

TRAIN SOCKS - Finnish baby socks

You need 1 skein of fingering weight yarn and double point needles 2 1/2 mm (US 1 1/2). (Directions written for 5 dp's)

Cast on 40 stitches, divide evenly over 4 needles.

Rows 1-12: * k2, p2 * ribbing

Rows 13-16: purl

Rows 17-20: knit

Rows 21-24: purl

Rows 25-36: * k2, p2 * ribbing

Repeat rows 13-36 one more time.

Next row: Begin knitting the heel flap. (The pattern does not give directions for making the heel. Work any heel you like, making sure you end up with 6 stitches once the heel is done.)

Pick up 7 stitches off each heel flap edge, redistribute stitches so that there are 10 on each needle, and knit the foot as follows:

Rows 1-4: purl on the two needles that are the top of your sock, and knit the two needles that are the sole.

Rows 5-8: knit all stitches

Repeat rows 1-8 two more times.

Next 4 rows: purl on top of sock, knit on sole

Toe decrease: (see * at end)

On each left edge: knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1

On each right edge: k1, slip 1, k1, pass slipped stitch over

Continue until 4 stitches remain, cut yarn and thread it through the stitches twice. Work the yarn end into the sock, and lightly steam the sock.



The story behind the socks:

In 1940, Finland was at war with the Soviet Union. Kerttu Latvala was traveling by train with her 2-month-old daughter Terttu. Bombing had destroyed the tracks. They had to wait several hours in the train. Sitting opposite to them was a retired handcrafts teacher who felt bad for the baby without warm socks. So she undid enough of the weaving of her woolen jacket to be able to make a pair of socks for the baby.

From then on, Mrs. Latvala has made a pair of socks when someone has had a new baby. She has knitted several hundreds of pairs of these socks during her lifetime. Terttu Latvala, the daughter, continued the tradition, knitting over 200 pairs herself.

In addition to being easy on the eyes, the socks also stay up very well on little feet.