

# Botanical Socks

By Debbie Orr

These socks have an intricate lace design which looks like plant tendrils and leaves twisting up the leg. The pattern is achieved using simple stitch combinations despite the complexity of the finished look. The socks have quite a narrow heel to allow the pattern to spread neatly down onto the foot, and the Exquisite yarn makes them beautifully soft—perfect for wearing with a pair of jeans on a cold winter's day knitting in front of the fire.



## Needles

2.75mm circular needle using Magic Loop technique.  
I used an 80cm cord but some may find that too long.  
Stitch marker—one required.

## Yarn

Skein Queen Exquisite - one skein will make a medium (UK 6, US 8.5, Euro 39) to large (UK 10, US 12 Euro 44) pair of adult socks.

Random or semi-solid colourway would work best to show off the lace pattern. I used Winter Ice colourway.

**Cast on** 60 stitches using 2.75mm circular needle.

Split stitches into two sets of 30 and join into a loop, taking care not to twist.

## Cuffs

The socks are designed with a lacy top to the rib. If you prefer, you can just knit a plain ribbing by omitting rounds 1 and 2.

Round 1 \*K2 tog, YO\* repeat to end.

Round 2 Knit

Round 3 \*K1, P1\* repeat to end.

Repeat Round 3 until the ribbing is desired length. I did six rounds of Round 3 but make longer or shorter as desired.

## Patterning

**Repeat the instructions between the asterisks twice on each round to complete a full circle of the sock or even better, work from the chart.**

Note: Sometimes, the YO lands at the end of the pattern repeat. Remember to add it in at the start of the following round.

Round 1 \*P3, K3, P3, PM, K2tog, YO, P5, K2tog, K1, YO, P1, YO, K1, SSK, P5, YO, SSK\*

Round 2 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P5, K3, P1, K3, P5, K2,\*

Round 3 \*P3, K3, P3, YO, SSK, P4, K2tog, K1, YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, K1, SSK, P4, K2tog, YO\*

Round 4 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P4, K4, P1, K4, P4, K2\*

Round 5 \*P3, K3, P3, K2tog, YO, P3, K2tog, K1, YO, K2, P1, K2, YO, K1, SSK, P3, YO, SSK\*

Round 6 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P3, K5, P1, K5, P3, K2\*

Round 7 \*P3, K3, P3, YO, SSK, P2, K2tog, K1, YO, K2tog, K1, YO, P1, YO, K1, SSK, YO, K1, SSK, P2, K2tog, YO\*

Round 8 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P2, K6, P1, K6, P2, K2\*

Round 9 \*P3, K3, P3, K2tog, YO, P1, K2tog, K1, YO, K2tog, K1, YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, K1, SSK, YO, K1, SSK, P1, YO, SSK\*

Round 10 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P1, K7, P1, K7, P1, K2\*

Round 11 \*P3, K3, P3, YO, SSK, P3, K2tog, K1 YO, K2, P1, K2, YO, K1, SSK, P3, K2tog, YO\*

Round 12 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2\*

Round 13 \*P3, K3, P3, K2tog, YO, P2, K2tog, K1, YO, P1, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, SSK, P1, YO, K1, SSK, P2, YO, SSK\*

Round 14 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P2, K2, P2, K2, P1, K2, P2, K2, P2, K2\*

Round 15 \*P3, K3, P3, YO, K1, SSK, P5, YO, SSK, P1, K2tog, YO, P5, K2tog, K1, YO\*

Round 16 \*P3, K3, P3, K3, P5, K2, P1, K2, P5, K3\*

Round 17 \*P3, K3, P3, K1, YO, K1, SSK, P4, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, SSK, P4, K2tog, K1, YO, K1\*

Round 18 \*P3, K3, P3, K4, P4, K2, P1, K2, P4, K4\*

Round 19 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, YO, K1, SSK, P3, YO, SSK, P1, K2tog, YO, P3, K2tog, K1, YO, K2\*

Round 20 \*P3, K3, P3, K5, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K5\*

Round 21 \*P3, K3, P3, YO, K1, SSK, YO, K1, SSK, P2, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, SSK, P2, K2tog, K1, YO, K2tog, K1, YO\*

Round 22 \*P3, K3, P3, K6, P2, K2, P1, K2, P2, K6\*

Round 23 \*P3, K3, P3, K1, YO, K1, SSK, YO, K1, SSK, P1, YO, SSK, P1, K2tog, YO, P1, K2tog, K1, YO, K2tog, K1, YO, K1\*

Round 24 \*P3, K3, P3, K7, P1, K2, P1, K2, P1, K7\*

Round 25 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, YO, K1 SSK, P3, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, SSK, P3, K2tog, K1, YO, K2\*

Round 26 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2, P3, K2, P1, K2\*

Round 27 \*P3, K3, P3, YO, SSK, P1, YO, K1, SSK, P2, YO, SSK, P1, K2tog, YO, P2, K2tog, K1, YO, P1, K2tog, YO

Round 28 \*P3, K3, P3, K2, P2, K2, P2, K2, P1, K2, P2, K2, P2, K2\*

Complete 2 full pattern repeats before starting the heel.

### Heel flap

P3, K3, P3, remove marker, work on next 21 sts. After the first row, push the remaining 9 sts round the loop allowing you just to work on the 21 sts.

Row 1 \*S1 purlwise, K1\* to last st. K1.

Row 2 Sl purlwise, P to end.

Repeat rows 1 + 2 16 times more. (17 times in total—34 rows)

### Heel turn

Row 1 Sl 1, K11, SSK, K1, turn

Row 2 Sl 1, P4, P2tog, P1 turn

Row 3 Sl 1, K5, SSK, K1 turn

Row 4 Sl 1, P6, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 5 Sl 1, K7, SSK, K1 turn

Row 6 Sl 1, P8, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 7 Sl 1, K9, SSK, K1, turn

Row 8 Sl 1, P10, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 9 Sl 1, K12 (13 sts)

Pick up 17 sts along edge of heel flap.

Pattern across front 39 sts. (You should be on first row of pattern again.)

Pick up 17 sts along other edge of heel flap. Place marker.

(86 sts in total)



### **Gusset**

Knit sole and keep the pattern going on the instep:

#### **Round 1**

K to last 3 sts before start of pattern. K2tog, K1  
Pattern across the top.  
At the end of the pattern, K1, SSK,  
Knit to marker

#### **Round 2**

Knit to start of pattern.  
Pattern across the top.  
Knit to marker

Repeat Rounds 1 + 2 until 62 sts remain (24 rounds in total).  
Remove marker on last round.

### **Foot**

Carry on maintaining pattern on the top, stocking stitch on the bottom, without further shaping until you have knit four and a half repeats of the pattern in total from the cuff. Half a repeat is up to Round 14 of the pattern. Stop as soon as you've completed the last row of pattern.

Redistribute stitches equally, 31 stitches on each needle, making sure there are 15 stitches on each side of the centre purl stitch of the pattern on one needle.

### **Shape toes**

Having just finished the patterning:

Round 1: K1, SSK, K to last 3 sts on needle, K2tog, K1  
Then, working on top section, K1, SSK, K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1.

Round 2: Knit

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 eight times (total of 16 rounds) until 30 sts remain.

Use Kitchener stitch with a darning needle to finish toe.



### **Abbreviations**

Sl 1 - slip a stitch purlwise

SSK - slip slip knit

K2tog—knit two stitches together

P2tog— purl two stitches together

YO - yarn over

PM—place marker

