

# Power of Ten Socks

CAROL HUEBSCHER RHOADES



Photo by Joe Coca

Farm  
& Fiber Knits

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Much of the knitting from southern Germany involves twisted traveling stitches, which stand out well when worked with a fine but sturdy yarn. Those motifs, however, take time and effort. I leafed through several German stitch dictionaries and my eyes kept returning to the Small Posy and Cable pattern, which very nicely combined a small lace pattern and a simple cable. The pattern is from *Omas Strickgeheimnisse: 200 bezaubernde Muster* [Grandmother's Knitting Secrets: 200 Enchanting Motifs] by Erika Eichenseer, Erika Grill, and Betta Krön (Rosenheim, Germany: Rosenheim, 2000; distributed in the United States by Schoolhouse Press).

Although I prefer crossing cables to the left (so the cable needle drops in front of the knitting), my samples showed that the right cross looked more “right” with the lace. I chose a yarn that would work well with my choice of stitches but also would evoke traditional yarns.

The socks originally had a very different name, but as I picked up the stitches around the heel flap I realized that there were several repeats of ten—ten rounds of ribbing, ten repeats of the six-row lace/cable pattern, ten repeats of the four-row heel pattern, ten decrease rounds on the foot gusset. Totally unplanned but harmonious pattern balancing—the power of ten.

## MATERIALS

**Finished Size** About 9" (23 cm) foot circumference, 9¾" (25 cm) from back of heel to tip of toe, and 9" (23 cm) from top of leg to base of heel.

**Yarn** Kauni 8/2 (100% wool; 656 yd [599.8 m]/150 g [5.3 oz]); #HH3 Gray, 1 ball.

**Needles** Sizes 1 (2.25 mm) and 0 (2 mm) circulars, 40" (100 cm) or sizes needed to obtain gauge.

**Notions** Cable needle, stitch markers (m), stitch holder, tapestry needle.

**Gauge** 32 sts and 44 rnds = 4" (10 cm) in St st on smaller needles.

See [farmfiberknits.com/abbreviations](http://farmfiberknits.com/abbreviations) for terms you don't know.

## STITCH GUIDE

**2/2 RC:** Sl 2 sts onto cn, hold in back, k2, k2 from cn.

## NOTES

- You may want to skein and wash the yarn before knitting as it is somewhat stiff. My socks could almost stand on their own when freshly knitted (I knitted the yarn right from the ball) but softened nicely with washing.
- The instructions are written for the long Magic-Loop needle method; two circulars or a set of four or five double-pointed needles could also be used.

## SOCKS

### Cuff and Leg

Working over 2 needle tips of larger cir and using the Old Norwegian method, CO 73 sts. Remove 1 needle. Being careful not to twist, join to work in the rnd by passing last CO st over 1st, return 1st st to left needle—72 sts. Divide sts 36–36 on Magic Loop cir and pm for beg of rnd. Work in k2, p2 rib for 10 rnds or 1" (2.5 cm). Purl 1 rnd. Knit 3 rnds.

Work Rnds 1–6 of Small Posy and Cable Chart 10 times.

**Next rnd** P1, [2/2 RC, p2, k4, p2] 5 times, 2/2 RC, p2, k4, p1.

### Heel

#### Heel flap:

Change to smaller cir needle.

**Row 1** (RS, set-up) K18, turn.

**Row 2** (WS) K1, p34, sl 1 pwise wyf. Place rem 36 sts on holder for instep.

**Row 3** K1, \*sl 1 wyb, k1; rep from \* to last st, sl 1 wyf.

**Row 4** K1, p34, sl 1 pwise wyf.

**Row 5** K2, \*sl 1 pwise wyb, k1; rep from \* to last 2 sts, sl 1 pwise wyb, sl 1 pwise wyf.

**Row 6** K1, p34, sl 1 pwise wyf.

Key



k



p



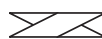
yo



k2tog

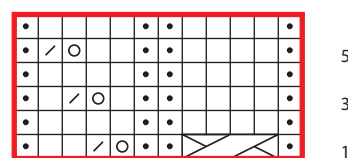


patt rep



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

Small Posy and Cable



12-st rep

Rep Rows 3–6 nine more times. Heel flap measures about 2¼" (6 cm) long.

#### **Shape heel:**

Pm between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> sts on heel flap.

**Row 1** (RS) Sl 1 pwise wyb, knit to m, sl m, k5, ssk, turn.

**Row 2** (WS) Sl 1 pwise wyf, purl to m, sl m, p5, p2tog, turn.

Rep last 2 rows 11 more times—12 sts rem.

#### **Gusset:**

**Set-up rnd** K6, pm for beg of rnd, k6, pick up and knit 22 sts along side of heel flap, k36 instep sts from holder, pick up and knit 22 sts on opposite side of heel flap, knit to beg of rnd—92 sts. Arrange sts on cir with 36 sts for instep and 56 sts for sole.

**Rnd 1** Knit.

**Rnd 2** Knit to 3 sts before instep, k2tog, k1, k36 instep sts, k1, ssk, knit to end—2 sts dec'd.

Rep last 2 rnds 9 more times—72 sts rem.

#### **Foot**

Knit even until foot measures 2" (5 cm) less than desired total length.

#### **Toe**

**Set-up rnd** K18, pm between sole and instep for new beg of rnd.

**Rnd 1** K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts of instep, k2tog, k2, ssk, k to last 3 sts of sole, k2tog, k1—4 sts dec'd.

**Rnd 2** Knit.

Rep last 2 rnds 11 more times—24 sts rem. Carefully bring cir needle tips and yarn through as you turn sock inside out. Join the 2 sets of sts using the Three-Needle Bind-Off method.

#### **FINISHING**

Weave in ends. Block.