

## Juani's Braided Socks

Designed by Lorna Campbell

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Credit:

These socks were inspired by pictures of the Braids Cardigan, designed by Cabin Fever, <http://www.cabinfever.ca>, which is being done as a Knit-A-Long on the Ample Knitters list: see <http://www.ample-knitters.com>.

Materials:

2 50 g balls Patons Diploma Gold DK (55 % wool:25 % acrylic:20 % nylon, tumble dry, 120 m per 50 g ball) in plum (6245)

\*\*\*This is just enough for a pair this size and if you make them bigger you will need more!

2 2.75 mm circular needles at least 20 inches long or the size you need to get the gauge specified below (or a set of double pointed needles in the correct size, if you prefer)

stitch markers

needle for weaving in ends

Gauge:

15 sts and 20 rows to 2 inches in stocking stitch.

\*\*\*This is a very dense fabric, for warmth and long-wearing, but it shouldn't hurt to work more loosely if you're wanting a larger sock.

Size:

Should fit a size 4 - 5 UK woman's foot (9.5 inches long), with a longer heel flap and gusset to allow for both a high instep and the relative stiffness of the thick braided cable fabric.

If you need to make a wider sock leg or foot, you may find it easier to add purl stitches between the braided sections rather than to increase the number of braided sections.

Abbreviations:

sts     stitches

sl     slip

[ ]     repeat everything within these brackets as instructed

k2tog   knit two stitches together

p2tog   purl two stitches together

ssp slip two stitches as if to knit, and purl them together through the back loops  
ssk slip two stitches as if to knit, and knit them together through the back loops  
pso pass stitch over (i.e. what you do when you are binding off....)

Method:

Cast on 61 stitches over two needles held together using the cable cast on.

Slip half the stitches onto each circular needle, and position them such that the first cast on stitch is near the point of one circular, and the last cast on stitch near the point of the second circular.

Hold the circular needles parallel so that the stitches make a 'U'.

Join by slipping the last stitch cast on over the first stitch cast on and pulling the slipped stitch snug, being careful not to twist the work. (60 sts with 30 on each needle)

For more details on how to work socks using two circulars, see 'Socks soar on two circular needles' by Cat Bordi; or the following two websites:

<http://www.needletrax.com/twocirculars.htm>

<http://flor.freeservers.com/soxx.htm>

Work in k1p1 rib for 10 rounds.

Change to k5p1 rib and work 4 rounds.

Start 'Braided Rib' Pattern as follows:

1. [s11 purlwise with yarn in back, k4, p1] 10 times around
2. [put slipped stitch on a cable needle and hold to front of work, k2, k1 from cable needle, k2, p1] 10 times around
3. [k5p1] 10 times around
4. [k4, s11 purlwise with yarn in back, p1] 10 times around
5. [k2, slip next 2 stitches to cable needle and hold to back of work, k slipped stitch, k2 from cable needle, p1] 10 times around
6. [k5p1] 10 times around

Repeat this six-round pattern a total of 4 times.

Slip the last 15 stitches just worked onto one needle, and work the next 14 stitches onto the same needle: these stitches will be the heel flap. (the uneven shaping is to allow the braids to be centered with the instep starting and ending k3)

Working flat on these 29 stitches, work in heel stitch as follows:

1. purl to last stitch, s11 purlwise with yarn in front
2. [k1, s11 knitwise with yarn in back] to last stitch, s11 purlwise with yarn in back

The slipped last stitch on each row will give you a neat chain selvedge for picking up gusset stitches after you have finished working the heel.

Repeat for a total of 17 times ( 2 more repeats than is usual) ending with a purl row.

Turn the heel as follows:

1. k17, k2tog, k1, turn
2. sl1, p5, ssp, p1, turn
3. sl1, k6, k2tog, k1, turn
4. sl1, p7, ssp, p1, turn
5. sl1, k8, k2tog, k1, turn
6. sl1, p9, ssp, p1, turn
7. sl1, k10, k2tog, k1, turn
8. sl1, p11, ssp, p1, turn
9. sl1, k12, k2tog, k1, turn
10. sl1, p13, ssp, p1, turn
11. sl1, k14, k2tog, turn
12. sl1, p14, ssp, p1, turn
13. sl1, knit to end of heel flap

Pick up the gusset stitches as follows:

Pick up one stitch in each loop of the chain selvedge (18 sts) plus one in the 'hole' where the heel flap starts. (19 sts total)

Knit across the instep stitches, keeping the braided rib pattern correct.

Pick up a stitch in the 'hole' where the heel flap starts, and a stitch in each loop of the chain selvedge of the heel flap. (19 sts total)

Work across the first 8 stitches of the 'heel' and place a marker.

This will be the beginning of your round. (86 sts total)

Gusset:

1. k9 (heel stitches), k17 (picked up stitches) to twist, k2tog, work instep stitches in braided rib pattern, ssk, k17 (picked up stitches) to twist, k8. [*Round 1 of braided rib*]
2. Work without decreasing, working instep stitches in braided rib pattern [*R2BR*]
3. Work without decreasing, working instep stitches in braided rib pattern [*R3BR*]
4. K9 (heel stitches), k16, k2tog, work instep stitches keeping only the centre 4 braided rib panels on the instep, ssk, k16, k8 (heel stitches) [*R4BR*]

5. Work without decreasing, keeping only the centre 4 braided rib panels on the instep[R5BR]
6. Work without decreasing, keeping only the centre 4 braided rib panels on the instep [R6BR]
7. K9 (heel stitches), k15, k2tog, work instep stitches, ssk, k15, k8 (heel stitches)
8. Work without decreasing, keeping only the centre 4 braided rib panels.

Continue as in rounds 7 and 8, until there are a total of 60 stitches remaining. Then continue in pattern without decreasing until the sock *when tried on* is 2 inches shorter than the foot it is designed for. In this case, a total of 13 complete ‘braided rib’ repeats gave the correct length.

Looking at the braided section on the top of the foot, there will be a single purl stitch separating it from the plain stocking stitch section on the underside of the foot. Place a marker so that there are 2 knit stitches in the ‘top’ bit on each side before or after that single purl stitch. You will have 29 stitches on the top of the foot, and 31 on the bottom (the opposite of the arrangement when you worked the heel).

Work the toe as follows, decreasing 4 stitches every alternate round:

1. Knit to 3 stitches before the 1st marker, k2tog, k1, slip marker, k1, ssk; Knit to 3 stitches before the 2nd marker, k2tog, k1, slip marker, k1, ssk, work to end of round
2. Knit around without decreasing

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 until there are 24 sts.

Work 1 round plain.

Decrease before 1st marker & after 2nd marker (22 sts)

Rearrange stitches so that the top of the sock is on one needle and the bottom on the other (11 sts on each) and turn the sock inside out.

Slip the outer stitches on each needle over the next stitch in (18 sts)

Do a 3-needle bind-off (flat version ie k2tog, p2tog, pso, k2tog pso etc) and weave in ends.

Working the bind-off between your fingers like a piece of wire will help to loosen it up if it is tight.

If you prefer, you can graft the live stitches together at the toe instead of doing a 3-needle bind-off. I just happen to think that the bind-off is stronger than grafting.