

Pink and Navy Socks



Pattern: Riverbed Master Sock by Cat Bordhi

Source: *New Pathways for Sock Knitters, Book One*

Yarn: Knit Picks Stroll, 2.8 skeins, 140 g

Gauge: 5.7 sts and 7 rows = 1 inch, holding three strands together

Finished: 2010

Notes

I consider these socks as fairly significant because of a discovery I made.

I had bought several kits only to get the accompanying patterns, then found out I don't like knitting socks on size 0/2.00 mm needles. Much too hard on the hands and especially the eyes.

So I tried holding three strands of sock yarn together, which would also use up all the yarn that much faster. Fab-OO!!! My single-strand gauge required 99 stitches per square inch, while holding three strands together dropped that figure to 42 or so. Plus, way easier on the eyes and hands.

As I was working on these socks, which were two strands of a pink variegated and one strand of navy, I noticed that there seemed to be way too much dark, so I started manipulating the strands as I formed each stitch. What I found was that whichever strand of the stitch I just made was closest to the needle tip, that strand would be the one that showed after I worked the next row/round.

In essence, I could force the sock to be entirely pink (or entirely navy) even though strands of both colors were being used.

Could such a technique be used to avoid stranding but get the effect of colorwork? Yes, it could. It took me nine years to try it out for real, but it does actually work.

Now, it's only fair to say that this technique of forcing a particular strand to wind up on the public side of the fabric is probably only doable because I'm a brute-force thrower. If it works only for me, well, then I finally have found an advantage to my admittedly slower and, some would say, awkward method!