



There are many methods to knit socks, different ways to accomplish turning string into socks to fit on your feet. If you search the popular knitter's network site Ravelry.com for sock patterns there are 48,000 plus matches. At first it looks complicated but as with anything we try and knit easy peasy once you realize how easy each step is.

In my opinion there is nothing more luxurious than wearing a pair of sock that fits your foot just exactly right. The colors the fiber content the thickness the choices are endless. Knitting socks is very portable and extremely fun. Easily fits in a small bag that you can carry with you on the go. Once you get started you will knit many pairs and your friends and family will be grateful.

There are 5 sections to a hand knitted sock.

1. Cuff - usually ribbed k2, p2 to help the sock stay up
2. Leg - this is the area where you can control the height of the sock and add your different stitch patterns
3. Heel - other than a tube sock this helps the fit around our heel
4. Foot - The area the length is controlled to fit the foot
5. Toe - shape

The tools you will need, depending which method and which sock pattern you use. Most socks are knitted in the round and is basically a small tube. You will need to choose a method to knit in a small circle that suits your hands.

Here are the methods I know.

DPN's Double pointed needles 5 or 4

Two circular needles

Magic Loop

One 9" circular needle (This is a bit tricky and you will need to try and see if it fits your hand)

Knitting both socks at the same time with two circular needles.

There are a few patterns out there that knit socks "flat", I've done it once or twice that way but did not like the outcome as much as a seamless traditional sock style.

## All About Socks

A medium sized pair of socks has about 260 square inches of knitted fabric. This is useful info because you can knit a square inch of fabric and unravel it and get a pretty good idea of how much you need to knit the pair. If you do not want to do that here is an approximate list of yardage of how much yarn you will need. These measurements are very generous depending on the size of sock you knit of course. The key word here is “*Approximately*”

**Sock-weight yarn:** *Approximately 350 yards* (320 meters) will knit at 7-8 stitches per inch

**Sport-weight yarn:** *Approximately 300 yards* (275 meters), knit at 6-7 stitches per inch

**DK-weight yarn:** *Approximately 250 yards* (229 meters), knit at 5-6 stitches per inch

**Worsted-weight yarn:** *Approximately 200 yards* (183 meters), knit at 4-5 stitches per inch

Use any size yarn desired and needles that are appropriate for that yarn. If you have never knit socks before you will need to knit a gauge or if you are the daring sort jump right in and follow the basic pattern. As far as “*sock yarn*” you will find at your LYS (Local Yarn Store) that will knit up nicely and wear and wash well. Socks are usually some mix of nylon or man made fiber mixed with wool. The percentages will vary, but socks can be knitted from any type of yarn you choose. Years ago before we had nylon and all these fancy yarns to choose from “*mohair*” was mixed with wool for durability and warmth.

Basic gauge needs to be tighter than other garments. Socks get a lot of rough wear and tear. Pick small needles usually socks are knitted on size 1, 2 or 3 needles.

Toe Up vs. Top Down,

toe up socks cast on “*Judy’s Magic Cast-on*” or Turkish Cast-on then you will need a very stretchy binding for the cuff.

Top down socks choose a very stretchy cast-on. (My personal favorite is <https://youtu.be/rmgJYBZ8>) then you will finish at the toe with Kitchener (<https://youtu.be/W7i5JwEReW0>)

Some other words you will need to learn:

Short rows, turning the heel, gusset, heel flap, provisional cast-on maybe.

You will also need a stitch marker or two, a darning needle.