



preview

SOCKSTAR

knit socks like a pro

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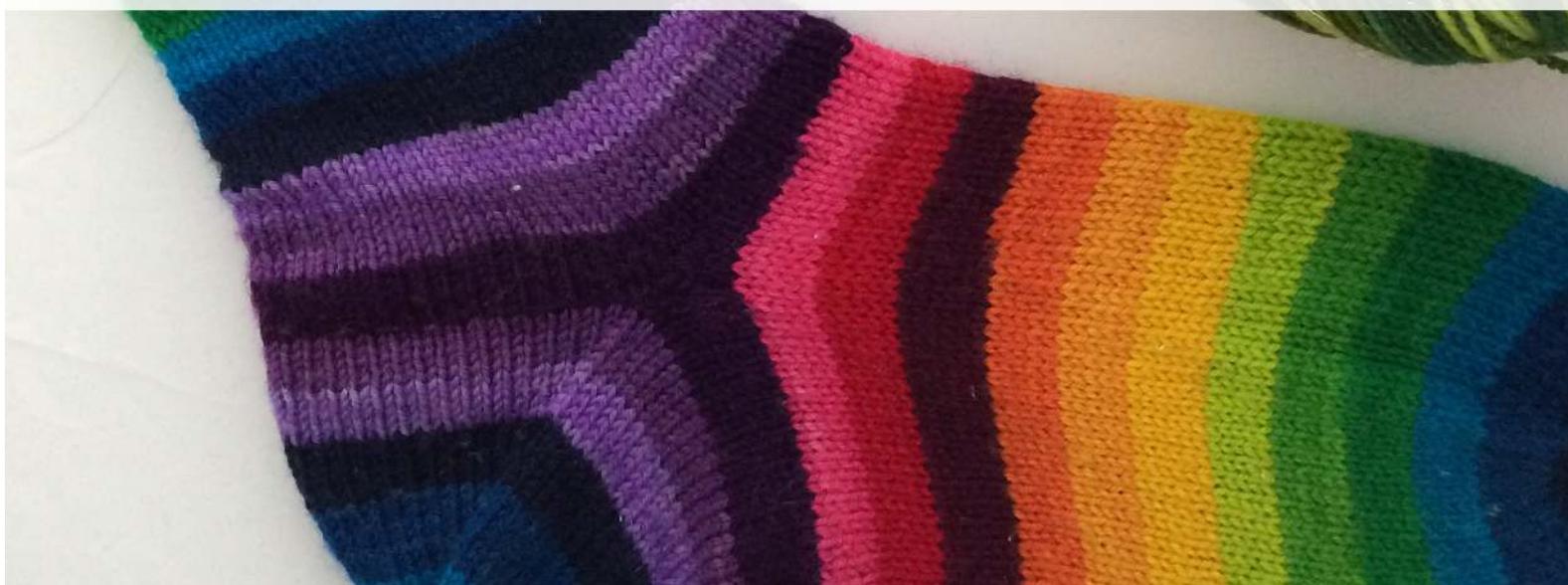
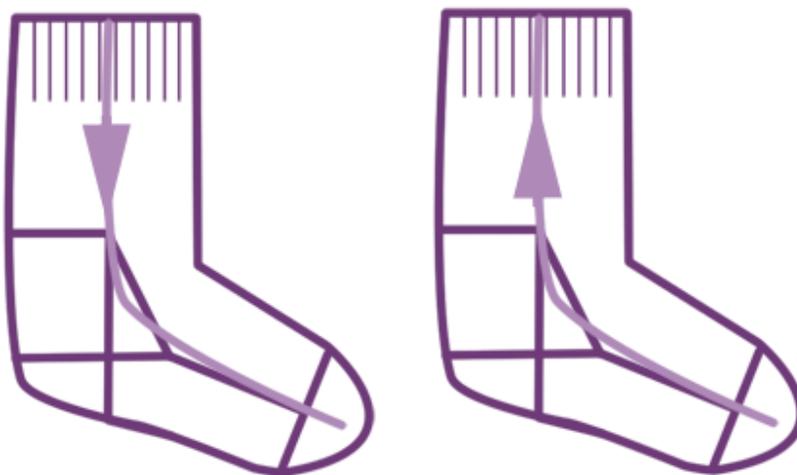


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There are lots of options for knitting socks—cuff-down (left) or toe-up (right), DPN's, magic loop or two-at-a-time plus all the different toes and heels. It's enough to paralyze you—gasp—into not trying socks. Let's make sure you don't *not* try socks.



Cuff-down socks start the knitting at the cuff and are worked down to the toe. You cast on for ribbing and knit down from that point. Cuff-down is the most popular way of knitting socks.

Toe-up socks start at the toe and are worked upwards from there to the cuff. The cast-on can be fiddly, but once you get past that point it becomes much easier.

See the tables below for more details on each method. The method is up to you, and either gives you the same fit. Here are some Pros and Cons of each.

Cuff-Down

Pros

This has the best pattern support.

Probably the easiest technique if you need help.

Heel flaps are commonly associated with this method and typically fit well.

Cons

Hard to estimate yarn usage, because you must work to the toe. *

Bind off can be challenging, because most use the Kitchener stitch.

Need to choose the number of stitches before cast on; no chance to figure out gauge afterwards.

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Cast on's for toe-up socks can be challenging to work. It's a tight space and there's nothing to grab on to when starting. Here are a few of my favorites. Note that these instructions are for Magic Loop but you can change them for DPN's or TAAT.

Figure 8



This is an easy cast on to work but you may find it creates looser stitches that you need to go back and tighten. (see pic to the left)

Here's how to work the Figure 8 Cast On:



Hold the two needles parallel and in your left hand.



Start by draping the yarn over your needle, ready to wrap the yarn clockwise around the back needle with the end attached to the ball. Hold the tail with either your thumb or index finger.

1. Avoid the yarn from twisting between the sock and the ball.

Place a removable stitch marker on one end of the sock (doesn't matter which end)



and always turn the work toward you

Here it is on the right side, so turn it clockwise to the left.



And here it is on the left side, so turn it counter-clockwise to the right.

You're basically twisting and then untwisting with each half-round.



This tip works for DPNs, Magic Loop or TAAT. This is an easy tip I do with all my knitting.

2. Abbreviate a toe-up sock as X/Y/Z: X is the CO; Y is the number at which you stop increasing every round; and Z is the total number of sts on one needle. This won't work for unusual toes.
3. Abbreviate a cuff down sock as X/Y/Z: Z is the total number of stitches on one needle; Y is the number at which you stop decreasing when you're working the toe; and X is the number you stop at just before binding off. This won't work for unusual toes.