

# Spring Blossom Socks

This pattern is inspired by those lovely spring days with a clear blue sky, and a fresh breeze whirling around petals and blossoms. I wanted a sock with blossoms raining down from the cuff and when I couldn't find a pattern for it, I made my own, and here it is! I wrote this as a basic cuff down sock with a peasant heel, but of course you can use whatever sock technique you like, or use the colorwork chart for an entirely different project! Enjoy!

## Materials

For medium sized socks:

Needles - size US 00 (1.75 mm) and US 0 (2.0 mm) for knitting in the round in your preferred method

Yarn - fingering weight sock yarn; background color: 60 g, 280 yard; blossom color: 20 g, 95yard

## Abbreviations

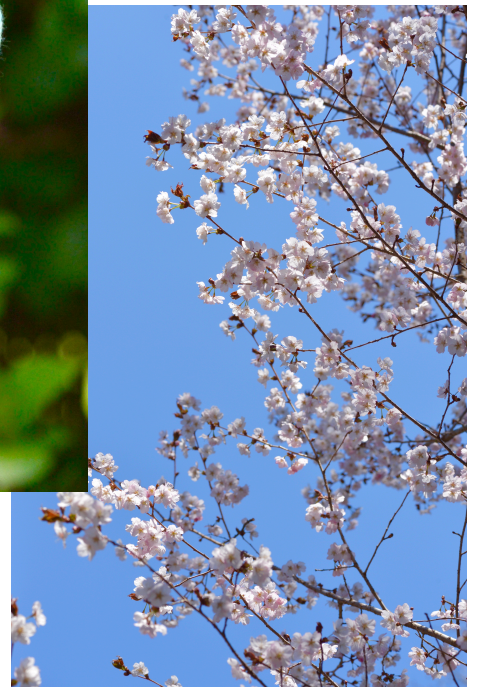
ssk slip, slip, knit 2 slipped stitches together

k2tog knit 2 together

Pm put marker

Sm slip marker

Rm remove marker



## Before you start

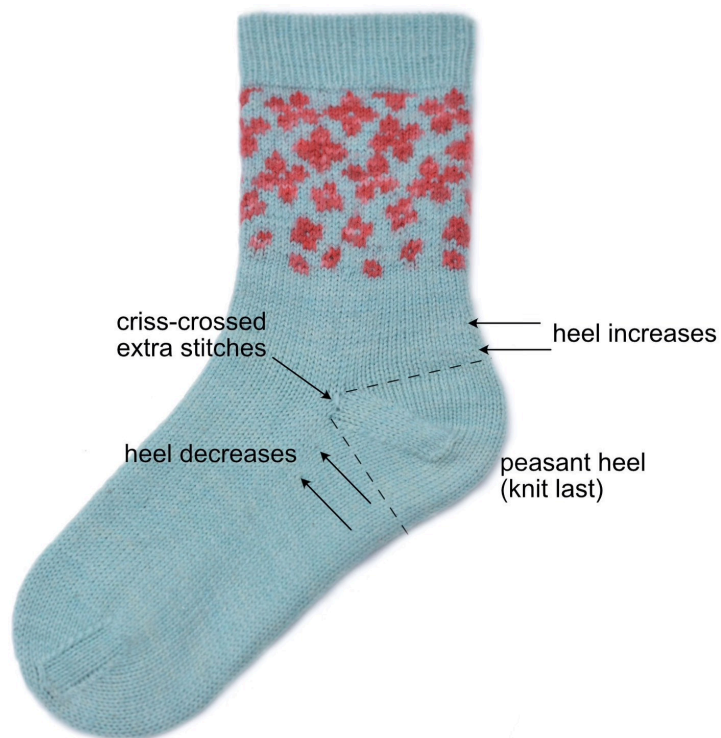
The socks are knit cuff down with a peasant heel (i.e., a temporary heel placeholder is inserted that is later removed to add the heel). I have added a few pictures to illustrate this method.

This pattern uses some methods that are not further explained here (tubular cast on, colorwork knitting, grafting). If you are not familiar with them, please refer to one of the many excellent tutorials available on the web - these techniques are worth mastering! If you are new to colorwork knitting, please beware: the colorwork in this pattern contains some long floats. To get the tension right, please stretch out the stitches while knitting, and make sure to secure any floats that are longer than 5 stitches. Some of the floats need to be secured more than once.

## Gauge and Sizing

Since the stitch number in the legs is determined by the colorwork pattern, sizing can be a little tricky for these socks. To get the size right, it is helpful if you know what stitch number usually works for you when making socks. Please also keep in mind that this pattern anticipates a bit of shrinkage (my socks from superwash wool always shrink a bit after a few times in the washer and dryer).

For medium size socks (women's shoe size 8), I used 2.0 mm (US 0) needles and had a gauge of 34 stitches / 48 rounds for 10 cm x 10 cm (4" x 4") in stockinette stitch, and 38 stitches / 48 rounds in colorwork. Size adjustments are best made by tweaking your gauge: Go up a needle size for larger socks, and/or decrease fewer stitches after the colorwork part. For smaller socks, go down a needle size, and/or decrease more stitches after the colorwork part (this can be done gradually). You can also use ribbing on the leg (after the colorwork) and on top of the foot for a slightly tighter fit (I used a 3x1 rib for the green socks).



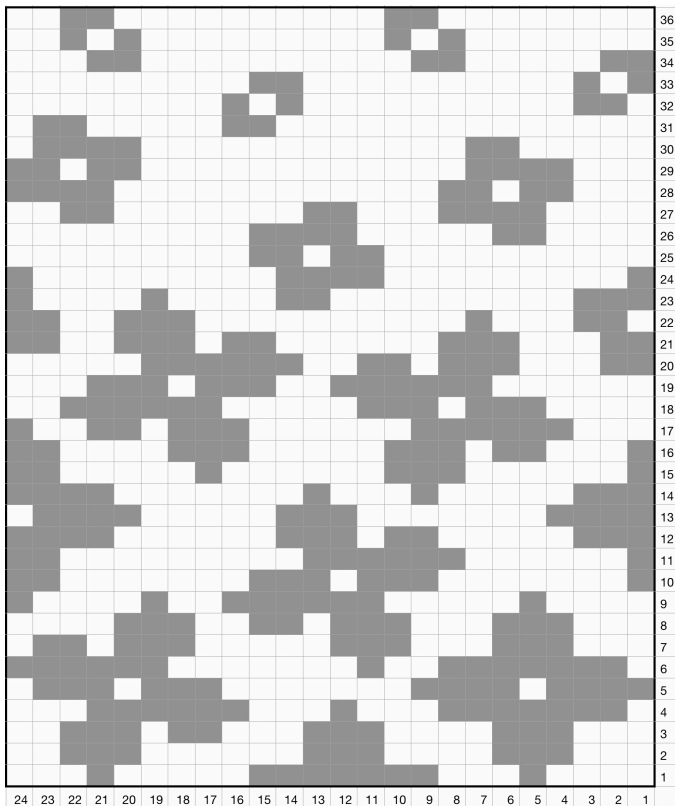
# INSTRUCTIONS

## Cuff

Using 1.75 mm (US 00) needles and the tubular cast on method, cast on 76 stitches in the main color and arrange to work in the round. Work 20 rounds of 1x1 rib (1 knit, 1 purl; repeat throughout).

## Leg

Switch to 2.0 mm needles (US 0) and knit one round, at the same time decrease 4 stitches evenly by knitting every 18th and 19th stitch together. You should now have 72 stitches on the needles. In the next round, attach second color and start colorwork according to the chart. Work 3 horizontal repeats of the pattern.



After finishing the 36 rounds of colorwork, knit one round and at the same time decrease 8 stitches evenly by knitting every 8th and 9th stitch together (64 stitches). Knit 12 rounds. In the next round, start increases for heel: knit 2, increase 1, knit 60, increase 1, knit 2 (2 stitches increased at back of leg: 66 stitches total). Knit 5 rounds, then repeat increase round:

Knit 2, knit 2, increase 1, knit 62, increase 1, knit 2 (2 stitches increased at back of leg: 68 stitches total). Knit 5 rounds.

## Temporary Heel

In the next round, knit 50 stitches, then insert a lifeline into the last 18 stitches and the first 18 stitches of the following round. Next, knit these stitches with a thread of contrasting color. This heel marker thread will later be removed to add the peasant heel. In the next round, knit over the temporary thread, then add another lifeline (you can use the same piece of yarn for both lifelines) into the 36 stitches right above the temporary heel marker.



First lifeline placed



Temporary heel (in red)



Second lifeline placed

## Foot

Continue knitting in the round with your main color. When you have completed 5 rounds after the heel marker, decrease as follows: knit 15, ssk, knit 34, k2tog, knit 15 (2 stitches decreased at side of foot: total now 66 stitches). Knit 5 rounds, then repeat decrease round: knit 15, ssk, knit 32, k2tog, knit 15 (total now 64 stitches). Continue knitting in rounds until you have worked 60 rounds from the heel marker, or your desired foot length (toe and heel will add about 4 cm / 1.5 inches each in length).

## Toe

Knit 16 stitches and place marker - this is the new beginning of round for the last few rounds. Place another marker 32 stitches from the first marker. Start toe decreases:

\*knit 2, k2tog, knit to 4 stitches before marker, ssk, knit 2, sm, repeat from \*. Repeat the decrease round 5 times every other round, and 3 times every round (36 stitches decreased - 28 stitches remaining).

Work the last two decrease rounds as follows:

Round 1: \*knit 1, k2tog, knit to 3 stitches before marker, ssk, knit 1, sm, repeat from \*

Round 2: \*k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before marker, ssk, rm, repeat from \*

Graft the remaining 20 stitches together and weave in yarn end.



## Heel

Remove the temporary heel marker thread and put the stitches from the lifelines onto your needles. Pick up 2 additional stitches on each side of the heel. My method for avoiding holes in this location is to crisscross these additional stitches - I pick up the first stitch closer to the next stitch, and the second stitch closer to the previous stitch, so the two new stitches cross each other.



Removing temporary heel



Temporary heel removed - side view

Attach yarn at the side. In the next round, decrease the extra stitches just picked up in the corners: knit to 1 stitch before first extra stitch, ssk, pm, k2tog, knit to 1 stitch before 3rd extra stitch, ssk, pm, k2tog. Knit one round.

From here, the heel is worked essentially as the toe. Start heel decreases: \*knit 2, k2tog, knit to 4 stitches before marker, ssk, knit 2, sm, repeat from \*. Repeat these decreases in every other round until you have a total of 44 stitches left, and then three times in every round (32 stitches left). Work the last two decrease rounds as follows:

Round 1: \*knit 1, k2tog, knit to 3 stitches before marker, ssk, knit 1, sm, repeat from \*

Round 2: \*k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before marker, ssk, rm, repeat from \*

Graft the remaining stitches together.

### Finishing

Weave in any loose yarn ends. Just for fun, I added two extra blossoms on one of the socks with duplicate stitch :) Soaking, followed by blocking, improves the look of the colorwork.

