

Crosswalker Socks

by Emily B. Miller

Grumperina's Jaywalker socks¹ are widely loved for the way they showcase multicolored sock yarns and the great fit of the bias knitting in the chevron pattern. I wanted these great features in a sock that I started knitting one weekend when I was on a little vacation from the daily grind, and I was away from my stash of knitting patterns and without internet access. I had no way of remembering or recreating the math and the numbers of the stitch pattern in the Jaywalker socks, so I used their chevron pattern as inspiration for socks that would be bias knit and show stripes well, but don't require counting out a stitch pattern.

Jaywalker socks are lovely, but their knitting pattern is a little like the traffic strategy they are named for: requiring concentrating, focus, and timing. I propose that there are times in life (such as a weekend vacation in a small town) when you have enough time and patience to just wait at the light and take the crosswalk. It's the timid, boring way of getting there, but the crosswalk puts less strain on the psyche, and less wear and tear on the body. Either way you end up across the street!



I present the Crosswalker Socks! For the times you'd rather take the easy route around your obstacles. For when you're so relaxed, or in need of knitting so relaxing that you can't be bothered to really count stitches. It's a sock pattern that's fully adjustable to your yarn, gauge, and foot size, and it's fully accommodating of your desire to knit attractive, well-fitting socks, no matter what the state of your courage and ability to concentrate!

Materials:

- Sock yarn of your choice
- Set of 5 double-pointed needles (sized to get a tightly knitted fabric with your yarn)
- 1 stitch marker for the beginning of the round
- Blunt tapestry needle for grafting the toes

(Socks shown are Classic Elite Yarns Alpaca Sox (100g/450 yards) in #1872 Dried Herbs, knit on US1 needles at 8 sts/in)

¹ Original Jaywalker Socks Pattern: <http://www.magknits.com/Sept05/patterns/jaywalker.htm>

Abbreviations:

All Slipped (Sl) stitches in this pattern are slipped as if to purl, unless otherwise noted.

K: knit 1 stitch

P: purl 1 stitch

KFB: increase 1 stitch by knitting into the front and the back of the next stitch.

k2tog (p2tog): decrease 1 stitch by knitting (or purling) the next 2 stitches together as one.

SSK: slip the next 2 stitches individually as if to knit, then bring the left needle through the front loops of the 2 slipped stitches and knit them together.

Method:

Cast on 80 stitches (Or cast on any number to fit your foot, as long as it's divisible by 4. If you have wide calves but narrow feet, you can cast on extra stitches now and decrease them later as part of the heel gusset shaping. If you have skinny legs but wide feet, I'll show you how to add stitches for the foot later on.). Distribute the stitches evenly on 4 of the needles, and join the round without twisting, and mark the beginning of the round.

Knit your favorite sock edging (I used K2,P2 rib for 10 rounds).

Begin stitch pattern:

Round 1

Needle 1: KFB, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog.

Needle 2: SSK, knit to last stitch, KFB.

Needle 3: as Needle 1.

Needle 4: as Needle 2.

Round 2

Knit all stitches.



Repeat these two rounds until the cuff is as long as you'd like it to be before the heel shaping. End by completing the third needle of Round 2, and leave the fourth needle unworked. (This is so the downward V shape of the increases in the chevron pattern points down the middle of the heel shaping.)

Begin heel shaping:

You will work the heel on the next two needles' stitches (40 sts in the example sock). In the Eye of the Partridge stitch pattern that follows, work the next 2 needles' stitches onto the same needle, and work back and forth on that needle, leaving the other half of the cuff stitches to rest to rest on their needles.

Row 1: *Slip 1 st as if to purl, K1* repeat to end of row.

Row 2: Slip first stitch, purl to end of row.

Row 3: Slip first stitch, *sl1, k1* to last stitch, k1.

Row 4: as Row 2.

Repeat these 4 rows of the heel flap for approximately 2 inches. (If you have a wide foot requiring a greater circumference than your cuff stitches have, keep knitting the heel flap a little longer so that you'll have extra stitches in the gusset.) End by completing Row 4.

Turn heel (for 40-stitch heel flap):

Row 1: Sl1, *K1, Sl1* repeat 10 times, K1, k2tog, K1, turn.

Row 2: Sl1, purl 8, p2tog, P1, turn.

Row 3: Sl1, K to 1 stitch before gap, k2tog, K1, turn.

Row 4: Sl1, P to 1 stitch before gap, p2tog, P1, turn.

Continue to repeat rows 3 & 4. On the final rows, you will run out of extra stitches to K or P after the decrease, so simply decrease and turn without working the extra stitch.

Final Row: Sl1, k to 1 stitch before gap, k2tog, do not turn.

Heel gusset:

Needle 1: With spare needle and working yarn, pick up 1 stitch in each of the slipped edge stitches of the heel flap.

Needle 2: SSK, knit to last stitch, KFB.

Needle 3: KFB, knit to last 2 stitches, K2tog.

Needle 4: Pick up 1 stitch per slipped edge stitch of the heel flap, K half of the heel flap stitches off of Needle 1 to even out the number of stitches on Needles 1 & 4. The beginning of the round is now at the center of the sole.

Gusset decreases:

Round 1

K all stitches.

Round 2

Needle 1: K to 3 stitches before the end, k2tog, K1.

Needle 2: SSK, knit to last stitch, KFB.

Needle 3: KFB, knit to last 2 stitches, k2tog.

Needle 4: K1, SSK, K to end.

Repeat these two rounds until you have decreased to the original cuff stitch count (80 stitches), or your desired foot circumference. If you have wide feet, stop decreasing in

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the gusset before you have reached the original stitch count to leave extra width in the foot of the sock. If you have narrow feet, decrease a little beyond the original stitch count to create a smaller circumference. End by completing Round 2.

Foot:

Round 1

K all stitches.

Round 2

Needle 1: K all stitches.

Needle 2: SSK, knit to last stitch, KFB.

Needle 3: KFB, knit to last 2 stitches, K2tog.

Needle 4: K all stitches.

Repeat these two rounds until the sock is about two inches less than the desired total foot length. End by completing Round 1.

Toe shaping:

Round 1

Needle 1: K to 3 stitches before the end, k2tog, K1.

Needle 2: SSK, K to end.

Needle 3: K to last 2 stitches, k2tog.

Needle 4: K1, SSK, K to end.

Round 2

K all stitches.

Repeat these two rounds until you have decreased to half the foot stitch count (40 stitches). Repeat Round 1 only until you have halved the stitch count again (20 stitches, 5 on each needle.) Using Needle 4, K the stitches from Needle 1 so the working yarn is at the side of the toe, and slip the stitches of Needles 2 and 3 (top of toe) onto one needle. Graft these needles together using the Kitchener Stitch or 3-Needle Bind-off.

Relax and repeat all instructions for the second sock. Relax again-- you've got snuggly and stylish feet, no matter what your preferred method of crossing the street!

