

# Diagonal Rib Socks

Design by Ann Budd

There's no end to the types of decorative ribbings that are appropriate for socks. The one here alternates stripes of k1, p1 rib and diagonal stitches. It's one of many rib patterns in Nicky Epstein's *Knitted Embellishments* (Interweave Press, 1999).



Annie Hartman Bakken

## ★ FINISHED SIZE:

About 8" (20.5 cm) foot circumference and 9½" (24 cm) long from back of heel to tip of toe. To fit women's U.S. shoe sizes 8–9.

## YARN:

Gems Opal (100% merino; 225 yd [205 m]/100 g): tobacco, 2 skeins. Yarn distributed by Louet Sales.

## NEEDLES:

Size 2 (2.75 mm): set of 4 double-pointed (dpn). Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

## ★ NOTIONS:

Marker (m); tapestry needle.

## ★ GAUGE:

14 sts and 19 rnds = 2" (10 cm) in St st worked in the rnd.

## ★ SKILL LEVEL:

Intermediate. 

## ★ STITCH GUIDE:

**Diagonal Rib:** (multiple of 13 sts)

*Rnd 1:* \*P1, [k1, p1] 3 times, [k2tog but leave on needle, then knit the first st again and slip both sts off needle] 3 times; rep from \*.

*Rnd 2:* \*P1, [k1, p1] 3 times, k6; rep from \*.

*Rnd 3:* \*P1, [k1, p1] 3 times, k1, [k2tog but leave on needle, then knit the first st again and slip both sts off needle] 2 times, k1; rep from \*.

*Rnd 4:* Rep Rnd 2.

Repeat Rnds 1–4 for pattern.

## ★ LEG:

Holding 2 needles tog, CO 65 sts. Remove extra needle. Distribute sts as evenly as possible on 3 needles, join for working in the rnd, and place marker (pm) to indicate beg of rnd. Work Rnds 1–4 of diagonal rib patt until piece measures 8" (20.5 cm) from beg, ending with Rnd 1 or 3 of patt.

## ★ HEEL:

K20, turn work, sl 1, p31—32 sts for heel on 1 needle. Hold rem 33 sts on 2 needles to be worked later for instep.

**Heel flap:** Work 32 heel sts back and forth in rows as foll:

*Row 1:* (RS) \*Sl 1 pwise with yarn in back, k1; rep from \*.

*Row 2:* (WS) Sl 1 pwise with yarn in front, purl to end.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 until a total of 32 rows have been worked, ending with a WS row—16 chain sts (slipped selvedge sts) along each edge.

**Turn heel:** Work short rows as foll:

*Row 1:* (RS) K18, ssk (see box), k1, turn.

*Row 2:* (WS) Sl 1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn.

*Row 3:* Sl 1 pwise, knit to 1 st before gap formed by previous row, ssk, k1, turn.

*Row 4:* Sl 1 pwise, purl to 1 st before gap formed by previous row, p2tog, p1, turn.

Rep Rows 3 and 4 until all heel sts have been worked, ending with Row 4—18 heel sts rem.

**Gusset:** Rejoin for working in the rnd as foll:

*Rnd 1:* With needle 1, knit across 18 heel sts, then with same needle, pick up and knit 16 sts along left edge of heel flap; with needle 2, work 31 instep sts in diagonal rib patt as established, k2tog (to remove extra p1 st at edge of instep); with needle 3, pick up and knit 16 sts along right edge of heel flap, then knit first 9 heel sts again—82 sts total; 25 heel sts each on needles 1 and 3, 32 instep sts on needle 2. Rnd begins at center of heel.

*Rnd 2:* On needle 1, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on needle 2, work instep sts as established; on needle 3, k1, ssk, knit to end—2 sts dec'd.

*Rnd 3:* Knit all sts on needle 1; work sts as established on needle 2; knit all sts on needle 3.

Rep Rnds 2 and 3 until 64 sts rem—16 sts each on needles 1 and 3, 32 sts on needle 2.

## ★ FOOT:

Cont even as established (knit all sts on needles 1 and 3; cont in patt on needle 2) until piece measures 7" (18 cm) from back of heel, or about 2½" (6.5 cm) less than desired total length.

## ★ TOE:

*Rnd 1:* On needle 1, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on needle 2, k1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on needle 3, k1, ssk, knit to end—4 sts dec'd.

*Rnd 2:* Knit.

Rep Rnds 1 and 2 until 32 sts rem. Rep Rnd 2 (decreasing every rnd) until 8 sts rem. At the end of the last rnd, knit the sts on needle 1 onto the end of needle 3—4 sts each on 2 needles. Cut yarn, leaving a 12" (30.5-cm) tail. Thread tail on a tapestry needle and use the Kitchener st (see box) to graft sts tog. Weave in loose ends. Block lightly. ✨

**ANN BUDD** is senior book editor at Interweave Press and can often be seen knitting socks at meetings.

## Ssk Decrease:

Slip two stitches knitwise one at a time (Figure 1). Insert point of left needle into front of two slipped stitches and knit them together through back loops with right needle (Figure 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

## Kitchener Stitch

**Step 1:** Bring threaded needle through front stitch as if to purl and leave stitch on needle.



**Step 2:** Bring threaded needle through back stitch as if to knit and leave stitch on needle.

**Step 3:** Bring threaded needle through same front stitch as if to knit and slip this stitch off needle. Bring threaded needle through next front stitch as if to purl and leave stitch on needle.

**Step 4:** Bring threaded needle through first back stitch as if to purl (as illustrated), slip this stitch off, bring needle through next back stitch as if to knit, leave this stitch on needle. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 until no stitches remain on needles.

Illustrations by Gayle Ford



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