

Anna-Beth's Sweetbaby Socks

These socks were made for our friends' adorable new baby, who is going to be living in Alaska half of the year, and her parents were shocked at the price of tiny wool baby socks. I enjoyed making them so much, I have made her several pairs. They are sized to fit a 6-12 month old baby.



Supplies:

Set of five size 2 Double-pointed Needles (If you knit tight, or have a bigger baby, try a size three. I made some with #4 needles that are toddler sized)

Sock yarn – I used Red Heart's *Heart and Sole with Aloe* (no longer available!) for the cute stripey ones pictured here, but I made another pair in wonderful *Mini Mochi*, which is a merino/nylon blend, and they were wonderfully soft. These don't use much yardage – I made two pairs from a single ball of each yarn, and probably have enough left for a third. A great project for leftover sock yarn!

Yarn needle

Terms:

CO: Cast on.

K: Knit

P: Purl

P2tog: Purl 2 together

K2tog: Knit 2 together

SL1K: slip one as to knit

SL1P: Slip one as to purl

SSK: Slip as to knit, slip as to knit, then knit those two stitches together.

Instructions:

Cast On:

Using Long-tail method, CO 32 stitches over three needles – 10 on needle 1, 12 onto needle 2, 10 onto needle three.

Ribbing:

Row 1-6: K2, P2 all the way around.

Ankle:

Rows 7-18: K all stitches

Heel flap:

Row 19: K first 8 stitches from needle 1, then take up spare needle and knit last two stitches from needle 1, all 12 stitches from needle 2, and first 2 stitches from needle 3. Turn.

Row 20: SL1P, purl all stitches, turn.

Row 21: SL1K, knit all stitches, turn.

Rows 22-34: Repeat Rows 19 and 20, finishing with a Knitted row.

Turning Heel:

Row 35: Purl 10, P2tog, , P1, turn (three stitches at the end remain untouched.)

Row 36: SL1K, K 5, SSK, K1, turn.

Row 37: SL1P, P 6, P2tog, P1, turn.

Row 38: SL1K, K 7, SSK, K1, turn.

Row 39: SL1P, P 8, P2tog, turn.

Row 40: SL1K, K 8, SSK, pick up and knit 8 stitches along slipped stitch edge. Using next needle, knit all stitches on other two needles. Pick up and knit 8 stitches along other slipped stitch edge and first five stitches on the needle you began this row on.

(Your rows are now beginning and ending in the center of the heel – you should have 13 stitches on needle 1, 16 on needle 2, and 13 on needle 3.)

Row 41: Knit all stitches.

Row 42: K to last three stitches on needle 1, K2tog, K1, K all stitches on needle 2, knit 1st stitch on needle 3, SSK, K to end of row.

Rows 43-50: repeat Rows 41-42, finishing row 50 with a total of 32 stitches.

Rows 51-58: Knit all stitches.

Row 59: K to last three stitches on needle 1, K2tog, K 1, K first stitch on needle 2, SSK, K to last three stitches on needle 2, K2tog, K 1, K first stitch on needle 3, SSK, K to end of row.

Row 60: K all stitches.

Row 61-64: repeat Rows 59 and 60, finishing Row 64 with 20 stitches.

Rows 65 and 66: Repeat Row 59, Finishing Row 66 with 12 stitches.

Finishing:

For a traditional finish, finish in Kitchener stitch. If Kitchener stitch baffles you, try this for a little “bellybutton” toe!

Round 67: K2tog all the way around, finishing with 6 stitches. Cut yarn, leaving a 12” tail for sewing.

Leaving stitches on knitting needles, thread yarn through yarn needle and go around through all stitches twice. Remove knitting needles, pull yarn tight, gathering stitches together, into a neat little bellybutton, and weave in end.

Now make another, so you have a pair!

For more knitting fun, try:

How to Knit Socks: Three Methods Made Easy by Edie Eckman. Expand your sock knitting repertoire with this clear and well illustrated book, featuring several cute sock patterns

Sock Yarn One-Skein Wonders edited by Judith Durant. So much more than just socks, this gorgeous full color book offers 101 patterns for fingering weight yarns.

Other wonderful, washable sock yarns include *Cascade Heritage*, *Pagewood Denali*, and my favorite, *Debbie Bliss Rialto 4 Ply*. I made my daughter several pairs of socks and a sweet sweater from the *Rialto*, and loved being able to carelessly machine wash and dry them, but still giving my little one the warmth and softness of 100% Merino wool.

Happy Knitting!

– Anna-Beth

