

Sock Machine Socks with Afterthought Heel

From Tube to Sock

by Side Hustle Socks / Ewe Tubes

<https://shannonsquire.com/ewe-tubes/>



Materials

One 60-stitch or 72-stitch machine knit tube
Two size US 1 (2.25mm) circular needles (or size needed for gauge)
(Or DPNs or one long circular needle for magic loop according to your preference.)
Locking stitch markers or safety pins
Tapestry needle

Gauge

Approximately 32 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch, but this may vary. Measure your own knit tube and follow that for gauge.

Finished Size

Foot and cuff length can be customized by the knitter.

The circumference will vary depending on your yarn and stitch count of the tube.

Abbreviations

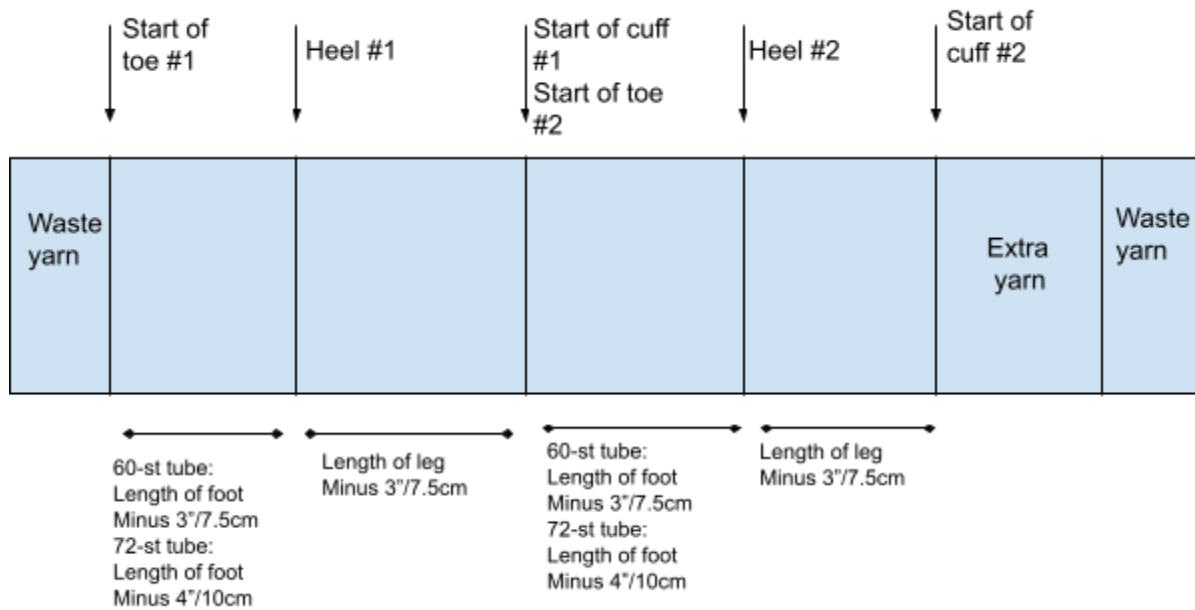
k2tog – Insert tip of right needle into the first 2 stitches on the left needle from left to right, and knit them together.
ssk – Slip the first 2 stitches on the left needle knitwise, one at a time, to the right needle. Insert the tip of the left needle into the front of these 2 stitches from left to right, and knit them together.
st(s) – Stitch(es)

Notes

Instructions are given for a 60-stitch tube, with variations for 72-stitch in parentheses.

MARK THE TUBE

Place markers for the tube's midpoint and heel locations as shown in the drawing. Adjust the heel placement if needed for a shorter or longer foot length. We recommend working the heels, toes, and cuffs in the following order: Toe #1, Heel #1, divide tube in half, Toe #2, Heel #2, Cuff #1 and Cuff #2.

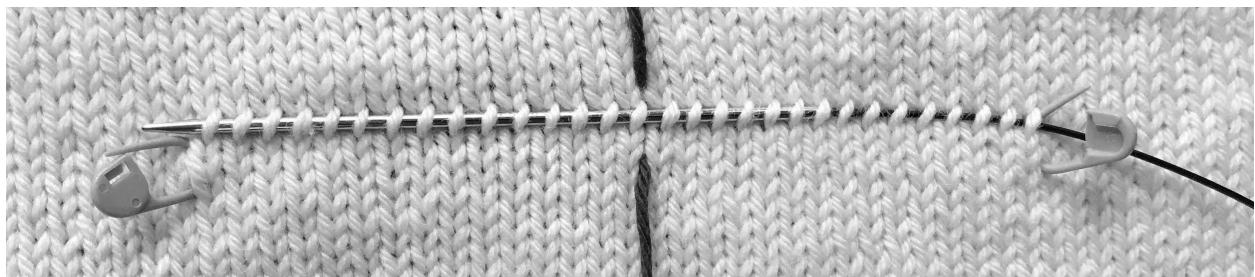
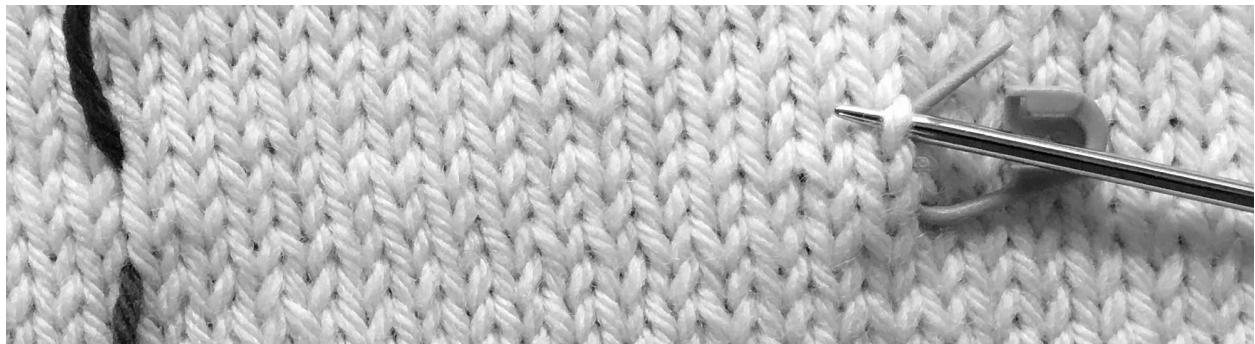


OPEN HEEL

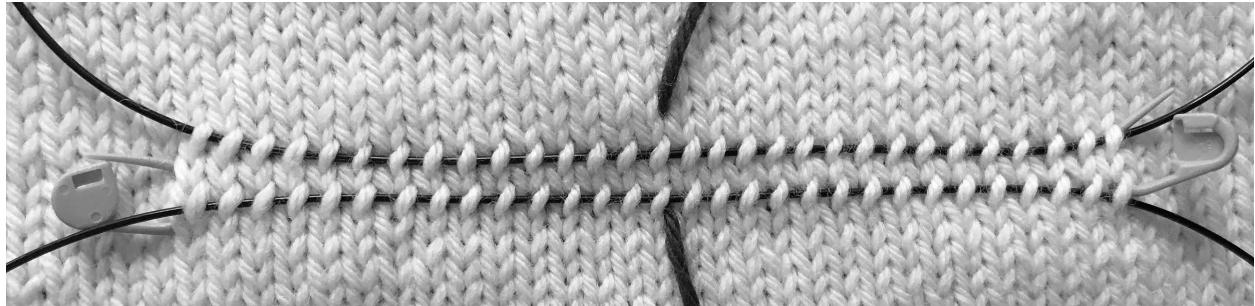
Place a marker for the center of the heel at the heel round. Starting at the center, count across 15 (18) sts in one direction and place a marker after the 15th (18th) st, then count the opposite direction from the center and place another marker after the 15th (18th) st. There will be 30 (36) sts between the markers. These markers are there as guides while you pick up the sts for the heel.



With the tube lying flat in front of you and starting at the marker on your right, use a knitting needle to pick up the right leg of every st in the row above the heel row. Work across the row, picking up each right leg, until you have 30 (36) sts on the needle. It may be easier if you use a smaller needle for picking up the legs.

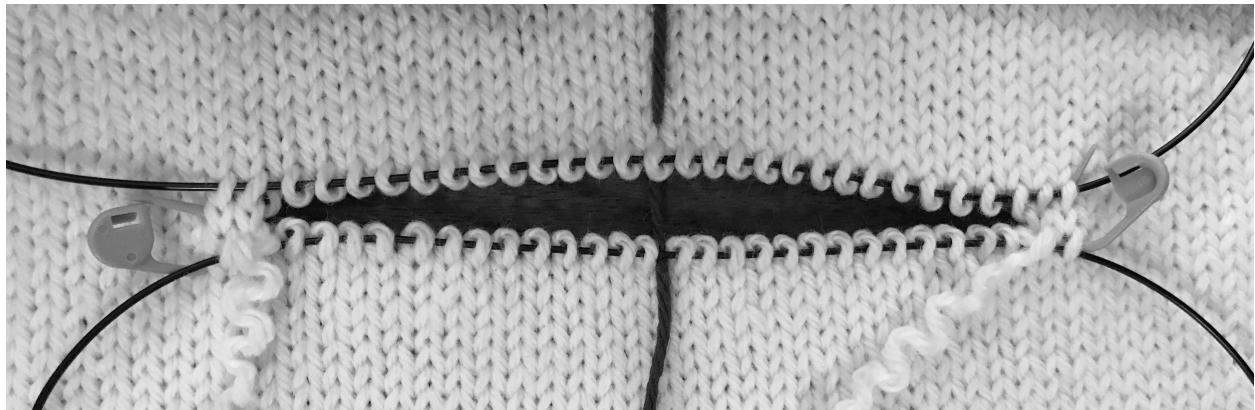


Using a second needle and starting at the right side, pick up the right leg of every st in the round below the heel round. Your needles will be parallel, with 30 (36) sts on each needle, and a row of sts in between the two needles.



Find a middle st of the row between the two needles. Carefully cut one leg of this st.

Gently unravel the sts (do not cut this yarn as you unravel. You will need it to weave in later) from the cut toward the side marker in both directions, **stopping two sts before the marker** on each side. These last two sts will stay on the needles but will not be unraveled, thus avoiding holes at the corners of your heel.



HEEL

With the right side facing you, join the working yarn at one side of the opening. It is helpful to put a marker on the outside of the sock to mark the beginning of the round. Work the heel as follows:

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: *Knit 1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts on needle, k2tog, knit 1; repeat from * once more. (4 sts decreased.)

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until 10 sts remain on each needle, ending after a Round 2.

Graft the remaining stitches together using the Kitchener technique or a three-needle bind off.

TOE

Transfer the toe sts to your needles, unraveling waste yarn if necessary. Arrange the sts so that there are an equal number on each needle and the center of the heel is in the middle of one of the needles. The centers of the heel and toe must be aligned to ensure that the heel and toe fit correctly. There should be 30 (36) sts on each needle.

Work the toe decrease rounds the same way as was done for the heel, or, for a rounder toe, work the following:

Work following Decrease Round:

Knit 1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts on needle, k2tog, knit 1; repeat from * once more (4 sts decreased)

Knit three rounds.

Work decrease round as above. (4 sts decreased)

Knit two rounds.

Work decrease round as above. (4 sts decreased)

Knit one round.

Work decrease round every round until you have 10 (14) sts on each needle.

Graft the remaining sts together using the Kitchener technique or a three-needle bind off.

CUFF

Decide where you would like to place your cuff. If you have an inch or more of extra tube, you can cut the entire tube in half with scissors and unravel the excess yarn, placing sts on needles as they become available. If you don't have much extra length in the tube, it is safest to snip one piece of yarn and gently unravel it until the tube separates into two pieces.

Divide sts evenly among two circular needles.

With the right side facing, join the working yarn so it lines up with the center of the heel and knit one round.

Work in knit 1, purl 1 ribbing (or your favorite cuff stitch) for 2 inches. Bind off using your favorite stretchy bind off (we like Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off).

FINISHING

Weave in yarn tails and block.