

Knitting a Slipper Sock Using Garter Stitch

By Eva LaMar

Here is a pattern using regular knitting needles to make a slipper sock for the troops. This knits the sock as a T-shaped flat piece that is then sewn together. This avoids the dreaded “turning of the heel” and quickly creates the warm slip on socks we are looking to make for our troops.

You can use any yarn or needle size as long as you adjust how many stitches you cast on to achieve the needed size. For those of you that are not familiar how to judge the gauge, the paper sleeve of the yarn will tell you the gauge. If you look on the sleeve you will find two gauge boxes. One refers to knitting and the other to crochet. If you look at Wool-Ease® it tells you that in order to knit a 4x4 inch square you should use a number 8 (5mm) needle and 18 stitches knitted 24 rows should measure 4x4 inches. Homespun® brand will give you the 4x4 inch square by using a number 10 (6mm) needle casting on 14 stitches and knitting 20 rows.

The pattern below should give you the right size by using **double** Wool-Ease® yarn or **single** Homespun® yarn with number 10 (6mm) needles. You will use a **garter stitch** (or any stitch patten is fine if you want to get creative). A garter stitch simply means that you knit every row. There is no purl stitching at all....so sad...

- Cast on 72 stitches. Be sure to leave a long enough “tail” of yarn. You will use this for stitching the piece together later.
- Knit in a garter stitch until piece measures 5 inches.
- Bind off 18 stitches at beginning of the next row, knit remaining 54 stitches
- On next row bind off 18 stitches at the beginning of the row, knit remaining 36 stitches.
- Start knitting the 36 stitches back and forth until **entire** piece measures at least 11 inches.

Your piece should look like this:



- The last row will gather some of the stitches to prepare for finishing the toe
- Last row, decrease for toe: Knit 1, slip next two stitches over to the right needle without knitting them, knit 1. Now pass the two slipped stitches over the last knitted stitch. Repeat this pattern to the end. You should now have 18 stitches on your needle.

The toe area should now look like this:



- Cut the working yarn at least 24 inches to allow for seaming. Thread the yarn onto a needle slip the needle with the yarn through each remaining stitch. Pull the yarn tightly to close like a draw string. (You will have to watch how you thread the first stitch or your work will come unraveled.)
- Fold the slipper in half and begin sewing a seam across the top of the slipper. (Be sure to sew over the draw string area so you are not left with a hole there.)
- Use the long tail of yarn at the beginning of your work and stitch down to the heel to close.

NOTE: This will tend to create a “boxy look” for the heel area. If you want to have a rounder look you can use this method below to “round things off”

- Use the long tail of the yarn at the beginning of the work and stitch down half way toward the heel. Secure the yarn and cut.
- Cut another piece of yarn at least 15 inches long and thread it on a needle.
- Use a basting stitch in the heel area with the second thread. The picture below uses a knitting needle to demonstrate how the basting stitch should be placed



- Gather the yarn you used for basting and tie it in the middle



- Use yarn #1 to over-sew the folded part of the heel and then bind off. Take care that the bulky area is “pointing“towards the back seam so that you are not stepping on that extra material when you walk.
- Use yarn #2 to finish up the back seam sewing towards the top of the cuff and bind off.

I think rounding the heel is worth the effort, but I will leave it to you to decide.

You should now have something that looks like this:



If you fold down the cuff it should look like this:



Have fun being creative!!! We welcome bright colors and different stitch patterns as long as the end product will keep a foot warm!!!