

LOVE SOCKS

BY: DEVON CLEMENT

These little cuties are worked from the top down with some simple colorwork on the heel. This idea was inspired by the Yarn Harlot's Knitty pattern, "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" – go give it some click love!
<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUESpring03/PATTtiptoe.html>



Yarn: Spud & Chloe Fine (80% superwash wool, 20% silk – 65 g/227 yd), 2 skeins in different colors (shown in Tutu and Sassafras)

Needles: US 1 and US 0 40" circs, dpn's, or 2 circs, whichever is needed for your preferred sock knitting method. I use the 1's for the leg and 0's for the foot, but you are welcome to use one size for the whole thing.

Gauge: 32 sts and 40 rows/4 in. in st st on US 1's

Notions: 2 stitch markers, tapestry needle

Notes: I use the terms MC (main color) and CC (contrast color) for simplicity. You can do what I did and switch them for the second sock, or just make them identical. Up to you!

DIRECTIONS:

Using US1, CO 60 sts in MC using the tubular cast-on (video here: <http://ysolda.com/support/pictorial-guides/double-rib-tubular-cast-on/>) or any stretchy cast on.

Work 1x1 rib (k1, p1) for 12 rounds.

Switch to CC and work st st (k every rnd) for 4 rnds

(Note: to avoid a "jog" at the beg of rnd where the color changes, k the first rnd with the new color as usual, then slip the first st of the new color when you come to it for the 2nd rnd)

Work alternating 4-row stripes of MC and CC for 15 stripes or desired length. You must have an odd number of stripes, ie, end with a CC stripe. Break CC.

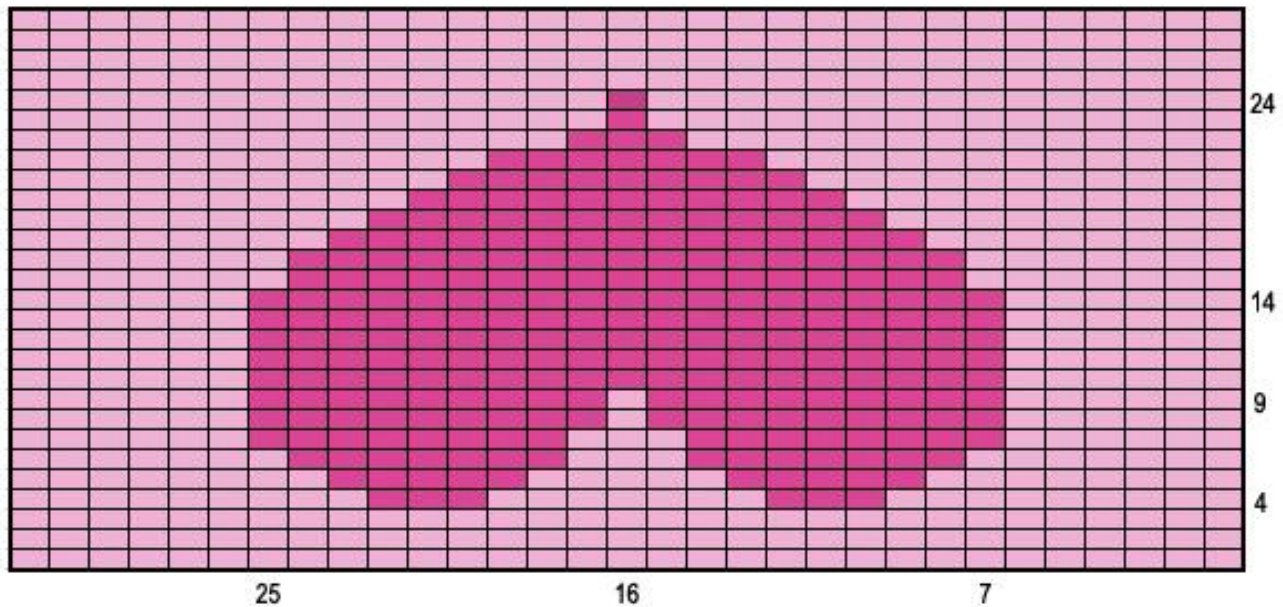
You will now begin working back and forth on half the leg sts to create the heel flap, leaving the other stitches to hang out on a dpn or the cable of your circs.

Using MC, sl 1, k14, m1, k 15, turn. (this is so the heart will be centered) - 31 sts. Begin working heel chart, knitting on the right side, purling on the wrong side, and always slipping the first stitch of the row.

On Row 4, rejoin CC. Rows 4-9 are stranded, meaning the non-working yarn is loosely carried across the back of the work (see photo). This is to save joining teeny balls of yarn and weaving in a million ends. On Row 10, switch to intarsia (GREAT video here: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/advanced-techniques>)
Tip: I used the other end of my MC ball to work the other side of the heart and reduce waste. After Row 24, break CC and other end of MC.



HEEL CHART:



Next row: p 15, p2tog, p 14 – this is not noted in the chart, but is necessary to bring you back to the original 30 sts and ready to work a RS row.

Heel turn:

Switch to US O needles. Continuing with MC, sl 1, k 16, ssk, k1, turn.

Sl 1, p4, p2tog, p1, turn.

Sl 1, k5, ssk, k1, turn.

Sl 1, p6, p2tog, p1, turn.

Keep doing this – slipping the first stitch, working to one stitch before the gap, decreasing over the gap, and working one more, til you reach the end of the heel sts on a WS row. Turn. 16 sts.

K across heel sts, then pick up and knit 14 slipped sts along edge of heel flap, plus one extra at the top to keep a hole from opening up. PM, K across instep sts, PM, then pick up one st and 14 slipped sts down the other side of the heel flap.

Resume working in the round.

Tip: When using Magic Loop, I like to divide the sock into left and right rather than front and back halves. This makes the decreasing much easier and keeps the start of round color changes from gapping.

Rnd 2 (and all even rnds): K to 3 sts before marker, k2tog, k1, slip marker, k to next m, slip marker, k1, ssk, k to end

Rnd 3 (and all odd rnds): K all sts

Repeat these two rnds until you are back to 60 sts.

Note: On Rnd 5, rejoin CC and resume 4-row stripe sequence.

Work stripes until you are approx 2 in. from your desired length, ending with a CC stripe. Toe is worked in MC. You may have to do some fudging here - If you are a few rows short of the mark, work straight in MC until you reach the correct length. If you go over, begin the decreases in the last CC stripe.

Toe:

Rnd 1: K to 3 sts before marker, k 2tog, k 1, slip marker, k 1, ssk, k to 3 sts before next m, k 2tog, k 1, slip marker, k 1, ssk

Rnd 2: k all sts

Rep these two rnds until 20 sts remain. Graft toe.

Finishing:

Weave in all ends and block.

Make the second sock, unless you did two at a time, in which case, you're done!

