

Cloud Nine Socks

By Debbie Orr

Ever wanted a pair of socks to make you feel as if you are floating on Cloud Nine when you are wearing them?

I wanted to design a pair of socks especially for the requirements of Skein Queen yarn, Plushness given that it is a thicker-than-normal sock yarn.

Cloud Nine seemed appropriate, given that Plushness knits up into a dense, cosy, warm fabric and also the pattern works on a repeat of nine stitches. The lacy pattern contributes to the light, airy feel of the socks without them being too thick on the body. These are a cuff-down design.



Needles

2.75mm dpns (double pointed needles) for rib
Switch to 3mm dpns

Yarn

Skein Queen Plushness - one skein will make an average adult size (UK 6, US 8.5, Euro 39) with some left over.

Random or semi-solid colourway would work best to show off the lace pattern. I used Summer Pudding for the picot edge pair and Nevermore Tree colourway for the plain rib ones.

Cast on 54 stitches using 2.75mm dpns.

Distribute the stitches on the needles as follows:

Needle 1: 13 sts Needle 2: 13 sts Needle 3: 14 sts Needle 4: 14 sts.

There are two types of cuff—a plain ribbing or a picot cuff edge.

For plain ribbing:

K1, P1 for nine rounds of ribbing.

Or

For Picot cuff edge:

K5 rows

Next row: yf, K2 tog to end

K6 rows

Then fold in half and place the loop of the first cast-on stitch onto the left needle and knit tog. with the first stitch on the needle. And repeat until all the cast-on stitches have been worked.

Switch to 3mm needles

Knit seven repeats of the following **pattern**:

Row 1 Knit

Row 2 Knit

Row 3 Sl 1, K1, pss0, K2, yf, K1, yf, K2, K2tog.

Row 4 Knit

Row 5 K1, sl 1, K1, pss0, yf, K3, yf, K2tog, K1

Heel flap

K27 sts onto Needle 1. Just work on these sts. Turn work so wrong side is facing.

Row 1 Sl, P to end

Row 2 *S1, K1* to last st. K1.

Rep. rows 1 + 2 16 times more. Then S1, p to end on 1 more row.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 16 times more (17 times in total - 34 rows)

Then repeat Row 1 one more time.



Heel turn

Row 1 Sl 1, K14, ssk, K1, turn (9 sts remain unworked)

Row 2 Sl 1, P5, P2tog, P1 (8 sts remain unworked)

Row 3 Sl 1, K6, ssk, K1 turn

Row 4 Sl 1, P7, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 5 Sl 1, K8, ssk, K1 turn

Row 6 Sl 1, P9, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 7 Sl 1, K10, ssk, K1, turn (3 sts remain unworked)

Row 8 Sl 1, P11, P2tog, P1, turn

Row 9 Sl 1, K12, ssk, K1, turn

Row 10 Sl 1, P13, P2tog.

Row 11 Sl 1, K14, ssk (16 sts)

Pick up 17 sts along edge of heel flap.

K across front 27 sts.

Pick up 17 sts along other edge of heel flap.

The last needle used is Needle 1. Knit 8 sts from Needle 2 onto Needle 1.

Pass 8 remaining sts from Needle 2 onto Needle 3. Needle 3 becomes Needle 2. (77sts)

Redistribute sts on needles as following:

Needle 1 25 sts

Needle 2 25 sts

Needle 3 14 sts

Needle 4 13 sts

This arrangement of sts on Needles 3 and 4 is flexible according to the pattern.

Gusset

Knit sole and keep the pattern going on the instep:

Round 1

Needle 2 K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1

Needles 3 + 4 K

Needle 1 K1, ssk, K to end

Round 2

Needle 2 K

Needles 3 + 4 *Sl 1, K1, pss0, K2, yf, K1, yf, K2, K2tog* to end

Needle 1 K

Round 3

Needle 2 K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1

Needles 3 + 4 work in established pattern

Needle 1 K1, ssk, K to end.

Round 4

Needle 2 K

Needles 3 + 4 work in established pattern

Needle 1 K

Repeat rounds 3 + 4 until 54 stitches remain.



Foot

Knit in set pattern until sock is 1.5inches (3.5cm) less than required.
This was 30 rounds for a medium adult size.

Knit round to start of patterning.

Shape toe

Round 1

Needle 1 K1, ssk, K to end

Needle 2 K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1

Needle 3 as Needle 1

Needle 4 as Needle 2

Round 2

Knit

Repeat Rounds 1 + 2 until 38 sts remain.

Knit 2 rounds

Knit 2 Round 1s (30 sts)

Redistribute sts onto just two needles with 15 sts on each needle.

Use Kitchener stitch with a darning needle to finish toe.

Kitchener stitch reminder

Set up

Purl Front, don't drop

Knit Back, don't drop

Knit Front, drop stitch

Purl Front, don't drop stitch

Purl Back, drop stitch

Knit Back, don't drop stitch

Abbreviations

Sl 1 - slip a stitch knitwise

pssso - passed slipped stitch over

ssk - slip slip knit

K2tog—knit two stitches together

P2tog— purl two stitches together

yf - yarn forward

