

Mini Christmas Stocking

These little ornaments are knit in the round. They're a great introduction to sock knitting, and you only need to make one! Instructions are given for using double pointed needles, but you may knit with magic loop or 2 circulars if you'd like.



Yarn: Small amounts of yarn in two or more colors (I used DK weight and size 4 needles)

Gauge: Not critical.

Needles: 4 double pointed needles (dpns) in a size appropriate for your yarn.

Notions: Yarn needle.

Skill level: Adventurous Advanced Beginner.

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Abbreviations

K – Knit.

K2tog – Knit 2 together (decrease).

P – Purl.

P2tog – Purl 2 together (decrease).

SSK – slip first st as if to knit, slip next st as if to knit, knit these two off together.

S1 – Slip 1.

St, Sts – Stitch, stitches.

Notes:

Peerie patterns are small color patterns, like 1x1, 2x2, or 3x3 squares, or a zigzag.

I also like to make these with 3 round stripes for 7 stripes on the leg (21 rounds to heel).

Instructions

Cuff: Leaving a tail of 6 inches, cast on 24 stitches with cuff color. Work K2P2 ribbing on the first row, dividing onto three needles as you go (8 st per needle); join in circle and be careful not to twist! Continue K2P2 rib for 3 more rounds.

Leg: Add main color; K 4 rows. Pick up contrast color, put in a band with a peerie pattern that fits in 24 sts (multiple of 2, 3 or 4). Work leg in main color until you have about 20 rounds from the cuff, ending with 6 st unworked. (This will center hanging loop at the back of the foot.)

Heel: Redistribute stitches so that the 12 heel stitches are on one needle (the 6 unworked sts and 6 more), and 12 instep stitches are on another (you will have an extra needle for a bit). Work the 12 heel sts for 6 rows in desired color as follows:

Rows 1, 3, 5: S1 knitwise, K to end of row, turn.
Rows 2, 4, 6: S1 purlwise, P to end of row, turn.

Turn the heel: S1 knitwise, K6, SSK, K1, turn.

Next row: S1 purlwise, P3, p2tog, P1, turn.

Next row: S1 knitwise, K4, SSK, K1, turn.

Next row: S1 purlwise, P5, p2tog, P1, turn.

Cut the heel color. Pick up leg color where you left off.

Gusset: With empty needle, pick up and knit 4 sts along right side of heel flap, K across first 4 heel stitches; with second needle K remaining 4 heel stitches, pick up and knit 4 sts along other side of heel flap; with third needle finish round. You should have 12 sts on the instep needle, and half of the heel sts on each of the other two. Decrease at the beginning and end of the heel sts every other round until you are back to 24 sts around. (Use K1, SSK at the beginning of the first heel needle and K2tog, K1 at the end of the second heel needle.)

Foot: With beginning of round at center heel, work foot for a total of 10 rounds past heel.

Toe: Redistribute sts so you have 8 sts on each needle, keeping center at heel. Change to toe color; K 1 round.

Decreases: K 2, K2tog for a round; K a round; K1, K2tog for a round; K a round; K2tog for a round. Cut yarn and run it through the remaining sts. Sew in ends. Make a hanging loop with the cast on end.