instep patterning for sizes M and L below!*), place second instep marker, k1, knit double stitch as single stitch, k15 to BOR = 34 sts in the sole, 34 sts in the instep. Proceed to next round (CC).

### **Set-up round for L socks:**

With MC, k17 to double stitch, place first instep marker, knit double stitch as single stitch considering it the first instep stitch, remove marker, work across 40 instep stitches in striped chevron pattern as set (*see Note on instep patterning for sizes M and L below!*), remove marker, k2tog double stitch as single stitch with the next stitch and consider it the last instep decrease, place second instep marker, k17 to BOR = 34 sts in the sole, 42 sts in the instep. Proceed to next round (CC).

### **Note on instep patterning for sizes M and L:**

The repeat will now start or end with decreases instead of yarnovers, as follows:

**Round 1 (MC):** slip first instep marker (=sm1), k2, {k3, backward yo, k3, k2tog} for x - [4, 5] times, slip second instep marker (=sm2).

**Round 2 (CC):** sm1, k2, {k3, k1 closing the hole, k4} for x - [4, 5] times, sm2.

**Round 3 (MC):** sm1, {ssk, k3, yo, k3} for x - [4, 5] times, k2, sm2.

**Round 4 (CC):** sm1, {k4, k1tbl closing the hole, k3} for x - [4, 5] times, k2, sm2.

**End of Note**

**Next round (CC):** knit to first instep marker and slip it, work across instep stitches in pattern as set, slip second instep marker, knit to BOR.

Continue in this manner keeping sole stitches in stockinette and instep in striped chevrons and changing colors every round until desired length of foot minus estimated toe length (see *Tip* below), ending with Round 2 or 4 of main pattern.

*Tip:* To estimate toe length, count 20 rows along the sole and measure the distance.

## TOE

### Set-up round for S socks:

<u>If you ended with Round 2</u>	<u>If you ended with Round 4</u>
with MC, {k7, place marker} for x2 times, {k3, ssk, k3, place marker} for x4 times, {k7, place marker} for x2 times	with MC, {k7, place marker} for x2 times, {k3, k2tog, k3, place marker} for x4 times, {k7, place marker} for x2 times
= 4 sts decreased along instep, 56 sts.	

Proceed to toe shaping.

### Set-up round for M and L socks:

Removing old markers as you pass them,

<u>If you ended with Round 2</u>	<u>If you ended with Round 4</u>
with MC, {k7, place marker} for x2 times, {k3, ssk, k3, place marker} for x - [4, 5] times, {k7, place marker} for x2 times, k3, ssk, k3, place marker	with MC, k3, k2tog, k3, place marker, {k7, place marker} for x2 times, {k3, k2tog, k3, place marker} for x - [4, 5] times, {k7, place marker} for x2 times
= - [4, 5] sts decreased along instep +1 st in the middle of the sole, - [63, 70] sts.	

Proceed with toe shaping according to chart:

If you ended with Round 2	If you ended with Round 4
Knit 3 rounds changing colors every round.	
Decrease round 1 (MC): {k2, ssk, k3} for x8 [9, 10] times.	Decrease round 1 (MC): {k3, k2tog, k2} for x8 [9, 10] times.
Knit 3 rounds changing colors every round.	
Decrease round 2 (MC): {k2, ssk, k2}.	Decrease round 2 (MC): {k2, k2tog, k2}.
Knit 3 rounds changing colors every round.	
Decrease round 3 (MC): {k1, ssk, k2}.	Decrease round 3 (MC): {k2, k2tog, k1}.
Next round (CC): knit.	
Decrease round 4 (MC): {k1, ssk, k1}.	Decrease round 4 (MC): {k1, k2tog, k1}.
Next round (CC): knit.	
Decrease round 5 (MC): {ssk, k1}.	Decrease round 5 (MC): {k1, k2tog}.
Next round (CC): knit.	
Decrease round 6 (MC): {ssk}.	Decrease round 6 (MC): {k2tog}.

Cut the yarns leaving 10-15 cm (4-6 in.) tails, pull one tail through the remaining 8 [9, 10] stitches and draw tight.

## FINISHING

Make the second sock (you may switch MC and CC for it). Weave in the ends.

Block if desired.