

stitchlinks **xxx** Guide
to
Knitting Socks
for complete beginners!



To double check the size, don't be afraid to try your sock on. Make sure your stitches are on the middle of your needles and slip your sock on as normal! You're now ready to start shaping the toe section.



Toe shaping

Follow your pattern, but essentially what you'll be doing is decreasing at each end of the instep stitches, as you can see here, and at either end of the back stitches, which are on two needles.



Mark where the round starts, with a stitch marker or by dividing your stitches so that the round ends on one needle and starts on the next. The decreasing will be at the start of the last needle in the round and at the end of the first.



Ready for grafting

When you've decreased to the required number of stitches, you're ready to graft these together for a seamless finish. It's vitally important here that you have an even number of stitches.



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Following on from Part one, your sock should be growing well now and hopefully will look something like this...

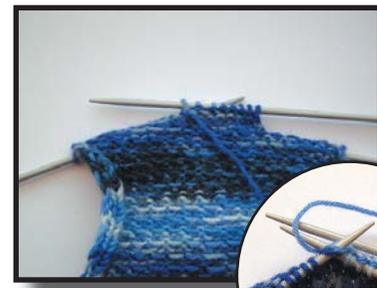


Heel flap

Slip half your stitches onto a stitch holder. These will eventually become your instep stitches and will be left alone for now as you knit back and forth on the other half to form the heel flap of your sock.



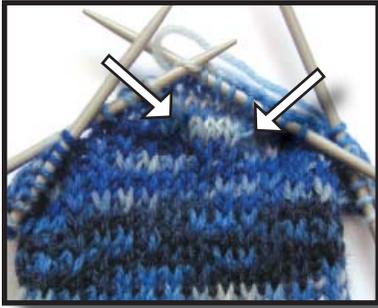
Follow your pattern to form your heel flap as shown (approximately 6cms). Most patterns require you to slip the first stitch of every row. This makes it easier to pick up gusset stitches later on.



Turn heel

Put complete trust in your pattern and follow it faithfully at this point as it will seem a bit strange. When it says turn, do just that and gradually the shape of a heel will begin to emerge. Honest!

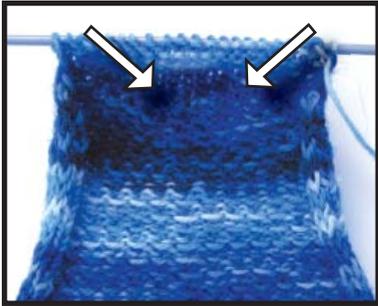




You can see the heel beginning to take shape here. It gets a bit fiddly as you juggle with all the needles and towards the end you'll need to beware of stitches sliding off those two side needles!



Pick up and knit the required number of stitches on the other side of the heel flap. All four needles will be in use now, so you can either bring a fifth needle into play or rearrange your stitches to suit.



This view from the inside shows a fully formed heel. We've rearranged the stitches onto one needle. Now that the heel is formed you're ready to start picking up the other stitches.



When rearranging your stitches it's important to keep the instep stitches on one needle. Your round starts at the back of the heel and you might like to mark this with a stitch marker.



Gussets

Follow your pattern to pick up the required number of stitches evenly down the right edge of the heel flap. The previously slipped stitches will make this easier and make the join neater.



Gusset shaping

You will be decreasing every other row at the instep end of your gusset stitches. There will be no decreasing of the instep stitches. You'll soon see the 'foot' part of your sock emerging from the heel!



Once picked up, you need to knit these stitches. When you're done your yarn will come out at the bottom of the heel flap. Next, move your instep stitches onto a needle and knit across these.



Continue with the gusset shaping until the required number of stitches remain. Now follow your pattern to knit in a round until your sock is the desired length from the back of the heel to the base of the toes.