

Pilaster Socks

ORIGINAL DESIGN BY DEBBIE O'NEILL; ADAPTED FOR MILLSPUN YARN BY JULIE FENG



Photos by Gale Zucker

Farm
& Fiber Knits

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These architecturally inspired unisex cable socks are balanced between wearable and fun to knit. Because sock yarn can be very colorful, Debbie chose an alternating cable pattern that would stand out against a simple background. A pilaster is an ornamental element in classical architecture, an upright pillar a bit like a column. The columns of cables in the Pilaster Socks stand proud of the background with syncopated double crosses. The simple cuff design evokes the capital at the top of an architectural column.

MATERIALS

Yarn Fingering-weight wool yarn, about 320 (350, 420) yd (293 [320, 384] m). *Shown here:* Quince & Co. Finch (100% American wool; 221 yd [202 m] /50 g; fingering weight); aleutian, 2 skeins.

Needles Size 1 (2.25 mm): Set of 5 double-pointed (dnp). Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions Cable needle (cn); marker (m); tapestry needle.

Gauge 34 sts and 48 rnds = 4" (10 cm) in St st.

Finished size About 6½ (7¾, 9¾)" (16.5 [19.5, 23.5] cm) foot circumference, unstretched; will stretch to fit about 7 (8¼, 9¾)" (18 [21, 25] cm); suggested foot lengths 9 (9½, 10¼)" (23 [24, 26] cm), length is adjustable; to fit women's U.S. shoe sizes 5½ to 7 narrow (7 to 8½ medium, 9 to 10 wide).

See farmfiberknits.com/abbreviations for terms you don't know.

NOTES

- You can use your preferred short-row method for the heel, but Debbie used yarnovers and backward yarnovers for symmetry. Priscilla Gibson-Roberts wrote about the technique in her 2000 Priscilla's Dream Socks pattern, pointing out that the regular yarnovers worked on the knit side of the fabric didn't match when worked on the purl side. Working the yarnover backward—that is, between the needles from front to back and then over the top to the front—on the purl side and then correcting the mount of the yarnover on the next row produces a short-row heel that is symmetrical on the left and right sides.
- Although the pattern gives foot and ankle lengths for guidance, those measurements are completely customizable.

SOCK

Toe

Using a closed method such as the Turkish method (see page 5), CO 10 (14, 14) sts. Place marker (pm) for beginning of round. Knit 1 round.



The backward-yarnover method that Priscilla Gibson-Roberts described in her Dream Socks creates a symmetrical short-row heel.

Distribute sts as follows: 3 (4, 4) stitches on Needle 1; 5 (7, 7) sts on Needle 2; and 2 (3, 3) sts on Needle 3.

Inc Rnd: On Needle 1, knit to last stitch, M1, k1; on Needle 2, k1, M1, knit to last stitch, M1, k1; on Needle 3, k1, M1, knit to end—4 stitches increased.

Rep the Inc rnd 3 (3, 4) more times—26 (30, 34) stitches. [Knit 1 rnd, repeat the Inc rnd] 7 (9, 11) times—54 (66, 78) stitches total—14 (17, 20) sts on Needle 1, 27 (33, 39) sts on Needle 2, and 13 (16, 19) sts on Needle 3. Knit one round even—toe measures 1½ (2, 2¼)" (3.2 [5, 5.5] cm) from cast-on.

Foot

Note: The stitches for the sole of the foot are on Needles 1 and 3, and the instep stitches are on Needle 2. Establish the chart pattern on the instep for the right or left sock as follows:

Right Sock

Next rnd On Needle 1, knit; on Needle 2, k1 (4, 1), work Rnd 17 (1, 17) of Right Instep chart over 26 (26, 38) sts, k0 (3, 0); on Needle 3, knit.

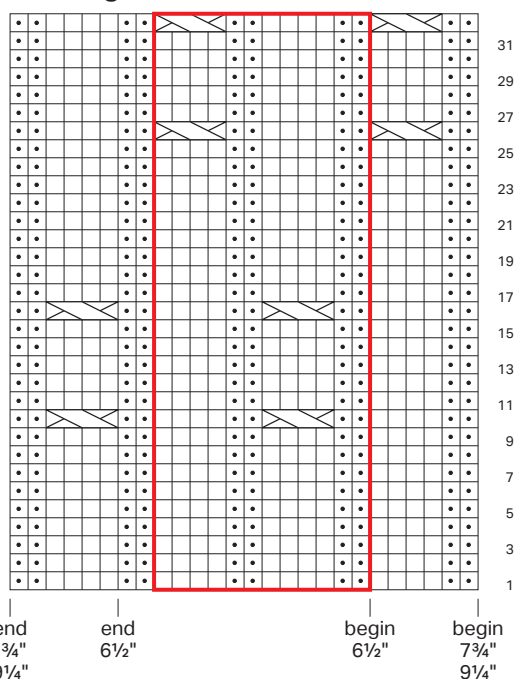
Left Sock

Next rnd On Needle 1, knit; on Needle 2, k1 (4, 1), work Rnd 1 (17, 1) of Left Instep chart over 26 (26, 38) sts, k0 (3, 0); on Needle 3, knit.

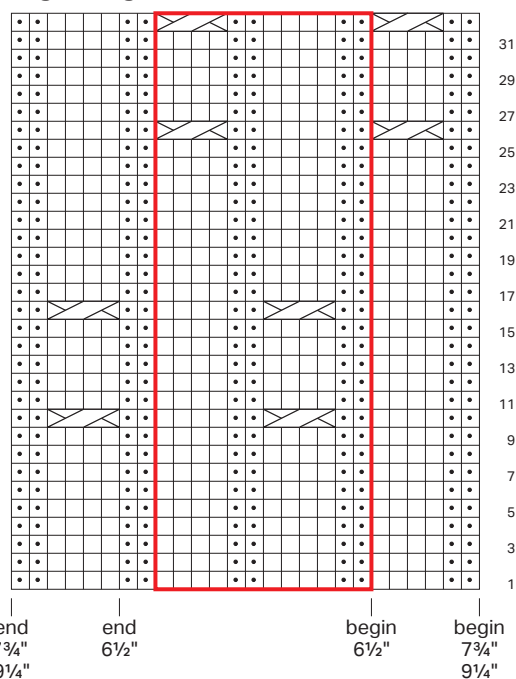
Both Socks

Working stitches outside the chart pattern in stockinette, work to Rnd 32 of chart once, then rep Rnds 1-32 until the foot measures 7½ (7¾, 8¼)" (19 [19.5, 21] cm) from back of heel, or about 1½ (1¼, 2)" (3.8 [4.5, 5] cm) less than desired total foot length, ending with an odd-numbered round. Make a note of the last chart round completed so you can begin the leg pattern with the correct round.

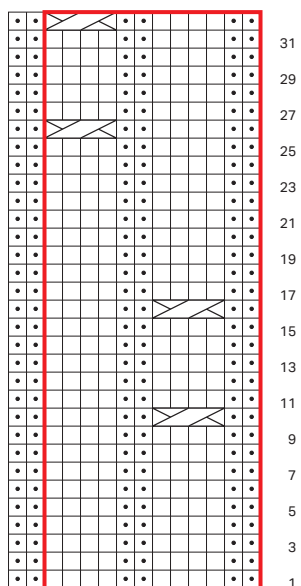
Left Leg



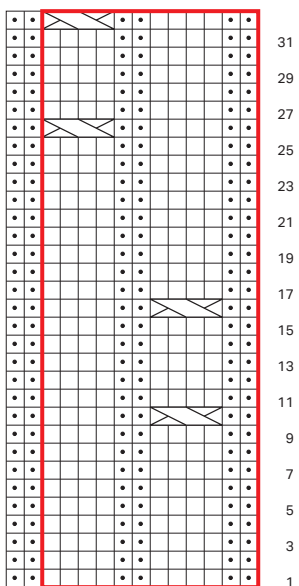
Right Leg



Right Instep



Left Instep



knit

purl

pattern repeat

sl 2 sts onto cn and hold in back, k2, k2 from cn

sl 2 sts onto cn and hold in front, k2, k2 from cn

Heel

The heel will be worked back and forth in short-rows on the 27 (33, 39) sole stitches on Needles 1 and 3. Place 27 (33, 39) stitches from Needles 1 and 3 on a single dpn for heel, and divide stitches from Needle 2 onto 2 dpns to work later for front of leg.

First half of heel

Short-row 1 (RS) Knit to the last st, turn work, leaving the last stitch unworked.

Short-row 2 (WS) Yo backward (see Notes), purl to last st, turn work, leaving the last stitch unworked.

Short-row 3 Yo as usual, knit to the stitch before the yo of the previous row, turn work—1 unworked edge stitch and 1 “pair” consisting of a yo and the unworked stitch next to it at each side.

Short-row 4 Yo backward, purl to the stitch before the yo on the previous row, turn work.

Short-row 5 Yo as usual, knit to the stitch before the yo of the previous row, turn work.

Repeat Short-rows 4 and 5 until there are 8 (10, 12) yo/stitch pairs at each side, plus 1 unpaired edge stitch at each end of needle, and do not turn work after final RS row—43 (53, 63) stitches total on heel needle, including yos.

Second half of heel

With RS facing, continue as follows:

Short-row 1 (RS) K1 (first stitch of pair), work the next yo together with the stitch of the following pair as k2tog, turn work.

Short-row 2 Yo backward, purl to paired stitches, p1 (first stitch of pair), work the next yo together with the stitch of the following pair as ssp, turn work.

Short-row 3 Yo as usual, knit to paired stitches, k1 (first stitch of pair), correct the orientation of the next 2 yos, then work the 2 yos together with the stitch of the following pair as k3tog, turn work.

Short-row 4 Yo backward, purl to paired stitches, p1 (first stitch of pair), work the next 2 yos together with the stitch of the following pair as slip, slip, slip, sssp, turn work.

Repeat Short-rows 3 and 4 until only 1 yo/stitch pair, 1 extra yo, and 1 edge st remain at each end of needle.

Next row (RS) Yo as usual, knit to paired stitches, k1, correct the orientation of the next 2 yos, then work the 2 yos together with the edge stitch as k3tog, turn work.

Next row (WS) Yo backward, purl to paired stitches, p1, work the 2 yos together with the edge stitch as sssp, turn work—28 (34, 40) heel stitches: 27 (33, 39) sts and 1 yo at end of needle with RS facing.

Leg

With RS facing, redistribute the stitches for the right or left sock as follows:

Place first 14 (17, 20) heel stitches on one needle, place remaining 13 (16, 19) heel stitches and the yo after them on a second needle, then place 27 (33, 39) held instep stitches on a third needle. Resume working in the round as follows:

Transition rnd Yo as usual, knit to end of needle, pm for new beginning of round at center back leg; on next needle (now Needle 1), knit to yo at end of needle, transfer the yo to the beginning of the instep needle (now Needle 2); on Needle 2 work the transferred yo and the first instep st as k2tog, work established instep pattern to last stitch of needle, transfer yo from the start of this round to the end of instep needle, work last instep stitch together with transferred yo as ssk; knit across the stitches of the first needle again (now Needle 3) to marker at end of needle—54 (66, 78) stitches remain; 13 (16, 19) stitches on Needle 1, 27 (33, 39) stitches on Needle 2, 14 (17, 20) stitches on Needle 3. The round now begins in the center of the back of the leg.

Note: Begin the Right or Left Leg chart with the next numbered round that follows the Instep chart round just finished. For example, if you just worked Rnd 12 of the

Right Instep chart, begin the Right Leg chart with Rnd 13. Establish the Leg chart for the right or left sock as follows:

Right Sock

Next rnd K2, work the next round in sequence from the Right Leg chart by working 0 (6, 6) stitches before red pattern repeat box once, work the 12-stitch repeat 4 (4, 5) times, work the 2 (8, 8) stitches after the pattern repeat box once, k2.

Left Sock

Next rnd K2, work the next round in sequence from the Left Leg chart by working 0 (6, 6) stitches before red pattern repeat box once, work the 12-stitch repeat 4 (4, 5) times, work the 2 (8, 8) stitches after the pattern repeat box once, k2.

Both socks

Keeping 2 stitches at each end of round outside chart pattern in stockinette (these 4 stitches form a “seam” up the back of the leg), work to Rnd 32 of chart once, then rep Rnds 1-32 until leg measures $4\frac{1}{4}$ " (11 cm) from top of heel, or 1" (2.5 cm) less than the desired length, ending with an odd-numbered round.

Cuff

Rnds 1-5 [Knit 1 rnd, purl 1 rnd] 2 times, knit 1 rnd.

Rnds 6-11 *K2, p1; repeat from * to end of round.

Rnds 12-16 Rep Rnds 1-5—leg measures about $5\frac{1}{4}$ " (13.5 cm) from top of heel. Break yarn, leaving a tail about three times the circumference of the leg.

FINISHING

With tail threaded on a tapestry needle, use the Sewn Bind-off to bind off all stitches (see page 5). Weave in ends.

Debbie O'Neill is a software engineer by training, but she loves to design knitwear. In addition to designs for a variety of publications, retailers, and yarn companies, she releases patterns as Nutty Creations. Find Nutty Creations on Instagram as [nuttycreationsdesigns](#).

TURKISH/EASTERN CAST-ON

Hold two double-pointed needles parallel to each other. Leaving a 4" (10 cm) tail hanging to the front between the two needles, wrap the yarn around both needles from back to front half the number of times as desired stitches (four wraps shown here for eight stitches total), then bring the yarn forward between the needles (Figure 1).

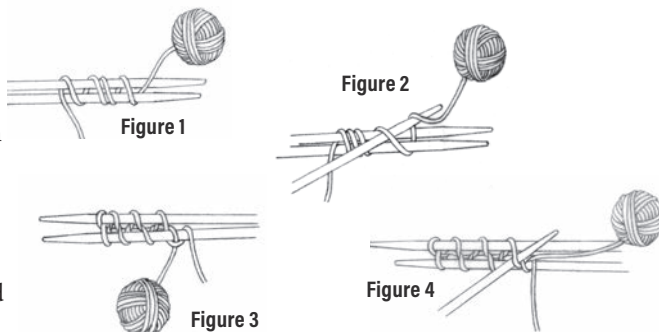
Use a third needle to knit across the loops on the top needle, keeping the third needle on top of both the other needles when knitting the first stitch (Figure 2).

With the right side facing, rotate the two cast-on needles like the hand of a clock so that the bottom needle is on the top (Figure 3).

Knit across the loops on the new top needle (Figure 4).

Rotate the needles again and use a third needle to knit half of the stitches on the new top needle. There will now be an equal number of stitches on two needles, and twice as many stitches on the third needle.

The two needles with the smaller number of stitches will form the bottom of the foot; the needle with twice as many stitches will form the top of the foot. Using a fourth needle, begin working in rounds.



SEWN BIND-OFF

Cut the yarn three times the width of the knitting to be bound off, and thread onto a tapestry needle. Working from right to left, *insert tapestry needle purlwise (from right to left) through first two stitches (Figure 1) and pull the yarn through, then bring needle knitwise (from left to right) through the first stitch (Figure 2), pull the yarn through, and slip this stitch off the knitting needle. Repeat from *.

