

Boo! Toe-Up Socks

by Emily B. Miller



This spooky sock has little ghosts staring back at you! It's a toe-up, short-row heel sock featuring an adaptation of Barbara Walker stitch pattern. It blends a nice mix of a little cable knitting, a dash lace knitting, and a large dose of whimsy! Stir all that together in your sock knitting cauldron and - poof! - out comes a fun pattern for a stretchy, seasonal sock.

Yarn: Louet Gems Fingering Weight, shown in color Fern Green

Gauge: 8 stitches per inch (2.5cm) in stockinette stitch

Needles: set of two: US size 1 or 2 (2.25-2.75mm) circular needles in 24" (60cm) length.

Size: Use the needle size that gets you the recommended gauge. At 8 spi, the finished sock will have an unstretched circumference of 8.5" (22cm). To obtain a larger or smaller sock, work at a looser or tighter gauge.

Notions required: cable needle, tapestry needle



Notes:

-During the cable pattern, the stitch count varies from row to row. so don't rely on counting stitches to check the accuracy of your knitting. You will know you are on the right track if the columns of 3 purl stitches line up on top of each other on every row.

-The directions given are written for knitting in the round on two circular needles, but could be easily converted to Magic Loop (ML) or DPNs. For ML, divide the stitches evenly in half between both loops of the long circular needle. For DPN's, use four needles with 17 stitches on each one. The instructions for "Needle 1" are for the first half of the round (the top of the foot and front of the leg), and "Needle 2" refers to the second half of the round (the sole of the foot and the back of the leg).

Special Abbreviations:

LLI: left leaning increase: Use the left needle to lift the left leg of the stitch that's 2 stitches below the stitch on your right needle. Knit the lifted leg through its back loop.

RLI: right leaning increase: Use the right needle to lift the right leg of the stitch below the stitch on your left needle. Knit into the lifted leg.

M1: Using the left needle, lift the bar between the stitch just worked and the first stitch on the left needle from front to back. Knit through the back loop of the lifted "stitch".

C4B: Slip the next 2 stitches to cable needle and hold to back of work. Knit the next 2 stitches off the left needle, and then knit the 2 stitches from the cable needle.

sl2-k1-ssso: Slip the next two stitches individually as if to knit. Knit the next stitch, then pass the two slipped stitches together over the knitted stitch.

sl1 wyif: Move the yarn to front and slip the next stitch purlwise.

w&t for knit rows: Bring yarn to the front of the work and slip the next stitch. Turn the work as for the purl row, bringing the yarn to the front. Slip the first stitch back to the right needle. This tucks the working yarn around the slipped stitch, and you are now ready to purl as usual.

w&t for purl rows: Bring yarn to the back of the work and slip the next stitch. Turn the work as for the knit row, bringing the yarn to the back. Slip the first stitch back to the right needle. This tucks the working yarn around the slipped stitch, and you are now ready to knit as usual.

kw (pw): To pick up the wraps from the w&t rows, slip the wrapped stitch purlwise onto the right needle, so you can use the left needle to pick up the wrap(s) onto the needles. Return the slipped stitch back to the left needle and knit (purl) it together with its wrap(s).

Toe: <http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEspring06/FEATmagiccaston.html>

Using Judy's Magic Cast-on (or your favorite provisional cast-on), cast on 10 stitches on two needles (20 total). Join for circular knitting and knit one round. Then move on to:

Round 1: *k1, LLI, knit to 1 stitch before end of needle, LRI, k1; repeat from * for second needle.
Round 2: knit all stitches.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 until there are 34 stitches on each needle. End by completing round 2. 68 stitches total.

Foot: Repeat each line of the "Boo" cable pattern instructions for rounds 1-20 two times across the first needle, while maintaining the following pattern on the second needle: p3, k31. Rounds 1-20 are also charted on page 4, if you prefer to knit from the chart.

Round 1: p3, k7, p3, k4.

Round 2: p3, k2, sl2-k1-ssso, k2, p3, k1, m1, k2, m1, k1.

Round 3: p3, k1, k2tog, k2, p3, k6.

Round 4: p3, k4, p3, k1, k2tog, yo, yo, ssk, k1.

Round 5: p3, k4, p3, k2, purl & knit into first yo, p into second yo, k2.

Round 6: p3, C4B, p3, k1, ssk, yo, k1, yo, k2tog, k1.

Round 7: p3, k4, p3, k7.

Round 8: p3, k4, p3, k2, yo, sl2-k1-ssso, yo, k2.

Round 9: p3, k4, p3, k7.

Round 10: p3, k4, p3, k2, sl1 wyif, k1, sl1 wyif, k2.

Round 11: p3, k4, p3, k7.

Round 12: p3, k1, m1, k2, m1, k1, p3, k2, sl2-k1-ssso, k2.

Round 13: p3, k6, p3, k1, k2tog, k2.

Round 14: p3, k1, k2tog, yo, yo, ssk, k1, p3, k4.

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Round 15: p3, k2, purl & knit into first yo, p into second yo, k2, p3, k4.

Round 16: p3, k1, ssk, yo, k1, yo, k2tog, k1, p3, C4B.

Round 17: p3, k7, p3, k4.

Round 18: p3, k2, yo, sl2-k1-pss0, yo, k2, p3, k4.

Round 19: p3, k7, p3, k4.

Round 20: p3, k2, sl1 wyif, k1, sl1 wyif, k2, p3, k4.

Repeat rounds 1-20 until foot is 2" (5cm) less than desired length to the back of the heel. Make sure you end by working one of these rows: 6, 8, 10, 16, 18, or 20. Work the row of the stitch pattern, making a note of which row you ended on, and stop after the first needle (do not complete the round by knitting the stockinette stitches on the sole). The instep needle will now hold the top of the foot stitches on standby, while the heel is worked on the sole needle only.

Short Row Heel:

Row 1: Knit 33, w&t.

Row 2: Purl 32, w&t.

Row 3: Knit until 1 stitch remains before the wrapped stitch(es), w&t.

Row 4: Purl until 1 stitch remains before the wrapped stitch(es), w&t.

Continue by repeating rows 3 & 4, ending on row 4 with: purl 10, w&t. 12 stitches are wrapped on each side, and 10 stitches remain live in the middle.

Pick up wraps:

Row 1: k10, kw, w&t. (the stitch you wrap will now have 2 wraps)

Row 2: p11, pw, w&t. (the stitch you wrap will now have 2 wraps)

Row 3: k until the first double-wrapped stitch, kw, w&t (the stitch you wrap will now have 2 wraps).

Row 4: p until the first double-wrapped stitch, pw, w&t (the stitch you wrap will now have 2 wraps).

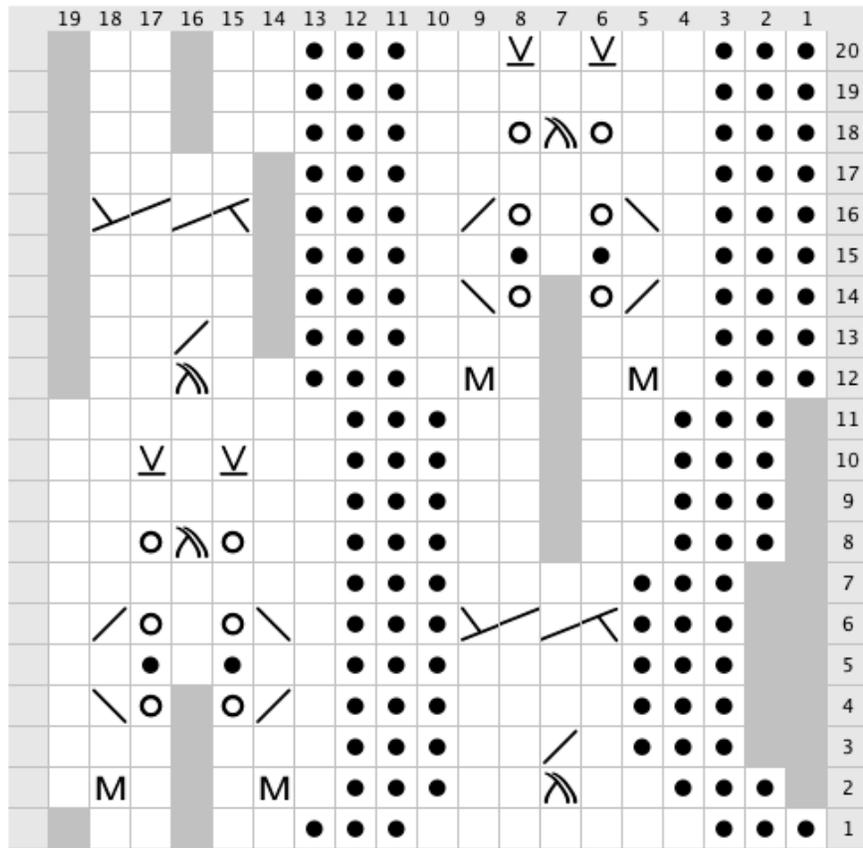
Continue by repeating rows 3 & 4, ending with this row 3 (leaving 1 stitch still double-wrapped on the purl side): knit 32, kw, do not turn.

Cuff:

Return to circular knitting on Needle 1 with your next row of the "Boo" pattern, repeating it four times over both needles for the full round. When you first get to Needle 2, there will be one more wrapped stitch to pick up (pw). This pw will be the first purl of the pattern repeat for this needle, so work the pattern row as written. Continue repeating the twenty rounds of the stitch pattern until the length of the cuff measures 2" less than the total desired height of the sock. End by knitting either round 10 or 20. To finish the top of the sock with spooky asymmetrical ribbing, knit the knits and purl the purls as the stitches are presented to you by the last row of the stitch pattern. Continue the ribbing for 2" (5cm).

Stretchy Sewn bind-off:

Cut the yarn, leaving a tail about 3 times longer than the circumference of the cuff. Using a tapestry needle, thread the yarn purlwise through the first 2 stitches, leaving them on the needle. Thread the yarn knitwise through the first stitch, and pull it off the needle. Repeat these two steps around until 1 stitch remains. Thread the yarn through the last stitch and weave in the ends. Don't forget the toe's tail, hidden deep inside the sock!



Legend:

<p> purl purl stitch</p> <hr/> <p> knit knit stitch</p> <hr/> <p> No Stitch Placeholder – No stitch made.</p> <hr/> <p> sl2kw k1 p2sso Slip 2 stitches knitwise, k1 stitch, pass the two slipped stitches over the k1</p> <hr/> <p> make one Make one by lifting strand in between stitch just worked and the next stitch, knit into back of this thread.</p>	<p> k2tog Knit two stitches together as one stitch</p> <hr/> <p> yo Yarn Over</p> <hr/> <p> ssk Slip one stitch as if to knit, Slip another stitch as if to knit. Insert left-hand needle into front of these 2 stitches and knit them together</p> <hr/> <p> c2 over 2 right sl2 to CN, hold in back. k2, k2 from CN</p> <hr/> <p> slip wyif Slip stitch as if to purl, with yarn in front</p>
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