

## DASHING SOCKS

**Materials:** One skein of Bernat Baby yarn; one set of five US #3, and one set of five #4 double pointed needles for casting on; one darning needle for weaving in yarn ends.

**NOTE:** Sock yarn can be used, and requires US #2 to #4 needles; sport weight yarns require US #3 to #5 needles; worsted requires US #5 or #6. Cast on stitches will need to be adjusted by the change in gauge.

**Gauge:**

With size US #3 needles = 7 sts per inch

Rows = 8 rows per inch

**Abbreviations:**

**K:** knit

**P:** purl

**S1:** slip stitch from one needle to the other, as if to knit

**K2tog:** knit two stitches together

**SSK:** Slip Slip Knit means to slip one stitch (as if to knit), slip a second stitch (as if to purl), then insert left needle into the front of both stitches now on the right needle, and knit together through back loop

**Cast On:** cast on 48 stitches, and divide evenly among the four dpns. Join being careful not to twist the stitches. Before beginning the ribbing, knit one row around plain to give yourself a base to work with. It also makes a nice little decorative edging at the top of the ribbing.

**NOTE:** I like to cast on using a size larger needles (#4) and knit the first round before changing to the smaller (#3) needles. This gives more stretch to the top of the sock.

**Sock Top:** Work k1, p1 or k2, p2 ribbing (your choice) for 10 rows.

**Leg:** Knit stitch pattern for 6 inches before beginning heel.

**Stitch Pattern:** (Place stitch marker at beginning).

**Row 1:** Knit around.

**Row 2:** Knit around.

**Row 3:** \*k4, p4, k4\* Repeat around.

**Row 4:** Knit around.

**Row 5: Knit around.**

**Row 6: \*p4, k4, p4\* Repeat around.**

**Repeat these 6 rows for approximately 6 inches, ending with two knit rows.**

**Begin the Heel: Here two needles remain the front of the sock, and the other two become the heel. Place all stitches from the two heel needles on to one needle, and leave the other two needles with their previous stitches as the instep (front of the sock). You may place the stitches from the two front needles on to waste yarn if you feel the needles are in your way as you knit the heel flap.**

**Heel Pattern: (If possible begin on a purl side)**

**Purl Side: S1, purl across remaining stitches on the purl side.**

**Knit Side: \*S1, k1\* repeat across the knit side**

**Continue this pattern for 2 inches, finishing on the right side (knit side) row.**

**Turn the heel as follows:**

**Row 1: (On the purl side) S1, purl to halfway plus 2 stitches more (14 stitches), p2tog, p1, turn.**

**Row 2: S1, k5, k2tog, k1, turn**

**Row 3: Knit to the gap created on the previous row, p2tog, p1, turn.**

**Row 4: Same as row 3**

**Continue as above until all stitches on the heel flap have been worked ending on a purl row.**

**Starting the gusset: Pick up a stitch under each of the long slipped stitches along the side of the heel flap, usually 13 or 14 stitches. Now knit across the 24 stitches on the two front needles. When you reach the end of the front row, pick up at least the same number of stitches along the other side of the heel flap with your extra needle.**

**Distribute the stitches evenly on the two heel needles and begin your decreases.**

**Instep decreases:**

**Round 1: Knit across front two needles with 12 stitches each.**

**On needle number 3: k1, SSK, and knit remaining stitches.**

**On needle number 4: Knit to within three stitches from the end of the stitches on the needle, K2tog, k1.**

**Round 2: Knit plain around on all needles.**

**Repeat these two rounds until there are 12 stitches on each of the two heel needles. You should now be back to 48 stitches total. Continue to knit with no further decreases until the foot is complete and you are ready to decrease for the toe. NOTE: You can try the sock on at this point, and prepare to begin decreasing for the toe when you have knitted to within two and one-half inches from the tip of your toe, or from the measurement for the desired length of the sock.**

**Toe: Use the same decreases you used on the heel gusset, except now on all needles.**

**ROUND 1:**

**On needle number 1: k1, SSK, knit to end of stitches.**

**On needle number 2: knit to within 3 stitches from the end, and k2tog, k1.**

**On needle number 3: k1, SSK, knit to end of stitches.**

**On needle number 4: Knit to within three stitches from the end of the stitches on the needle, K2tog, k1. See note below on decreases.**

**Continue these two rows until only a few stitches remain and you can no longer knit decreases.**

**Cut the yarn, leaving enough of a tail to thread through the remaining stitches, Pull the threaded yarn tight and knot on the inside of the toe.**

**Weave in ends, both top of sock and toe.**

**Explanation of SSK: Put point of right needle into the stitch as if to knit. Slip it to the right needle without knitting. Slip the second stitch to the right needle in the same way, without knitting. Now insert the left needle into the fronts of both stitches—with the right needle behind. Yarn over, and knit as usual. This creates a decrease of two stitches down to one that will tilt to the left. The k2tog decrease tilts to the right. Using the two methods of decrease on opposite ends of the row creates a decreased toe that looks like this**

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