# Southern Mossy Socks

**Materials:**

- **400 yards/100 grams of Fingering/sock weight yarn**
- **US 2 (2.75 mm) circular needle, or needle required to achieve gauge. I use a 32" needle for magic loop or I use 2 circulars – one 16" (Needle 1) and one 24" (Needle 2)**
- **Stitch markers**

**Gauge: 8 stitches = 1 inch in stockinette.**

These socks are knit 2 at a time from the toe up, with your choice of toes and heels. This can be done as a magic loop or 2 circular needles. I separate my yarn into 2 equal balls and work from the separate balls for each sock. You can use a Ziploc bag and poke a hole in one side for the strand of ball 1 and another hole for the strand of ball 2 to keep them from tangling.

Whenever I'm looking for a pattern, I have a hard time finding a pattern that works with my number of stitches. What I've found best is when the pattern is only over a short amount of stitches on part of the front of the socks. Then it can be adapted to how ever many stitches I cast on!

If using magic loop, I use a stitch marker after the first stitch to mark the front needle which will be the front of the sock, and the back needle will be the heel of the sock.

If using two circular needles, Needle 1 will be the front of the sock and Needle 2 will be the heel of the sock. I use different size needles, so I can make remember which one is needle 1 and which one is needle 2.

**Stitches Used:**

**k** - knit stitch
**M1** – use a backwards loop to make 1 increase  (link to a YouTube tutorial.)
**p** - purl stitch
**kbl** – knit through the back loop

**Measurement:**

To figure out how many stitches I need increase to in the toe, I measure around the ball of the foot (right below the toes which is the widest part of my foot). Then I multiply that to the stitches per inch in my gauge swatch (for example: it was 9.5"x 5 stitches per inch which came to 47.5 stitches) and I round up to the nearest even number (which was 48 stitches).

Foot length: I measure from the tip of the big toe to the ankle bone. I like to try on my sock as I'm knitting and when it reaches my ankle bone, that is when I start on the heel. When I knit for other people, I measure from the tip of their big toe to the ankle bone and it seems to work fine.

**Toe:**

*Cast on* - I cast on a total of 20 stitches using Judy's magic cast on (i.e. 10 stitches on each needle).

*Toe increases* - repeat these two rows until you have the total amount of stitches you want to start with (I stop when I have 24 on each needle for a total of 48 stitches).

Row 1 (front or needle 1) - * k1, M1, k to last stitch, M1, k1 - repeat from * on back needle or Needle 2 (total increase of 4 stitches – 2 on front of the sock and 2 on the back of the sock)

Row 2 – *k3, M1, k to last 3 stitches, M1, k3 - repeat from * on back needle or Needle 2 (total increase of 4 stitches – 2 on front of the sock and 2 on the back of the sock)

Row 3 – knit all the stitches.

**Left Foot:**

Set up row front/Needle1 – k2, place marker, k5, place marker, k to the end of the row. Knit all the stitches on the back/Needle 2.

The back/Needle 2 will be knit on every row until the heel.

Row 1 – k to marker, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, slip marker, knit to end of the row.

Row 2 – k to maker, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, slip marker, knit to the end of the row.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until the heel.

**Right Foot:**

Set up row front/Needle1 – k to 7 stitches before the end of the needle, place marker, k5, place marker, k2. Knit all the stitches on the back/Needle 2.

The back/Needle 2 will be knit on every row until the heel.

Row 1 – k to marker, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, slip marker, knit to end of the row.
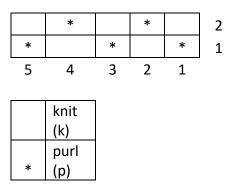
Row 2 – k to maker, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, slip marker, knit to the end of the row.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until the heel.

*Pattern repeat*

Row 1 - k1, p1, k1, p1, k1   Row 2 - p1, k1, p1, k1, p1

Read chart from right to left.

| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | * |   | * |   | 2 |
| * |   | * |   | * | 1 |

|   | knit (k) |
|---|----------|
| * | purl (p) |

**Heel:  (Only done on the back needle/Needle 2)**

I use the Fish Lips Kiss Heel recipe which only cost $1 on my socks because it fits my heel perfectly and it is not hard to do but you can use whatever heel you feel comfortable using.  I only use in the heel directions in the pattern though and don't go through all the measurement parts. I like to try on my sock as I'm knitting and when it reaches my ankle bone, that is when I start on the heel. When I knit for other people, I measure from the tip of their big toe to the ankle bone and it seems to work fine.

**Leg:**

Once you have finished the heel, continue to work on both needles, continuing in pattern. I like to make the leg as long as the foot (I fold it at the heel crease to measure it) but you might like it shorter or longer according to your taste.

**Cuff:** I like to make a twisted rib cuff of about 10 rows.

Row 1 – *kbl, p1, repeat from * to the end of the row.
Repeat row 1 until cuff is desired height.

**You can find me as  loonyhiker on Ravelry if you have any questions.**