

## Magic Loop

### 36 (40, 48) Stitch Adult Socks

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**Use 29" or longer circular needle, size to fit your yarn. Make 2 markers from contrasting yarn.**

**Cuff:** Cast on 36 (40, 48) stitches. Slide stitches to center of needle cable, fold cable, pull cable out between 18<sup>th</sup> (20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>) and 19<sup>th</sup> (21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>) stitches. Slide stitches to both needle points. With working yarn coming from rear needle point, pull this rear point out and forward. Knit across the 18 (20, 24) stitches on the front point. This may be knit 2, purl 2 ribbing or knit 1 purl 1 ribbing. During first few rows hold completed stitches together to prevent them from inverting. Soon the bases of these stitches will remain pointing down and you are on your way. Work all stitches until cuff measures desired length.

**Heel Flap:** This is worked back and forth on half of your stitches only...remainder of stitches will rest, unworked and are for your instep.

Row 1: \*Slip 1 stitch as to purl to right hand needle point, knit next stitch\*. Repeat this slip 1, knit 1 across all 18 (20, 24) stitches, ending with a knit stitch. Turn work, continuing to work just these same stitches.

Row 2: Slip 1 stitch as to purl to right hand needle point, purl remaining 17 (19, 23) stitches.

Work these two rows until you have completed a total of 16 (20, 22) rows. End with a purl row.

**Turning Heel:** (continue on the same needle point while instep stitches continue to remain unworked)

Row 1: Slip 1 stitch to right hand needle point as if to purl, knit 9 (10, 12) stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1...leaving 5 (6, 8) stitches unworked...turn work

Row 2: Slip 1 stitch to right hand needle point as if to purl, purl 3 (3 3) stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1...leaving 5 (6, 08) stitches unworked...turn work.

Row 3: Slip 1 stitch as before, knit 4 (4, 4), knit 2 together, knit 1...leaving 3 (4, 6) stitches unworked...turn work.

Row 4: Slip 1 stitch as before, purl 5 (5 5), purl 2 together, purl 1...leaving 3 (4 06) stitches unworked...turn work

Row 5: Slip 1, knit 6 (6, 6), knit 2 together, knit 1...leaving 1 (2, 4) stitches unworked...turn work.

Row 6: Slip 1, purl 7 (7 7), purl 2 together, purl 1...leaving 1 (2, 4) stitches unworked...turn work.

\*\*\*\*Row 7: 40 stitch sock only: Slip 1, knit 8, knit 2 together, knit 1...leaving (2) stitches unworked...turn work.

\*\*\*\*Row 8: Slip 1, purl 9, purl 2 together, purl 1 leaving (0) stitches unworked.

\*\*\*\*Row 7: 36 and 48 stitch socks only: Slip1, knit 8, knit 2 together, knit 0 (2) leaving 0 ( ) unworked...turn work.

\*\*\*\*Row 8: 36 and 48 stitch only: Slip 1, purl 8 (09), purl 2 together, purl 0(2) leaving 0 (2) unworked...turn work.

####Row 9: 48 stitch only: Slip 1, knit 10, knit 2 together, knit 1...TURN

####Row 10: 48 stitch only: Slip 1, purl 11, purl 2 together, purl 1...TURN

Row 11: Knit 10 (12, 14) stitches of heel, do not turn

**Reposition stitches on Needle:** This is done by slipping these 10 (12, 14 ) stitches onto needle cable, pull cable out in the middle of these 10 (12, 14) stitches, with 5 (6 ,7 ) stitches on each side of the loop.

**Gusset:** With 5 (6, 07 stitches at your needle point, right side facing you, looking down the side of the heel flap portion you just completed, you will see 9 (10, 11) 'horseshoe' shaped stitches along the very edge. (With your fingers, roll out the curled edge to see those stitches) With needle point or crochet hook pick up 9 (10, 11) stitches, slipping the point/hook just under each of these stitches, catching the working yarn, pulling through under horseshoe to create a new stitch, plus 1 stitch at the "intersection". Place marker on right needle point after 10<sup>th</sup> (11, 0) picked up stitch. Knit the first 9 (10, 012) instep stitches from your left needle, pull right needle through creating a loop and begin knitting the next 9 (10, 12) instep stitches. After these 9 (10, 12) stitches, place a marker and pick up 10(11, 12) stitches, that's 1 at the intersection and 9(10, 11) under the 'horseshoe' stitches along the second side of your heel flap. Knit those 5 (6, 7) original heel stitches left on needle. Your work is now divided in half...right through the foot. You have 24 (27, 31) stitches on each needle point...a total of 48 (54, 62) stitches in all. (You might want to take a break at this point, have a cup of tea and pat yourself on the back...you've completed the hardest part!)

**Gusset Decreases:**

Row 1: Slide rear needle point out, knit until 1 stitch before the first marker, knit into the back of this stitch. This is the only row on which you will do this. This twisted stitch helps prevent a hole at this spot. Slip marker, work the instep stitches (continue in rib as cuff or knit these stitches). Turn, slip out rear needle point and work the next instep stitches, slip marker, knit into the back of the next stitch and continue knitting rest of stitches.

Row 2: Knit stitches until 2 stitches before the marker, knit 2 together, slip marker, work instep stitches. Turn work, position needle point and work next instep stitches, slip marker, knit 2 together, knit rest of stitches on this needle point.

Row 3: Work all stitches on each side, slipping markers when you come to them.

Repeat rows 2 and 3 until you have decreased enough stitches to bring your total stitches on each side to 18 (20, 24) for a total of 36 (40, 48) stitches...the original number of cast on stitches. You are ready now to work the foot of your sock.

**Foot:**

Work all stitches on both sides of your sock until foot measures approximately 7 (8 or 9) inches from back of heel, or until about 2 inches less than desired finished measurement of entire foot of sock.

**Shape Toe:** (Star shaped toe finishing)

Row 1: Knit 6 (10, 6), knit 2 together. Repeat to end of row.

Row 2: Knit all stitches.

Row 3 Knit 5 (9, 5), knit 2 together. Repeat to end of row.

Row 4: Knit all stitches.

Continue in this manner until there are only 12 stitches left on each half (total 24 stitches). At this point begin decreasing every row until only 4 stitches remain on each half.

Cut yarn leaving 8" tail. Thread through remaining stitches, pull tightly, weave in ends.