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Karenina Socks



These socks were inspired by antique gilded glass tree ornaments. The stitch pattern is adapted from Russian Stitch by Barbara Walker. As I knit these rich, opulent socks I have been listening to Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy with images of the harsh Russian landscape contrasted by lavish interiors decorated with Faberge Eggs in my mind's eye. Who else to name them for but this most celebrated sock knitter from literature?

Pattern Notes

These socks will fit an average sized woman's foot.

The two colour pattern is formed using a slip stitch mosaic so that only one strand is used at a time. It is a great introduction to colour work and ingeniously creates a vertically orientated pattern from stripes worked horizontally.

Materials

50g main (purple) and 50g contrast (gold) sock yarn.

Set of four 2.25mm double pointed needles (or size to get gauge)

Blunt tapestry/darning needle

Abbreviations

MC – main colour (purple)

CC – contrast colour (gold)

CO – cast on

St – stitch(es)

K – knit

P – purl

K2tog – knit 2 st together

P2tog – purl 2 st together

SSK – slip, slip, knit (slip 2 st from left needle to right needle and knit through both stitches)

Sl Slip stitch to other needle without knitting it.

Sl wyb Slip stitch to other needle without knitting it with yarn behind the stitch.

(note: pass yarn to back of work, slip stitch to other needle then pass yarn to front of work to continue purling.)

M1 Make 1 stitch by lifting the bar between the stitches and knitting into the back of it.

Gauge

Approximately 7 st – 1 in (2.5 cm) using stocking stitch

Pattern

With CC CO 60 st very loosely (over 2 needles). Make sure that you leave a reasonable tail of yarn as the cast on edge will be folded over and sewn down to form a picot edge at the end. Divide stitches evenly onto 3 needles and start working in the round.

Cuff

K 10 rows

Next row (K2tog YO) repeat to end

K 1 row

Change to MC

K 9 rows

Note – if you loathe sewing in ends as much as I do, don't bother to cut off the CC while knitting the outside of the cuff. Twist the yarns a couple of times at the beginning of the row if you want but it will be covered up when you sew down the cuff.

With CC K1 row P1 row

With MC K2 rows

Russian stitch leg pattern commences as follows:

Row 1 CC (K4 Sl1) to end

Row 2 CC (P4 Sl1 wyb) to end

Rows 3 and 4 MC (Sl1 K4) to end

Rows 5 and 6 as rows 1 and 2

Rows 7 and 8 with MC K3 (Sl1 K4) to last stitch K1.

Continue in pattern until work is 7 inches, (17 cms) or desired length ending with CC

Heel Flap

Using MC K15, turn work

P29 p2tog, turn work.

You will be working back and forth on these stitches

Note: The stitch is decreased so that the instep pattern is worked over 29 stitches and remains symmetrical.

Rearrange stitches so that there are 15 and 14 stitches on the two 'fallow' needles respectively and 30 on the working needle.

Proceed as follows:

Row 1 (Sl1 K1) Repeat to end

Row 2 Sl1, p to end

Repeat these 2 rows 14 times (15 times in total).

Turn the heel

Starting on right side:

Sl1, K16, SSK, k1, turn

Sl1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn

Sl1, k to 1 st before gap, ssk, k1, turn

Sl1, p to 1 st before gap, p2tog p1, turn

Continue working like this until all st are worked and you have 18 st left on this needle.

Gusset (start on RS)

Needle 1 – Transfer half the st from heel flap to new needle, then pick up and k 16 st from one side of heel flap

Needle 2 – work in pattern for instep as set for leg

Needle 3 – Pick up and k 16 st from other side of heel flap, then k remaining st from heel flap.

Next row

Knit until last 3 st on needle 1, k2tog, k1. Knit needle 2 according to instep pattern. K1 st on needle 3, then ssk, and knit the rest of the stitches.

Knit 1 round.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 15 st left on each of needle 1 & 3.

Then continue to work until you reach desired foot length allowing 5 cm/2 1/2 in for toe shaping by measuring the sole.

At the end of the instep pattern on the last row, M1 (30sts on needle)

Cunning adjustment!

I have worked out a little adjustment that evens up the sole and the instep as the slipstitch fabric comes up slightly shorter than stocking stitch and would otherwise give the finished sock a bit of a 'turned up toe' when off the foot. I put in four short rows on the instep before the toe shaping which even things up a bit. I did it like this, starting at the beginning of the row at the mid sole position:

Row 1 Needle 1 K15

Needle 2, K to 2 stitches before the end of the needle, wrap next stitch and turn.

Row 2 Needle 2, p to 2 stitches before the end of the needle, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 3 Needle 2, k to 3 stitches before the end of the needle, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 4 Needle 2 p to 3 stitches before the end of the needle, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 5 Work straight across needles 2 and 3 picking up wraps as you come to them

Row 6, K, picking up remaining wraps as you come to them.

60 stitches remain as follows:

Needles 1 and 3, 15 stitches

Needle 2, 30 stitches

Toe Shaping

Needle 1 – k until last 3 st. k2tog, k1.

Needle 2 – k1, ssk, k until last 3 st, k2tog, k1.

Needle 3 – k1, ssk, k to end

Knit one round.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 16st on needle 2 and 8st on each of needles 1 & 3.

Repeat Row 1 until 4 st remain on needle 2 and 2 st on each of needles 1 and 3.

Graft toe using kitchener stitch & weave in any loose ends. Sew cast on edge to the inside of the lower set of purl bumps to form the folded cuff.

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Jane Lithgow December 2007

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Follow her knitting and spinning adventures here:

<http://janesprobablyknitting.blogspot.com/>

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