

Cheat Sheet: Toe-Up Short-Row Socks with Afterthought Thumb-Joint Heel

Note: These directions assume you are making stockinette-stitch heels and toes. The body and foot of the sock can be in any stitch, but if it differs greatly from the gauge of stockinette stitch, prepare to experiment and decrease or increase after making your toes. They also assume that you knit as if you are right-handed, with the stitches moving from the left to the right, mostly.

Yarn:

Needles:

Technically, you could work the short-row toe on any needles you like, but you will need double-points or another method for working in the round later.

Stitch Gauge (in pattern) = G =

Circumference of Foot = C =

Distance from tip of thumb of recipient to first joint in thumb = T =

Distance from tip of toes to front of leg (where your sock needs a heel) = H =

Width of Sock Foot = W = $[G \times (C \times .9)] / 2 =$

This assumes that you want 10% negative ease for your sock. If you want your sock to measure the same as your foot, cross out the .9. Also, if $W \times 2$ is divisible by 8, it will make your life easier at the very end. If it's not, you can deal with that later.

First, A Decision

How pointy do you want your sock toes?

Wider: $S = W \times .66$

"Average": $S = W \times .5$

Less Wide: $S = W \times .33$

If W is odd, make sure S is odd. If W is even, make sure S is even, too.

Cast On

If you like to reinforce your toes and heels with a carry-along thread, begin by including that reinforcement here.

Using your favorite temporary cast-on, cast on W stitches.

Short-Row Toe

Shorter Short Row 1: Purl until you work the last stitch that does not have a marker. Turn work. Slip the next stitch as if to purl. Place a pin around the working yarn (it should slip along the yarn, not bite through it), slide it to place it just behind the right-hand needle.

Shorter Short Row 2: Knit until you work the last stitch that does not have a marker behind it. Turn work. Slip the next stitch as if to purl. Place a pin around the working yarn (it should slip along the yarn, not bite through it), slide it to place it just behind the right-hand needle.

Continue until you only have S stitches as live stitches, not counting stitches with markers on their backs.

Longer Short Row 1: Purl until you find a marker directly below your right needle. Slip the next stitch as if to purl. Lift the thread which is holding the marker and place it on your left-hand needle. Slip the stitch you moved before back onto the left-hand needle. Purl the stitch and the thread together. Remove the marker. Turn work. You may slip the first stitch before continuing, if you like.

Longer Short Row 2: Knit until you find a marker directly below your right needle (you will have to peek over the back of your work). Lift the thread which is holding the marker and place it on your left-hand needle. Knit the stitch and the thread together. Remove the marker. Turn work. You may slip the first stitch before continuing, if you like.

Continue until you have worked all of your stitches again. Your work will look like a little elf's hat, or a toe, depending on how whimsical you happen to feel. *Cut off your reinforcing thread, if you are using it.*

The Rest of The Foot

Pick up W stitches from your cast-on edge, so that you now have W x 2 stitches around, working on whatever needles you like to use to work in

the round. Mark the beginning of the round, if you like. Work in your stitch pattern until the sock is H long.

Heel Prep

There are two ways (at least) to do this:

1) On the next row, find and mark a stitch that is $W/2$ stitches in from the beginning of the round. Later, you will cut this stitch and pull the yarn back to create the hole you need for the heel. This will be W stitches wide and $W \times 2$ stitches around, after you have put all of the new stitches on your needles.

2) On the next row, take waste yarn in a similar weight to your working yarn, but a different color, and work W stitches from the beginning of the round with this yarn. Cut off the yarn. Place the stitches you have just worked back onto the left-hand needle(s). Work the same stitches again in your working yarn, and continue on your merry way.

Leg

Work until your sock is long enough for your preference. This is generally about as long as the sock's foot, but you can go longer or shorter. Finish off with at least 1" of a non-curling stitch like ribbing at the top, and bind off. I suggest Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind-Off (the JSSBO), which is very well demonstrated on Cat Bordhi's site: <http://www.catbordhi.com/PF.html>.

Afterthought Heel

If you like to reinforce your toes and heels with a carry-along thread, include that reinforcement here. After you have either pulled out the waste yarn or pulled back to make space for your heel and picked up your stitches, you then knit straight out from the foot until the piece you have made is T long. Lastly, you decrease by 4 stitches every round, or 8 stitches every other round, until you have 4 stitches left. Break your yarn and draw through the remaining stitches. Darn in all ends.

If $W \times 2$ is not divisible by 8, you will have to decrease your extra stitches before you start your decrease rows on your heel. Take a whack at it, but if you run into trouble, feel free to message me on Ravelry (Math4Knitters) or email me at craftyliving@jg.net.