

stitchlinks **XXX** Guide
to
Knitting socks
for complete beginners!



Dos

- ✓ Take time to cast on evenly and neatly as this forms the top rim of your finished sock.
- ✓ Keep checking for mistakes as you knit as it's very fiddly to undo stitches afterwards.
- ✓ Make sure that the joining stitches as you move onto a new needle have no big loops.
- ✓ When taking a break, move stitches to the centre of your needles as they can easily slip off.

Don'ts

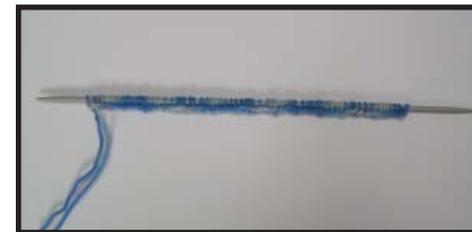
- ✓ Don't twist your cast on stitches when transferring them over to three needles.
- ✓ When knitting your first joining stitch, be careful not to use the left over end instead of the yarn from the ball.
- ✓ Take great care not to twist your stitches between needles particularly when knitting the first few rows.

PS We made every one of these mistakes on our first attempts!

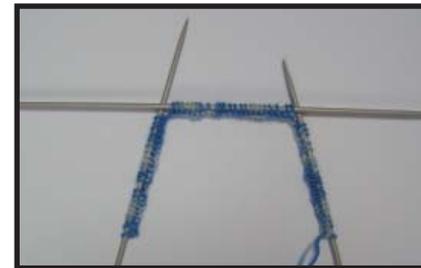


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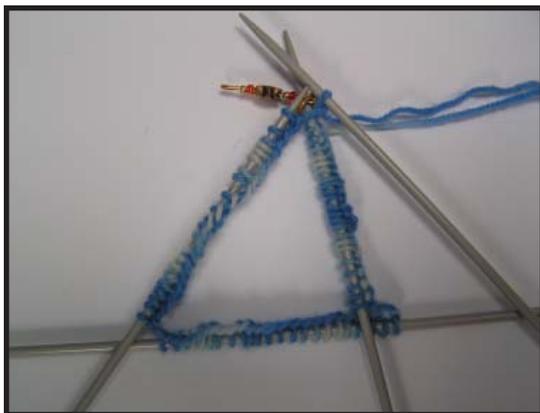
Take one of your four double pointed needles and cast on the required number of stitches. Don't cast on too tightly and be as neat and even as possible as this will form the top edge of your sock.



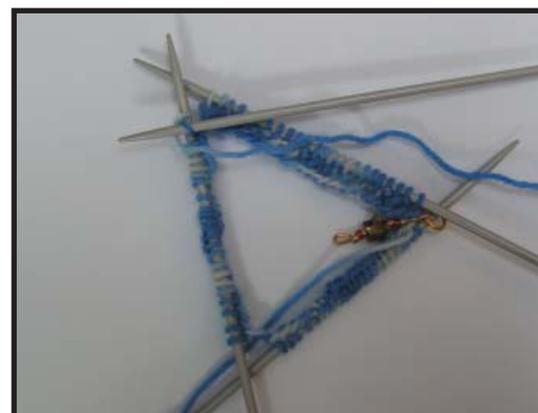
Next, divide the stitches evenly between three of your needles, being VERY careful not to twist the stitches. We found this a bit fiddly as with 4ply yarn and 2.5mm needles the stitches are small, amazingly slippery, and had a habit of sliding off the ends!



This is where your fourth needle comes into play, and you make your linking stitch to complete the round. Mark this point with a stitch marker if you wish. Being careful not to twist the stitchers, insert the fourth needle to knit the first stitch as shown. Be careful to use the yarn from the ball and not the tail end from cast on to wind around the needle.



This linking stitch is probably the most fiddly as the other needles tend to get in the way. It's very important not to twist the stitches here and to make sure the link is fairly tightly knitted, otherwise you'll end up with a loop between the needles which will give an untidy rim to the finished socks. The stitch marker will mark the beginning of the round as you knit on.



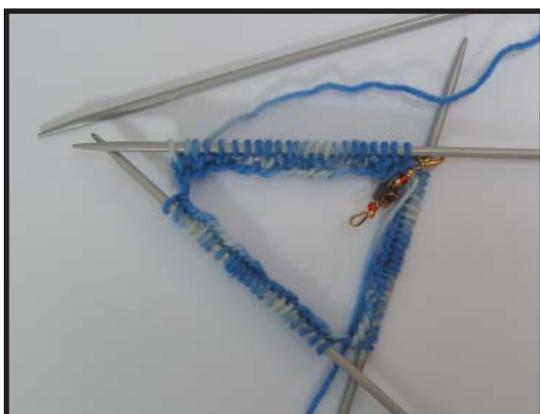
On the first round, knitting the first stitch on each needle is always a bit tricky, but it's worth taking the time to make sure the stitches are neat. Once you knit one round, you'll soon get into the flow, but keep checking for mistakes with each row as undoing stitches is very fiddly and often results in having to start from scratch again.



This is what your work should look like when you've done a few stitches of knit 1 purl 1 rib. We found the first five or so rows fiddly as the needles move around quite a lot and stitches had a tendency to slip off the end of the needles.



After about five rounds it begins to get less fiddly and the more rounds you knit, the easier it gets. However, continue to check for mistakes as you go along as it's much easier than having to undo these small stitches. When you've knitted the required length of ribbing, start stocking stitch at the beginning of the next round.



When you come to the end of the first needle full of stitches, you'll find yourself with a free needle once more. Continue to knit in your knit 1 purl 1 rib pattern with this free one using the stitches on the next needle. Again be very careful not to twist the yarn between the needles and make sure the join is fairly tight, so you don't get that untidy loop.



The instruction to continue in stocking stitch baffled us at first; normally when knitting in rows you knit one row, turn and purl the next. Here, as you're knitting in rounds, it's not necessary to turn your work, so you can just carry on with your knit stitches and forget about the purl. Continue stitching for the desired length or until the whole sock is about six inches long.