



Tea Time

by Rebecca Osborn

The foot of these socks is knit first from heel to toe, then the leg is picked up and knit up to the cuff. This allows you to use every inch of a favorite yarn, while using a top-down foot fitting. The two tea leaf “hands” of the clocks on the leg and foot sit at about 4 o'clock on one side, and 8 o'clock on the other – perfect times for tea.

Materials:

- 1 skein of “100% Merino Fingering” by Osborn Fiber Studio (420 yards; color “Black Walnut Brown” shown)
- US 1.5/2.5mm sock needles (DPNs, 2 circulars, or Magic Loop)
- 3 stitch markers, 1 locking
- Tapestry Needle
- Fingering weight waste yarn
- Crochet hook around size C

Techniques, Symbols, and Abbreviations

- K: Knit.
- P: Purl.
- YO: Yarn over.
- /: K2tog: Knit two together.
- \: SSK: Slip two stitches knitwise; slip them back to the right needle; knit these two stitches together through the back loops.
- /-: P2tog: Purl two together.
- /-: P3tog: Purl three together.
- ^: SK2P: Slip 1 as if to knit; K2tog; pass the slipped stitch over.
- KFB: Knit in the front and back of the same stitch.
- m/: M1R: Make 1 Right – Using the left needle, pick up the bar between the needles from *behind*. Knit into the *front* of this new stitch.
- m\: M1L: Make 1 Left – Using the left needle, pick up the bar between the needles from *in front*. Knit into the *back* of this new stitch.
- No Stitch: Pretend this block isn't there.
- PM: Place Stitch Marker RM: Remove Stitch Marker



Gauge: 7-8 st./in. in stockinette stitch on US 1.5/2.5 mm needles.

Sizes: Women's Medium(Women's Large or Men's Medium/Men's Large)

Directions

Heel Flap

Using the Long-tail cast on, CO 16(17/18) over two needles held together. PM; CO 16(17/18) more. Remove one needle.

Establishing Round (WS): P to marker. Remove marker; attach locking stitch marker to CO at that point to mark the center of the top of the heel flap.

Row 1 (RS): *Sl 1 pwise wyif, K1* to end.

Row 2 (WS): Sl 1 pwise wyif; P to end.

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 a total of 18(19/20) times.

Heel Turn

Turn the heel as follows:

Row 1: Sl 1 pwise wyif; K17(18/19); SSK; K1; turn.

Row 2: Sl 1 pwise wyif; P5; P2tog; P1; turn.

Row 3: Sl 1 pwise wyib; K until 1 stitch before gap; SSK; K1; turn.

Row 4: Sl 1 pwise wyif; P until 1 stitch before gap; P2tog; P1; turn.

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 until all stitches have been worked, ending after a RS Round. 18(20/22) stitches remain.

Picking Up for the Gusset

Pick up and knit into the back loop of each slipped stitch along the right edge of the heel flap. This should be about 18(19/20) stitches, give or take.

Using a crochet hook and a spare length of fingering weight yarn, crochet a chain of about 40 stitches.

Using the working yarn, pick up and knit into the bumps on the back of the crochet chain, picking up a total of 32(34/36) stitches.

Pick up and knit into the back loop of each slipped stitch along the left edge of the heel flap. (In so doing you will join the provisional cast on into the round; be careful not to twist it.) This should be about 18(19/20) stitches, give or take.

Knit to the middle of the heel flap: 9(10/11) stitches. Place marker for the beginning of the round.



Gusset Decreases

Establishing Round: K to 3 stitches before the first stitch of the provisional cast on. K2tog; PM; P1; K1; P2; K26(28/30); P1; K1; P2; PM; SSK; K to end.

Round 1: K to 1st marker; SM; P2; K1; P1; K26(28/30); P2; K1; P1; SM; K to end.

Round 2: K to 2 stitches before 1st marker; K2tog; SM; P1; K1; P2; K26(28/30); P1; K1; P2; SM; SSK; K to end.

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until 64(68/72) stitches remain.

Foot

Continue as follows:

Round 1: K to 1st marker; SM; P2; K1; P1; K26(28/30); P2; K1; P1; SM; K to end.

Round 2: K to 1st marker; SM; P1; K1; P2; K26(28/30); P1; K1; P2; SM; K to end.

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until a total of 32 rounds have been worked on the foot, including the gusset decrease rounds.

Hour Hand:

Establishing round: K to 4 stitches before 1st marker; PM; K4; RM; P1; P2tog; P1; K22(24/26); PM; K4; RM; P1; P2tog; P1; RM K to end. 62(66/70) st. remain.

Knit all stitches of the next sixteen rows, *except* each time you reach a marker, follow the **Tea Leaf Chart** (p. 5).

When Tea Leaf Chart is complete, remove all markers except marker for beginning of round. K all rounds until foot is 1 1/2" shorter than desired length.

Toe

Establishing round: K12(13/14); K2tog; K1; PM; K2; SSK; K24(26/28); K2tog; K1; PM; K2; SSK; K to end.

Round 1: K to end.

Round 2: *K to 3 stitches before marker; K2tog; K1; SM; K2; SSK* 2 times; K to end.

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 a total of 8(9/10) times (30 stitches remain). Repeat round 2 only, 4 times (22 st. remain). K to marker; Break yarn, leaving tail long enough for darning.

Distribute remaining stitches on two needles so 11 stitches are on each, making the "center" stitch in the toe decreases the rightmost stitch on the RS of each needle. On each end of each needle, pass the 2nd stitch from the end over the end-most stitch. Repeat, on the rightmost side of the RS of each needle only.

Graft the remaining 16 stitches together.

Picking Up for the Leg

The locking stitch marker attached to the CO is at the center of the top of the heel flap. Beginning at this point, pick up and knit 16(17/18) stitches from the left side of the heel flap cast on. Unzip the crochet chain and place the live stitches on the left needle, ready to be worked. P2tog; YO; P2tog. K until 3 live stitches remain unworked. P2tog; YO; P2tog. Pick up and knit 16(17/18) stitches from the right side of the heel flap cast on. PM for beginning of round.

Next round: K17(18/19); PM; P1; KFB; P1; K25(27/29); PM; P1; KFB; P1; K to end. 64(68/72) st.

Leg

Ankle

Continue as follows:

Round 1: *K to marker; P2; K1; P1* 2 times; K to end.

Round 2: *K to marker; P2; K1; P1* 2 times; K to end.

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 for two inches.

Calf Increases

Continue as follows:

Round 1: K1; M1L; *K to marker; P2; K1; P1* 2 times; K to 1 stitch from end; M1R; K1.

Rounds 2, 4, & 6: *K to marker; P2; K1; P1* 2 times; K to end.

Rounds 3 & 5: *K to marker; P2; K1; P1* 2 times; K to end.

Repeat rounds 1-6 four times total. Work Round 1 once. 74(78/82) st.

Minute Hand

Establishing round: *K to 4 stitches before marker; PM; K4; RM; P1; P2tog; P1* 2 times; K to end. 71(75/79) st.

Work the next sixteen rows all knit, except each time you reach a marker, follow the **Tea Leaf Chart** (p. 5).

When Tea Leaf Chart is complete, remove all markers except marker for beginning of round. K all rounds until leg is 1 1/2" shorter than desired length.

Cuff

Work K2, P2 rib for 1 1/2".

Bind off using sewn bind-off: Cut working yarn, leaving a tail about two feet long, and thread the tail onto a tapestry needle. *Sew through the first two stitches purlwise, inserting needle as if to P2tog. Sew through the first stitch again, inserting the needle knitwise, and drop that stitch off the needle.* Repeat until 1 stitch remains. Insert the needle through the last stitch purlwise, and through the first stitch bound off. Pull tight and weave in end. This technique is clearly demonstrated here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tm5Qu_XsC4

Written Instructions for Tea Leaf Chart

These are complete written instructions for the rounds on which the Tea Leaf Chart is worked; if using chart only, begin the chart each time you reach a marker on the sides of the sock, and knit all other stitches in those rounds.

Round 1: *K to marker; SM; K2; K2tog; P1; YO;
K1; YO; P1; SSK* 2 times; K to end.

Round 2: *K to marker; SM; K3; P1; K3; P1*
2 times; K to end.

Round 3: *K to marker; SM; K1; K2tog; P1; K1;
YO; K1; YO; K1; P1; SSK* 2 times; K to end.

Round 4: *K to marker; SM; K2; P1; K5; P1*
2 times; K to end.

Round 5: *K to marker; SM; K2tog; P1; K2; YO; K1; YO; K2; P1; SSK* 2 times;
K to end.

Rounds 6-8: *K to marker; SM; K1; P1; K7; P1* 2 times; K to end.

Round 9: *K to marker; SM; M1R; K1; P1; SSK; K3; K2tog; P1; K1; M1L*
2 times; K to end.

Round 10: *K to marker; SM; K2; P1; K5; P1* 2 times; K to end.

Round 11: *K to marker; SM; K1; M1R; K1; P1; SSK; K1; K2tog; P1; K1; M1L*
2 times; K to end.

Round 12: *K to marker; SM; K3; P1; K3; P1* 2 times; K to end.

Round 13: *K to marker; SM; K2; M1R; K1; P1; SK2P; P1; K1; M1L* 2 times;
K to end.

Round 14: *K to marker; SM; K4; P3* 2 times; K to end.

Round 15: *K to marker; SM; K3; M1R; K1; P3tog; K1; M1L* 2 times; K to end.

Round 16: *K to marker; SM; K4; M1R; SK2P; M1L* 2 times; K to end. *(The M1s are difficult in this round, but you can do it.)*

Tea Leaf Chart

			\m/\	m/						16
		\m	/-\	m/						15
		-	-	-						14
	\m	-	\	-	m/					13
	-	-	-	-	-					12
	\m	-	/	\	-	m/				11
	-	-	-	-	-	-				10
\m	-	/			\	-	m/			9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			8
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\	-		o	o	-	/				3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			2
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