

**Ploughed Acre
Knee Socks**



Ploughed Acre Knee Socks

This lace pattern is from Barbara Walker's stitch dictionary, *A Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1968) and is called "Ploughed Acre." I can think of nothing more beautiful than these twinned rows of crops between the brown earth of a newly planted field, and I wanted it in socks! These toe up, short-row heel socks add a bit of glamour to a practical idea. Knee socks offer an extra layer of warmth in the winter underneath a pair of jeans or a skirt, and with just a little bit of simple lace, socks become, well...sexy, even when the thermostat's turned down.

The pattern allows those who prefer shorter socks that option as well. The yarn I chose for these socks is from Elsa Wool Company, a Cormo sheep ranch in Colorado. The fiber is processed as gently as possible, and the owner, a lifelong farmer, is committed to excellence in everything from sheep care to customer service. If your interest is in supporting natural fibers or U.S. small farms, this is a great yarn to consider. If you live in Colorado or Montana, you're lucky to be able to consider this a local product as the flocks graze in your state.

Skill Level

Intermediate

Size

Women's Medium (Large)

Finished Measurements

Sock circumference 8 (9½)"
(20.3 [24.1]cm)

Length of sock from toe to
heel 9 (10)" (22.9 [25.4]cm) or
length to fit recipient

Length of sock from heel
to cuff:

Short option: 10" (25.4cm)
Knee Sock option: 16" (40.6cm)
or length to fit recipient

Materials

note If purchasing from Elsa Wool Company for these socks, take care to choose Worsted spun yarn rather than Woolen spun in order to get harder wearing socks that will be less prone to felting.

☞ 2 skeins of Elsa Wool Company Worsted-Spun 2-ply Sportweight Yarn, 100 percent Cormo wool, 1,360 yd. per lb, 213 yd. (195m), 2.5 oz. (71g), color: White.

or

☞ 426 yd. (390m) of any sportweight yarn that knits at the same gauge

☞ U.S. size 1 (2.25mm) double-pointed needles

☞ U.S. size 2 (2.75mm) double-pointed needles

☞ Row counter

☞ 5 stitch markers, 4 of which are split-ring markers or safety pins (to mark rows)

☞ Tapestry needle

Gauge

26 sts and 38 rows = 4" (10cm) in stockinette stitch with smaller needles

Pattern Stitch

Ploughed Acre Pattern

Rnd 1: Knit.

Rnd 2: K1, *yo, k2tog, k4, ssk, yo, k2, rep from *, end k1.

Special Stitch

To form a backward yo, with purl side facing, bring yarn to the back under the needle and then over the top. (The leading side of the loop will be on the back of the needle.) For more information about this technique, see *Simple Socks, Plain and Fancy*, by Priscilla Gibson-Roberts (Nomad Press, 2004).



Instructions

Make Toe

With #1 (2.25mm) needles, CO 8 sts on 1 dpn.

Inc (kf&b) 1 st in each st and distribute on needles as follows:

4 sts on needle #1, 8 sts on needle #2, 4 sts on needle #3.

Join and pm.

Rnd 1: Knit.

Rnd 2: Knit until last st of needle #1, inc 1 in that st. On needle #2, k1, inc 1 in next st. Knit until last 2 sts. Inc 1, k1. On needle #3, inc 1, knit to end of rnd.

Rep Rnds 1 and 2 until 52 sts on needles.

For larger size only:

Rep Rnds 1 and 2 until there are 60 sts on needles.

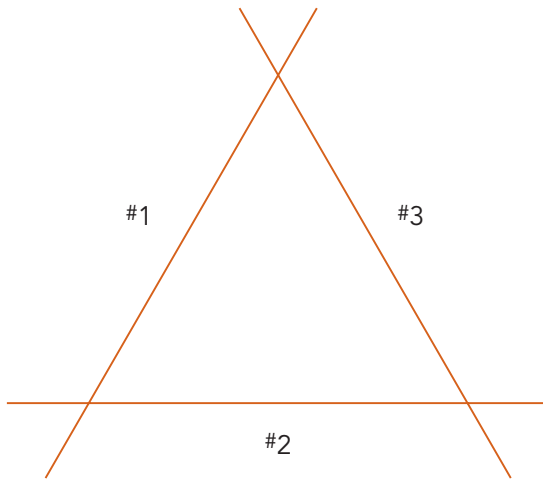
Work Rnd 1.

Work additional Rnd 2, inc 2 sts only on needle #2 for a total of 62 sts.

For both sizes:

Redistribute sts on needles as follows:

11 (16) sts on needle #1, 30 (30) sts on needle #2, 11 (16) sts on needle #3.



Begin Pattern

Work Rnd 1 of Ploughed Acre patt as above.

Rnd 2: Knit sts on needle #1, work patt as follows on needle #2:

*Yo, k2tog, k4, ssk, yo, k2, rep from *, knit sts on needle #3.

Rep Rnd 1 and 2 until foot measures 7 (8)" (18 [20cm], or 2" (5cm) less than desired length.

End after Rnd 2.

Work Heel

Redistribute sts as follows, keeping marker at midpoint of heel before first st on needle #1:

13 (15) sts on needle #1, 26 (32) sts on needle #2, and 13 (15) sts on needle #3.

Work the heel over 26 (30) sts, back and forth on needles #1 and #3.

Row 1 (RS): On needle #1, k12 (14).

Row 2 (WS): Turn work, backward yo, p24 (28), continuing across to needle #3.

Row 3 (RS): Turn work, yo, k23 (27).

Row 4 (WS): Turn work, backward yo, purl until first paired sts made with a st with yo attached—22 (26) sts purred.

Row 5 (RS): Turn work, yo, knit until first paired sts made with yo attached—21 (25) sts knitted.

Rep Rows 4 and 5, with fewer sts worked in St st each time, until 10 (12) sts rem between the yarnovers and you have just completed the following WS row: backward yo, p10 (12) sts.

Next row: Turn work, yo, k10 (12), k2tog tbl (yo and next st on needle), closing the gap.

Next row: Turn work, backward yo, p11 (13), p2tog (yo and next st on needle), closing the gap.

Next row: Turn work yo, knit until reaching 2 yarnovers, k3tog tbl (2 yarnovers and next st on needle).

Next row: Turn work, backward yo, purl until reaching 2 yarnovers, p3tog (2 yarnovers and next st on needle).

Rep the last 2 rows, continuing to turn work and dec until all yo pairs have been worked. At the end of the last purl row, p3tog (2 yarnovers and the last st on the needle).

Next rnd (RS): Turn work and begin working in the round again. On needle #3, yo, k13 (15), on needle #1, k13 (15), sl yo at end of needle #1 onto needle #2 and k2tog (yo and first st on needle #2), knit across to the last st on needle #2; sl yo on needle #3 onto the end of needle #2 and k2tog (last st on needle #2 and the yo from #3); knit rem 13 (15) sts on needle #3. Sts will be arranged on the needles as follows: #1–13 (15), #2–26 (32), #3–13 (15).

Redistribute sts on the needles as follows so that patt aligns correctly, keeping marker at midpoint of heel before first st. Needle #1 should have 11 (16) sts, needle #2 should have 30 (30) sts, and needle #3 should have 11 (16) sts.

For large size only:

At beg of rnd, k5. Pm here to indicate beg of Ploughed Acre patt.

For both sizes:

Work Ploughed Acre patt for leg, beg with Rnd 2 at marker and working around whole sock. When you reach the marker and beg Rnd 1, take care to k1 st (as in the patt instructions) before beginning 10 st rep.

Work for 6" (15cm).

To make shorter socks instead of knee socks, skip the instructions for calf shaping and work ribbing with #1 (2.25mm) needles, as described below.

Knee Sock Calf Shaping

When leg measures 6" (15cm), switch to larger needles as follows:

Pm to designate length.

Switch one #1 (2.25mm) needle with a #2 (2.75mm) needle. Work 1" (2.25cm) in patt with three #1 (2.25mm) needles and one #2 (2.75mm) needle in the rotation.

*Pm.

Switch another #1 (2.25mm) needle for a #2 (2.75mm) needle. Work 1" (2.25cm) in patt.*

Rep between ** 2 more times, until working with only #2 (2.75mm) needles. At this point, you can remove the markers.

Continue in patt until sock leg (above heel) measures 12" (30.5cm) or desired length.

Ribbing

Work k2, p2 ribbing for 4" (10cm) or as desired.

BO loosely in patt.

Make second sock for best result!

Finishing

With a tapestry needle and CO end, carefully close up hole at sock toe. Weave in ends.

Block gently with cool water, avoiding agitation. Lay flat to dry.