

# Spring Fern Socks

a knitsnknishes™ design by Susan Lutsky



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

**One Size Fits Most.** This pattern is knit cuff-down, using fingering weight yarn (approx. 350 to 400 yards, approx. 4 ounces).

- Gauge: approximately 32sts/4 inches in stockinette, knit in the round.
- Needles: Whatever size needles you need to achieve proper gauge and sizing: estimated US size 0 (or 2.00mm) to US size 2 (or 2.75mm). (*TIP ~ Optional: Use a smaller size needle for heel, sole, & toe.*)
- This pattern will work best if knitted on either two circular needles, or on one circular (Magic Loop method).  
→ If you choose to use dpn's, please take extra care in dividing the stitches among the needles so as not to break up a 9-stitch repeat, due to moving yarn-overs and decreases.

## Chart Symbols & Stitch Explanations:

I	k	Knit
†	k1tbl	Knit 1 stitch through the back loop.
-	p	Purl
O	yo	Yarnover
N	ssk	Slip, slip, knit: Slip 2 sts knitwise from left to right needle, separately, then re-insert left needle & knit the stitches together through the back loops.
∧	k2tog	Knit 2 stitches together.

**Cast on 64 stitches.** A stretchy cast-on (such as the Twisted German cast-on or other similarly elastic cast-on) is recommended.

Join to work in the round, without twisting.

Divide stitches among needles (32 per needle if using 2 circls or magic loop).

### Ribbing:

Do approximately 1" of ribbing according to **Chart 1**, or as follows (each round):

[K1tbl, p2, \*(k1, p2, k1, p1, k1, p2, k1), repeat from \* 2 additional times, p2]; repeat.

**Chart 1 - Ribbing**

-	-		-	-		-		-	-		-	-	†
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### Leg:

Work pattern according to **Chart 2**, or as follows, til approximately 7" or desired length from cast-on edge, **ending with Round 1 of pattern**, and finishing the round on Needle 2.

Round 1: [K1tbl, p2, k27, p2.] Repeat.

Round 2: [K1tbl, p2; \*(k1, yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yo), repeat from \* 2 additional times; p2.] Repeat.

Round 3: [K1tbl, p2, k27, p2.] Repeat.

Round 4: [K1tbl, p2; \*(yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yo, k1), repeat from \* 2 additional times; p2.] Repeat.

**Chart 2 - Leg/Cuff**

-	-		O			∧	N			O	-	-	†	4
-	-										-	-	†	3
-	-	O			∧	N			O		-	-	†	2
-	-										-	-	†	1

**Prepare for Heel Flap:** Move 1<sup>st</sup> stitch (the K1tbl) from beginning of second needle to end of first needle: 33 sts on 1<sup>st</sup> needle, 31 sts on 2<sup>nd</sup> needle.

**Heel Flap** - worked back & forth on 31 sts on Needle 2:

Begin on WS of Heel Flap.

Row 1 - WS: Sl1, purl across; turn.

Row 2 - RS: (Sl1, K1) across to last 3 sts; Sl1, K2.

Row 3 - WS: Sl1, purl across.

Row 4 - RS: Sl1, (Sl1, K1) across to end.

Knit **approx 30** rows total, or # of rows needed til heel flap is desired length; end with a WS row.



PHOTO 3

**Turn Heel:**

Row 1 (RS) - Slip 1 stitch; knit 17 sts, ssk, k1. Turn.

Row 2 (WS) - Slip 1 stitch; purl 6 sts, p2tog, p1. Turn.

Row 3 (RS) - Slip 1 st; knit to 1 st before gap, ssk across gap, k1. Turn.

Row 4 (WS) - Slip 1 st; purl to 1 st before gap, p2tog across gap, p1. Turn.

Repeat rows 3 & 4 until all stitches have been worked; 19 sts remaining.

**Gussets:**

Knit across heel stitches (Needle 2). Pick up & knit **15** sts along edge of heel flap (more or less, depending on total # of rows in heel flap, generally equal to half the number of rows that you knitted in the heel flap), plus one stitch between heel flap & instep.

Knit across instep (Needle 1) in pattern (should begin with **Round 2 of Chart 3**, below).

Pick up & knit one stitch between instep & other side of heel flap, and pick up & knit **15** sts along remaining side of heel flap (or same # as on first side of heel flap).

Knit across heel flap & gusset stitches.

**TIP:** When knitting the stitches that you picked up along the sides of the heel flap as well as the stitches that you picked up between the heel flap and the instep (on both sides of the heel flap), knit those stitches through the back loop in order to avoid loose stitches or the appearance of holes. (On the next round, knit those stitches through the front loop as usual.)

### Begin gusset decreases:

- Round 1 - Needle 1: Work across instep in established pattern.  
 Needle 2: K1, SSK, knit across to last 3 sts; k2tog, k1.
- Round 2 - Needle 1: Work across instep in established pattern.  
 Needle 2: Knit across.

Continue working Rounds 1 & 2, decreasing on gussets every other row until there are 31 sts remaining on Needle 2 for sole/bottom of foot.

### Foot:

Continue working in established pattern according to **Chart 3** or as follows below for instep (needle 1), and in stockinette on sole (needle 2), until approx. 2 inches less than total length needed for foot, ending with Round 1 or 3 of instep pattern.

- Instep Round 1: k1, p2; knit across to last 3 stitches on needle; p2, k1.  
 Instep Round 2: k1, p2; \*k1, yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yo; repeat from \* 2 additional times; p2, k1.  
 Instep Round 3: Same as Round 1.  
 Instep Round 4: k1, p2; \*yo, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yo, k1; repeat from \* 2 additional times; p2, k1.

**Chart 3 - Foot/Instep**

	-	-		O			/	N			O	-	-		4
	-	-										-	-		3
	-	-	O			/	N			O		-	-		2
	-	-										-	-		1

### Toe:

If you are using 2 different sized needles (for instep & sole), switch to using only one size (preferably the smaller size) for completion of sock.

- Round 1: Needle 1: K1, P2 tog; work in est pattern to last 3 sts; P2 tog; K1.  
 Needle 2: K across.
- Rounds 2 & 3: Knit.
- Round 4: \*K1, SSK, k across to last 3 sts on needle, k2tog, k1, repeat from \*.
- Rounds 5 & 6: Knit.
- Round 7: \*K1, SSK, k across to last 3 sts on needle, k2tog, k1, repeat from \*.
- Rounds 8: Knit.

Repeat Rounds 7 & 8 until you have a total of 34 sts remaining, or 17 sts on each needle.

Then repeat Round 7, decreasing each round, until you have a total of 18 stitches remaining, or 9 stitches on each needle.

Graft remaining stitches together using Kitchener stitch.



PHOTO 4

### Sample Info & Photo Credits:

#### **PHOTOS 1 & 3**

Yarn: Oceanwind Knits (Elderberry)  
(2 skeins, 185 yds/skein)

Knit & photographed by: Susan Lutsky

#### **PHOTOS 2 & 4**

Yarn: Shibui Knits (Wasabi, #7495)  
(2 skeins, 191 yds/skein)

Knit & modeled by: Chandra Morris

Photographed by: Gaylon Morris

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This pattern came out of a class in designing top-down sock patterns, taught by Cookie A, at The Loopy Ewe's (<http://www.theloopyewe.com>) 2008 Spring Fling.

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