

Slipper Socks



Try 2: with afterthought 2x2 rib on back of heel

Pattern Name: based on Upstream Master Sock by Cat Bordhi

Source: New Pathways for Sock Knitters, Book One

Yarn: Knit Picks Stroll Hand Painted in Tiger Eye, 1.1 skein, 106 g

Gauge: 5.5 sts and 7 rows = 1 in (I used 3.25 mm)

Tags: toe-up, adapted

Notes

So DH wants slippers, not socks. The slipper book I have felts nearly all its projects. Uh, no.

So looking through NP, the model sock for the Upstream style caught my eye. If instead of starting the instep increases, I started working back in forth in rows, working as many rows as I would have worked rounds to make all the increases, I can then turn the heel as usual and have an ankle-high custom-fit slipper.

I will be doing my usual trick of holding (NOT winding, just HOLDING!) three strands of yarn as one, which means I need only thirty-five sts per square inch on 3.25 mm needles, instead of the one hundred per square inch I would need working with just one strand and 2.0 mm needles.

The only question is how to handle the four stitches that are between the places where the increase lines would normally be set up (since I have twenty-two sts on the instep needle). I think I'll use TECHknitter's method of crossing stitches below a vertical hole, then just bind them off, two at the beginning of the first two rows I'll work flat.

His numbers:

D=44

F=66

G=22

H=11

I=6

J=4 (but I won't be adding these)

E=4.96 inches

September 4, 2018: Try 1

First BO Attempt

I worked to the end of the sole needle. Then I slipped instep sts until I got to the center, then crossed the center two sts (I have twenty-two on both instep and sole).



Center two stitches crossed

I slipped those instep stitches back, then worked them to the center. I turned, BO 3, worked to the other end, turned, BO 3.



Try 1: Worked to center, turned, BO 3, worked to end, turned, BO 3.

Because the two BO areas are right next to each other, it's pretty obvious they weren't BO on the same row. In a sweater/vest, the underarm BOs are so far away from each other, the one-row diff isn't noticeable.)

Second BO Attempt

So I ripped all that back to the point where I had the two center sts crossed. I again slipped the first half of the instep stitches, then turned and did a “dry” BO, meaning I didn’t work the sts before binding them off over one another. I slipped all the stitches back, then I did the same thing on the other half of the instep sts: BO three starting from the center. Since the BOs now occur on the same row, I think it looks better.



Attempt 2: Center sts still crossed, but a “dry” BO, without using the working yarn

Worked one more row to see how it looked. I think we have a winner! Ding, ding, ding!



Dry BO plus one row: looks good

About the Increases

For a long time, I used Cat’s LLinc and LRinc increases, but at some point I got lazy and started using yarnovers instead, pairing a regular yo and a reverse yo, so that when I twisted them shut on the next round, they were turned in opposite directions.

I'm doing the same here, but since I'm increasing every third row, I have to work the yos on both knit and purl rows. If I do regular yos on knit rows and reverse yos on purl rows, it's MUCH easier to twist them on the next row. I'm not worrying about them twisting in opposite directions, since they're worked one stitch from the instep edges and are essentially invisible.

The two pics after the increases are done show my standard method of marking and counting the inc rows/rounds. I have a terrible time counting, so the pins greatly simplify the process.

September 5, 2018

So I did all the incs per the pattern. Since I started with twenty-two instep sts and BO six, I had eight on each side. I had to increase eleven on each side, which gave me nineteen stitches and therefore thirty-eight rows for the heel.



Try 1: Side view, incs complete. Pins do the counting for me.

In the next pic, I still have seven stitches on each instep needle, as I usually move the wing sts about a third at a time to avoid straining the yarn, the needles, and my hands.



Try 1: 14 of 38 heel rows left to do

So, the first thing he said when he put on the finished slipper was “It’s not going to stay on my foot.” Clearly I don’t need to do ALL the increases, but I think some are warranted. After he put some finished socks back on, he pointed to his instep and said he thought the opening should start *there*. Will start a second sample and see what we can do.



Try 1: Too high in back, too low in front

September 15, 2018: Try 2

So I worked to the fourth inc rnd (of H = 11). Worked one more round to take care of my unofficial yarnover incs (instead of LLincs and LRincs), then on the next round I added three yarnovers to help make the central BOs a bit less tight:

0 V 0 V 0 V | V 0 V 0 V 0

I worked back to the beginning of the instep, then crossed the center two knits and BO four on each side, dropping the yarnovers for a bit of slack. Then I worked to the end of the first instep needle, doing the fifth and final increase. I turned and worked back, doing the fifth and final increase on the WS on the other instep edge. Then it was just back and forth until I had worked all eleven sets of “increase” rounds. Turned the heel in the usual way, then worked about two-thirds of the heel rows last night.



Try 2 complete. Gold pins represent 5 actual increase rounds; colored light-bulb pins count the rest of the rounds for $H = 11$

Finished it this morning and thought it looked pretty good. After DH tried it on, he wondered if it would stay on. Well, of course it feels different from a sock, but one thing I did to help it feel grippier was to drop pairs of sts down the back of the heel and hook them back up from the inside to turn the heel into 2x2 rib.

He put it back on and went scuffing across the floor. The only way to know for sure is to make the second one. I've already frogged the first try back and am past the incs, so should finish it today or tomorrow.

Used 53.5 g of yarn held triple.

10:50 pm update

Finished the second sock, so hopefully he'll give them a test-drive tomorrow!

September 17, 2018

First day feedback: He wants them a bit higher on the sides, so I'm going to do six actual increase rounds (which makes them another 3/7-inch tall) with five sets of non-increase companion rounds.

Also, the worked 2x2 ribbing is snugger than the afterthought, so I may eventually rip the heel back in the first sock and reknit it with the ribbing.