



Quick & Thick Mountain Man Boot Socks

I love knitting socks for my grandfather because he loves them so much that when they start to wear at the toes and heels, he duct tapes them. At 81 he still works hard on his land on the mountain in New Hampshire and needs socks that will keep him warm. He likes thick socks which is good for me because I can knit them quicker!

I used the Sherman heel. I love this method because there's no gaps and it's easy.

You'll need to know two terms:

kenc = sl 1 st knitwise, pick up st under the next st purlwise and then knit the slipped st and picked up st together.

penc = sl 1 st purlwise, pick up st under the next st purlwise and then purl the slipped st and picked up st together.

This pattern makes a man's size 10 at a gauge of 5.5 sts inch (light worsted weight/heavy dk)

Starting at the top, cast on 48 sts with your favorite cast on method (for ribbing, mine is the Norwegian cast on because it's nice and stretchy). I use three needles. 24 sts on one (this will be where I work the heel) and 12 on each of the other two (this will be the instep).

Work about 10" in 2x2 rib.

Knit 8 rounds in stockinette on the heel needle while keeping with the 2x2 ribbing on the instep needles.

Knit across heel sts and then wrap the first st on the first instep needle (with yarn in front, slip purlwise, pull yarn to the back and then slip the st back onto the same needle it was on). Purl back across heel needle and then wrap the last st of the second instep needle (with yarn to the back of the work, slip the st purlwise, pull the yarn to the front and then replace the wrapped st). Now you are set up to start working the heel:

sl 1, K 22, turn ; sl 1, P 21, turn ; sl 1, K 20, turn ; sl 1, P 19, turn; and so on until you get down to sl 1, K 8, turn. On the next purl row you'll sl 1, P 6 penc, turn.

Now you'll stop slipping the first stitch and you'll start working back up in numbers like so:

K 7, kenc, turn; P 8, penc, turn; K 9 kenc, turn; P 10 penc, etc until you get to P 20, penc, turn.

Sl 1, K20, kenc, sl 1. Now you're ready to start knitting around again. Be sure to knit the stitch that is wrapped with it's wrap as you come to it. Knit heel needle in stockinette and instep needles in 2x2 rib for 8 inches.

The toe is knit exactly as the heel was up to the last Sl 1, K20, sl1. Place the instep sts on one needle and kitchener the instep sts to the toe sts. I treat the wrapped sts with it's wrap as one stitch.