



Wanderly



Some people travel with a destination in mind, and others like to get outdoors and follow where the path leads. These sport-weight, unisex hiking socks are inspired by the wandering type of adventure – the kind that surprises and delights, even if you don't always know what's around the next bend.

We cast on at the toe, then take an unexpected turn by introducing a new color. We knit straightforwardly for a bit, then allow the stitches to begin to twist to form charming little offset cables that wander in opposite directions on each sock. We detour into color at the heel and then take a long run up the leg before diverting back into our contrast color at the top of the cuff. In the end, we wind up with socks that are tall enough to be worn under boots, extra-cushiony for long treks, and long-wearing, thanks to the high twist in Morehouse Farm's Gator yarn and the firm gauge to which they are knit. Now that they've taken you on a little adventure, where will you take them?

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Difficulty Level: Intermediate

Skills/Techniques: Judy's magic cast-on, knitting in the round, increasing, decreasing, cabling, afterthought heel, sewn bind-off

Construction: These socks are knit from the toe up with an afterthought heel. They are knit on two short circular needles but the pattern gives adaptations for using dpns or magic loop.

Yarn: Morehouse Farm Gator sport weight 100% merino yarn (220 yards per skein), or another tightly-spun sport weight yarn in 100% wool or a wool-nylon blend. 2 skeins MC, 1 skein CC

Needles: Two US #3 US (3.25 mm) circular needles 16" to 24" in length, or size to obtain gauge. Can also be knit on double pointed needles or one long circular needle using magic loop method.

Notions: Stitch marker, cable needle, scissors, tapestry needle, 18" of smooth scrap yarn that does not contrast strongly with your MC. Suggested: spare needles several sizes smaller for picking up stitches.

Gauge: 24 stitches and 32 rows to 4"/10 cm in stockinette stitch. 26 stitches and 32 rows to 4"/10 cm in cable stitch.

Sizes/Finished Measurements:

Adult S, M, L, XL

Because the cable pattern on these socks pulls in when relaxed and stretches when worn, choose your size based on the suggested foot circumference rather than the sock circumference.

S: 6" finished sock circumference to fit 7-7 ¾" foot circumference; 9" length; 9" height

M: 7" finished sock circumference to fit 8-8 ¾" foot circumference; 9 ¾" length; 9 ¾" height

L: 8" finished sock circumference to fit 9-9 ¾" foot circumference; 10 ¼" length; 10 ¼" height

XL: 9" finished sock circumference to fit 10-11" foot circumference; 10 ½" length; 10 ½" height

Abbreviations:

K: Knit

P: Purl

LN: Left needle

RN: Right needle

Ndl: Needle

Sts: Stitches

Tbl: Through the back loop

Kfb: Increase by knitting into the stitch first through the front loop, then without removing it from the needle, knit through the back loop.

1/1 LC: One over one left cross - Slip one stitch onto a cable needle and hold to front, k1, k1 from cable needle. (See page 3 for alternate method.)

1/1 RC: One over one right cross - Slip one stitch onto a cable needle and hold to back, k1, k1 from cable needle. (See page 3 for alternate method.)

SSK: Slip, slip, knit. Improved: Slip one stitch knitwise. Slip that stitch back onto LN. Knit the first two stitches together through the back loop.

I have created video tutorials for many of the techniques used in these socks. Links are provided throughout the pattern, or visit my YouTube Channel at <https://bit.ly/3qNsQoh>

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Techniques:

Judy's Magic Cast-On, Improved:

This version eliminates the twisted stitches in the second half of the first row that result from the original version of this cast-on.

1. Hold two needles together and parallel in your right hand. In your other hand, hold the yarn with tail over your index finger and working yarn over your thumb.
2. Twist a loop around farther needle.
3. Pivot the needles away from you, pointing toward your index finger.
4. Bring the tip of the near needle over the yarn on your index finger, around and under the yarn and back up, making a snug loop.
5. Pivot the needles toward your thumb.
6. Bring the tip of the "away" needle under the yarn on your thumb, around and over the yarn and back up, making a loop.
- 3-6. Repeat steps 4 -7 to cast on the necessary number of stitches, always wrapping the near needle around the away yarn, then the away needle around the near yarn. Be sure to end with the same number of stitches on each needle.
7. Drop the yarn. Turn the needles clockwise. If you are using two circular needles or magic loop, pull other needle out of the way.
8. Pick up the working yarn and cross it under the tail to begin knitting across the row of stitches.
9. At the end of the row, turn your work and knit across the stitches. You have completed your first round of knitting.

You can see me demonstrate this technique in [this video](#).

RC & LC Without a Cable Needle:

There are a number of ways to perform a 1/1 cross without a cable needle. These are the methods I find easiest to work. You are of course free to use your own preferred method. I've demonstrated the techniques for you in [this video](#).

1/1 LC: Moving RN behind the first stitch, insert RN into the second stitch on LN and work through the back loop (tbl). Without removing that stitch from the needle, knit the first stitch (through the front leg, as normal). Draw both stitches onto the RN.

1/1 RC:

Slip the first two stitches together by inserting RN as if to k2tog. Return the two stitches to LN in the new orientation. Ttbl twice.

Picking up Extra Stitches at the Sides of the Heel:

You will pick up two extra stitches at each side of the heel, for a total of four extra stitches. Place one stitch at the beginning and one at the end of each needle (on four dpns, at the beginning of needle 1, the end of needle 2, the beginning of needle 3, and the end of needle 4. The technique for picking up the stitches is as follows:

Pick up one stitch before beginning knitting:

- Look at the stitch a round below and a stitch to the right of the first stitch on your needle.



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- Pick up the near leg (left leg) of that stitch and knit into it. (You may wish to knit it through the back loop [tbl] to prevent a hole.)

Work across the row to the next gap. You will pick up one stitch before turning the work and add it to the needle you just finished knitting onto:

- Look at the stitch two rounds below and one stitch to the left of the stitch you just worked
- Pick up the near leg (right leg) of that stitch and knit into it. (You may wish to knit it through the back loop [tbl] to prevent a hole.)



- Now, turn your work. Repeat the above steps, adding a stitch from the gap before you work your stitches across that needle, and another at the end of that needle. If you have a little hole at the corners of the heel you will cinch that closed when you weave in your ends.

Sewn Bind Off:

Cut yarn tail at least 4x the length of your edge.
Thread a tapestry needle.

1. Insert the needle into the first two stitches purlwise and pull through.
2. Insert the needle into the first stitch knitwise, and pull through.
3. Pull the first stitch off the needle.

4. Repeat steps 1 – 3 until you have cast off all your stitches.

You can see this demonstrated in [this video](#).

Kitchener Stitch:

Cut the yarn tail 4x the width of the fabric and thread it onto a tapestry needle.

- 1.) Insert tapestry needle through the first stitch on the front needle as if to knit; pull the yarn through and take the stitch off.
- 2.) Insert tapestry needle through the first stitch on the front needle as if to purl; leave the stitch on the needle.
- 3.) Insert tapestry needle through the first stitch on back needle as if to purl; pull it through and take the stitch off.
- 4.) Insert tapestry needle through the first stitch on back needle as if to knit; pull it through and leave the stitch on the needle.

Repeat these four steps until all stitches have been worked.

Cinching the Gusset Hole:

When you are weaving in the ends of your yarn, cinch any gusset holes closed with the ends, or with an extra bit of yarn. Take your needle under the purl bump of each of the stitches closest to the hole, going all the way around in a circle. Then draw the yarn up tight, closing the hole. You can see this demonstrated in [this video](#).

Pattern Notes:

Four sizes are given but notes are also included for customizing width and length to any size foot. It is more important to choose the correct size for your

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foot circumference, as it is easy to change the length or height to suit you.

The pattern is written for two circular needles, with the start of the round at the side of the foot. Those of you who prefer to knit using the magic loop method will be able to do so by reinterpreting my references to needle 1 and needle 2 as the two sides of your long circular needle. If you use double-pointed needles, needle 1 becomes needles 1 and 2 and needle 2 becomes needle 3 (for sets of four needles) or 3 and 4 (for sets of five needles).

I use the kfb method of increasing in the sock toes because it leaves a bump at the increased stitch that allows me to see if I have made an increase on the previous row and therefore, whether I need to increase on this row. I like the look of a sock toe with those little bumps, but if you do not, feel free to substitute your own preferred increase.

The increases in the sock toe are worked one stitch in from the right edge, but two stitches in from the left edge because the kfb puts the bump to the left of the stitch in which the increase was worked, and this placement gives a uniform appearance. If you use a different increase, place your left increase just one stitch in from the left edge.

The toe increases begin on the first round, to give a smooth angle to the toe and avoid “ears.”

Similarly, to prevent “ears” in your heels, before beginning the Kitchener stitch, slip the first and last stitch of each side of the sock over the stitch next to it as though binding off. (See photo.)



To block your socks, wash by soaking for a few minutes in room-temperature water with a few drops of gentle wool wash such as Soak or Eucalan. Roll them in a towel and press to remove most of the water, then lay them out on a flat surface to dry. Smooth to the desired shape but do not stretch or use blocking wires or sock blockers (doing so would stretch your socks out of shape and cause them not to fit).

The cables in the left sock cross to the left, while the cables in the right sock cross to the right, because I find that charming. There is a note at the end of the pattern that gives the instruction to reverse the shaping for the other sock. You are of course welcome to disregard that suggestion and make two identical socks, or even to sometimes wear the left-cross sock on your right foot and the right-cross sock on your left foot, if it pleases you.



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Left Sock:

Toe

Using CC, CO 6 (7, 10, 11) stitches on each of two needles using Judy's Magic Cast On, Improved (explained in the technique section) – 12 (14, 20, 22) stitches total. Place marker for beginning of round.

(Note: If you are using the traditional version of Judy's Magic Cast On, you'll need to knit the stitches on the second needle through the back loop on the first round.)

Round 1: Needle 1: k1, kfb, k to last 3 sts, kfb, k2 (2 sts increased)

Needle 2: k1, kfb, k to last 3 sts, kfb, k2 (2 sts increased)

Round 2: k

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until you have 18 (21, 24, 27) stitches on each needle; 36 (42, 48, 54) stitches total, *or* until the sock is as wide as the recipient's foot to the top of the little toe; the total number of stitches should be a multiple of 6.

Note: If you need an in-between size and can't get to a multiple of 6, you will have extra stitches in your round that will not fit the cable pattern. I suggest hiding these extra stitches by distributing them evenly into the purl sections of the cable pattern, and marking them with a stitch marker so you know where you placed them.

Foot

Break yarn. Change to MC.

Work in stockinette stitch (k all stitches) for ½" (½", ¾", 1")

Begin working in LC Cable Pattern as follows, working pattern across Needle 1 for top of foot and working stockinette across all but one stitch of Needle 2 for bottom of foot.

Round 1: Needle 1: *p1, k2*, repeat to end of rnd

Needle 2: p1, k to end of round

Round 2: Needle 1: *p1, 1/1 LC, p1, k2*, repeat to end of rnd (Size 2 and 4 only: repeat until 3 sts remain, p1, 1/1 LC)

Needle 2: p1, k to end of round

Round 3: Needle 1: *p1, k2*, repeat to end of rnd

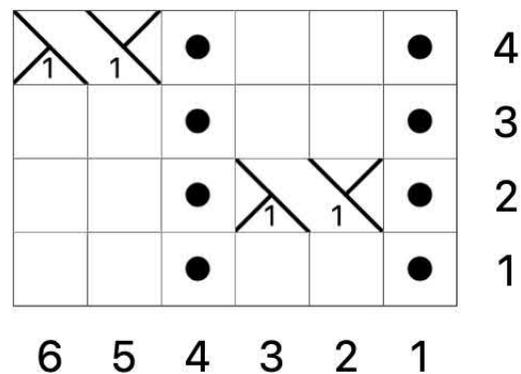
Needle 2: p1, k to end of round

Round 4: Needle 1: *p1, k2, p1, 1/1 LC, *, repeat to end of rnd (Size 2 and 4 only: repeat until 3 sts remain, p1, k2)

Needle 2: p1, k to end of round

Work in pattern until foot of sock measures 7 ½" (8 ¼", 9 ¼", 10") or until the foot of the sock is the same length as the recipient's foot to the pointiest part of the ankle bone.

LC Cable Pattern



Note: For Size 2 and 4, when working the foot, the final repeat of the chart will use only stitches 1-4.

Afterthought Heel Marker

Insert a length of smooth scrap yarn for afterthought heel as follows:

At beginning of Needle 2 (bottom of the foot), change to scrap yarn. (Needle 3 on dpns) Do not break MC.

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K all stitches on Needle 2 (bottom of the foot) in scrap yarn. (Needle 3 or 3 and 4 on dpns)



Drop scrap yarn and leave it there. Slip just-worked stitches back to LN until you have returned to the beginning of Needle 2 (bottom of the foot — Needle 3 on dpns).

With MC, work a second time across the stitches you just worked, knitting every stitch.

You will now have a row of scrap yarn below the row of knitting on the needles. It will remain there until you return to work the heel.



Leg

Resume working in cable pattern stitch from where you left off, now extending the cable pattern onto all needles all the way around the leg. The full repeat of the cable pattern is:

Round 1: *p1, k2*, repeat to end of round

Round 2: *p1, 1/1 LC, p1, k2*, repeat to end of round

Round 3: *p1, k2*, repeat to end of round

Round 4: *p1, k2, p1, 1/1 LC*, repeat to end of round

Continue to work in pattern until leg measures 6 1/4" (7", 8", 8 3/4") from the waste yarn, or 1-1 1/4" less than desired height.

Ribbing

All Rounds: *p1, k2* to end of round.

Repeat until ribbing measures 3/4" (3/4", 1", 1")

Break yarn. Change to CC.

CC Round 1: k

CC Rounds 2 and 3: *p1, k2* to end of round.

Measure a tail long enough to go around the top of the sock 4 times, then cut and thread onto tapestry needle. Bind off loosely using the Sewn Bind Off or another stretchy bind-off of your choice. (If you choose to use a different stretchy bind off, skip cutting the yarn until after the bind-off.)

Heel

Pick up the stitches above and below the scrap yarn, taking care to always pick up the right leg of each stitch (or, the right leg of each "V.") This is easier to do using needles a few sizes smaller than your working needles.



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Pick out the scrap yarn. You can do this as you pick up each stitch, or pull it out after you have all the stitches on the needles.

Join CC yarn. Pick up 2 extra stitches in the gap between needles on each side (for a total of 4), placing one stitch at the beginning and end of each of Needle 1 and Needle 2. (For dpns, beginning of Needle 1, end of Needle 2, beginning and end of Needle 3 *or* beginning of Needle 3 and end of Needle 4.)

Heel Round 1: k

(Note: if you have a high instep, knit 1-2 additional rounds plain before beginning the decreases.)

Heel Round 2: Needle 1: k1, SSK, knit across to 3 stitches remaining on the needle. K2tog, K1

Needle 2: Repeat

Repeat Heel Rounds 1 and 2 until you have 6 (7, 10, 11) stitches on each of the two needles; 12 (14, 20, 22) stitches total.

Cut yarn, leaving a tail approximately 4 times the width of the heel. Close the heel in Kitchener stitch.

Right sock: Repeat instructions for left sock, replacing all 1/1 LC with 1/1 RC. The RC chart follows:

RC Cable Pattern

		●			●	4
		●			●	3
		●			●	2
		●			●	1
6	5	4	3	2	1	

Note: For Size 2 and 4, when working the foot, the final repeat of the chart will use only stitches 1-4.

Finishing:

Weave in ends. If you have holes at the sides of the heels, use your ends or a length of matching color yarn to cinch them closed. When blocking your socks, do not stretch them out.



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