

Strings

by Tanja Fleischer

A funky colorwork sock for all guitarists, ukulele players, and music lovers – whether you strum or just hum along, these socks are “instrumental”! They are the perfect way to express your love for stringed instruments or have the perfect present for the special musician in your life.

The pattern contains options for two different soles - a guitar or ukulele fret board.

Worked from the toe up, these socks feature a round toe, a long fold-over cuff and the new crystal heel developed by Lynn Hershberger.

Bigger needles are used for the colorwork, giving the stitches more of a square shape and resulting in perfectly symmetrical instruments adorning your feet. They also make for a quicker knit.



Resources:

Instructions for [Judy's magic cast](#) on can be found on knitty.com.

The [crystal heel](#) was originally published by Lynn Hershberger on knitty.com.

Explanations for [common knitting Abbreviations](#) and the [tubular bind off](#) can be found on knittinghelp.com.

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Size:

(foot circumference)

Medium – 60sts – 18cm (7in)

Large – 72sts – 21.5cm (8.5in)

X-Large – 84sts – 25cm (10in)

Materials needed

main color: approx. 60-80g (2-3 oz.)/215-285m (235-312 yds) of fingering weight yarn

contrast color: approx. 20-40g (.75 – 1.5 oz.)/75-145m (82-159 yds) of fingering weight yarn

2.5 and 3.0mm (US 1 and 3) circular needle or dpn's (or needles to obtain gauge)

small spare dpn

darning needle

waste yarn

Optional:

2 guitar picks >1mm

small drill

Gauge:

34sts and 35rows = 10cm/4inch in colorwork on 3mm needles, slightly stretched,

Abbreviations:

cc – contrast color

co – cast on

mc – main color

k2tog – knit 2 together

kf&b – knit into front and back of same stitch

rnd – round

rnds - rounds

st - stitch

sts – stitches

1x1rib – k1,p1 until end of row

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Pattern Directions

Pattern written for circular needles. Adapt as necessary for dpn's.

Toe

With smaller needles and MC, CO 20(24,28) sts using Judy's magic cast on. 10(12,14) sts per needle.

Begin increase rounds:

Needle 1: *kf&b, knit to 2 sts before end of needle 1, kf&b, knit 1,*

Needle 2: *kf&b, knit to 2 sts before end of needle 2, kf&b, knit 1;*

Work increase rnd every rnd 5(6,7) times. 20(24,28)sts per needle.

Work increase rnd every second rnd 3(4,5) times. 26(32,38)sts per needle.

Work increase rnd every third rnd 2(2,2) times. 30(36,42)sts per needle.

Work 2 more rnds after last increase rnd. Large(XL) knits last rnd to 2(3) sts before end of rnd.

Foot

Pattern setup, medium size:

Rdn 1: Transfer the first st from needle 1 onto needle 2 and knit it in MC. New start of rnd. Join CC. Knit 28 sts in CC. Transfer the last st of needle 1 onto needle 2. Continue until end of rnd in CC. Total of 28 sts on needle 1 and 32 sts on needle 2.

Rdn 2: Change to bigger needles for colorwork.

Needle 1: Work the blue framed sts of pattern setup chart, twisting in strands carried across more than 6 sts. (28 sts)

Needle 2: Work Guitar or Ukulele sole chart. (32 sts)

Rdn 3: Work row 2 of Pattern setup chart and sole chart.

Pattern setup, large (XL) size:

Rdn 1: Transfer the last 2(3) sts from needle 2 onto needle 1. New start of rnd. Knit across needle 1 in CC. Transfer next 2(2) sts from needle 2 onto needle 1 and knit them. Continue in CC until end of rnd. Total of 40(47) sts on needle 1 and 32(37) sts on needle 2.

Rdn 2: Change to bigger needles for colorwork.

Needle 1: Work pattern setup chart, twisting in strands carried across more than 6 sts. Size L works the green framed sts, XL works all sts.

Needle 2: Work Guitar or Ukulele sole chart

Rdn 3: Work row 2 of Pattern setup chart and sole chart.

Main foot, all sizes:

Starting at rnd 3 of main pattern chart, continue in established manner, knitting main chart on needle 1 and sole/fret charts on needle 2. Medium size always works the blue framed sts, large size always the green. Size XL works all sts. After working 11(13,15) rows of sole chart for short(medium, long) feet, work one row of fret chart. Work 9(11,13) more rows of sole chart before working another row of fret chart. Continue in this manner, always

knitting 2 fewer rows of sole chart before working another fret chart.

Continue until sock measures about 7cm(2.75in) less than desired foot length, preferably ending with row 17 or 34 of main pattern.

Work one more row of main pattern on needle 1. Size M works 1 more st in main pattern from needle 2 onto needle 1, size L(XL) works this last row to 2(2) sts before end of needle 1.

Keep track of where you end the row, as you will need to continue from this point when working the back of leg into the pattern.

Leg:

Using waste yarn and a spare dpn, knit the next 30(36,42) sts. Size L (XL) will have to knit 2(2) sts from needle 1, all sts from needle 2, then first 2(3) sts from needle 1. Size M slips the one remaining sts from needle 2 onto spare dpn.

Returning to the right edge of the heel, where you left the working yarn, knit the sts from the dpn back onto circular needle 2, resuming the main pattern row begun on needle 1 and working back of leg into established pattern. You will not start at the beginning of chart on needle 2, instead resume the st repeat as established on needle 1. The row of waste yarn will be removed later to knit the heel.

Next round, begin working main pattern on both needles.

Note: If beginning back of leg on row 1, 2, 18 or 19 of chart, work sts belonging to the heads of guitars in CC instead of MC on needle 2 only for first two rnds. Follow pattern as established on needle 1. Otherwise follow chart pattern on both needles.

To avoid jogs in the guitars, be flexible with where you begin each rnd, moving the start of rnd forward or back as necessary. Always begin a new rnd with CC sts in between guitars.

Continue until you have two rows of guitars on the leg or until leg measures about 8cm(3.25in), ending with either a row 17 or 34.

Knit next two rows of pattern, completing the established guitars, but knitting the MC sts that are part of the next guitars with CC instead.

Work 3 rnds in CC. Break CC.

Switch to smaller needles and knit one rnd in MC.

Knit 1X1 rib until desired length. For a long fold-over cuff, you will need at least 8cm(3.25in). Bind off using a stretchy bind off like the tubular bind off.

Heel:

Using smaller needles, pick up 30 (36,42) sts on top of waste yarn and another 30 (36,42) sts below waste yarn. Insert your needle into the right leg of each st so they will be properly oriented. If any sts are twisted they can be reoriented while knitting the first round below. Keep toe pointed down while you do this to avoid picking up half-stitches. Carefully remove the waste yarn.

Note: Read the following rnd carefully before continuing!

Rdn 1: Beginning with the lower row of sts, knit across the sole in CC. Pick up two additional sts at the gap alongside of the heel,

placing a marker between them. Repeat on second needle with upper sts, picking up 2 more sts and placing marker between them on other side of heel. Second marker will be start of rnd.

While knitting the sts on the upper side of the heel, you will see st in MC at the left side of each guitar that looks oddly like a float. This float is also a st. To avoid diminutive holes, raise the leg of the right neighboring st onto your left hand needle and knit it together with the float.

(4sts increased)

Rnd 2: Break CC. Attach MC and work one rnd in MC. Place a marker at center of sole and center of leg. Decrease the two additional sts on either side of the heel. (Last decrease will be worked in next rnd) Total of 60(72,84) sts and 4 markers.

Knit 4 more rounds in MC. Work first decrease rnd as follows:

Decrease rnd: Knit to 2 sts before marker, k2tog. Repeat until end of rnd. 4 sts decreased.

Work decrease rnd every fourth rnd 4(5,5) times. 11(13,16)sts between each marker;

Work decrease rnd every second rnd 3(3,4) times. 8(10,12)sts between each marker;

Work decrease rnd every rnd 3(4,5) times. 5(6,7)sts between each marker;

Graft remaining sts together using the Kitchener stitch.

Finishing:

Weave in ends, block as desired, fold the cuffs over, wear and enjoy!

Optional guitar pick buttons:

Find two thicker guitar picks (>1mm) and drill two holes in each. Fasten them with a few sts to the outside of folded cuffs as fake buttons.

Charts

The red framed section is the pattern repeat.

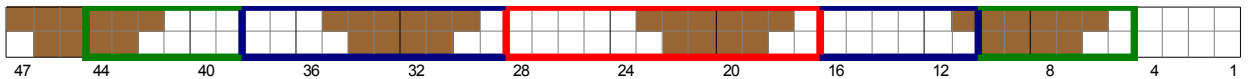
Size M works only the blue framed sts. Size L works only the green framed sts. Size XL works all sts.

Pattern Setup

left foot

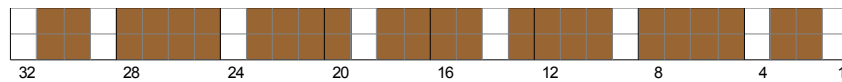


right foot

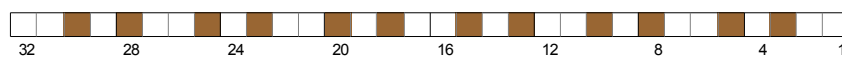


Sole Pattern

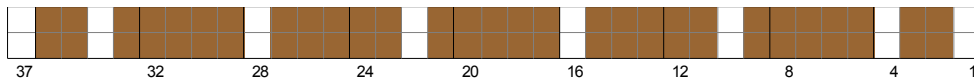
guitar sole pattern, M&L



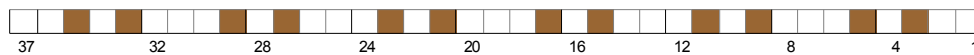
guitar fret pattern, M&L



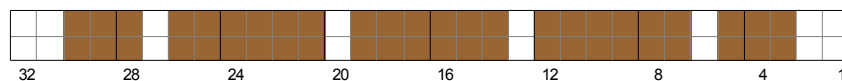
guitar sole pattern, XL



guitar fret pattern, XL



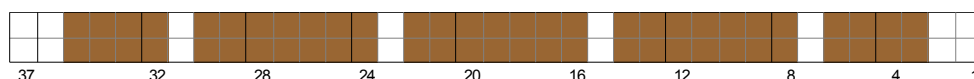
ukulele sole pattern, M&L



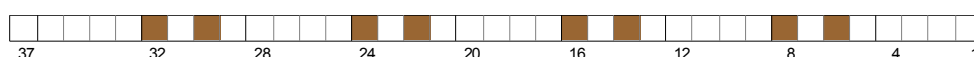
ukulele fret pattern, M&L



ukulele sole pattern, XL

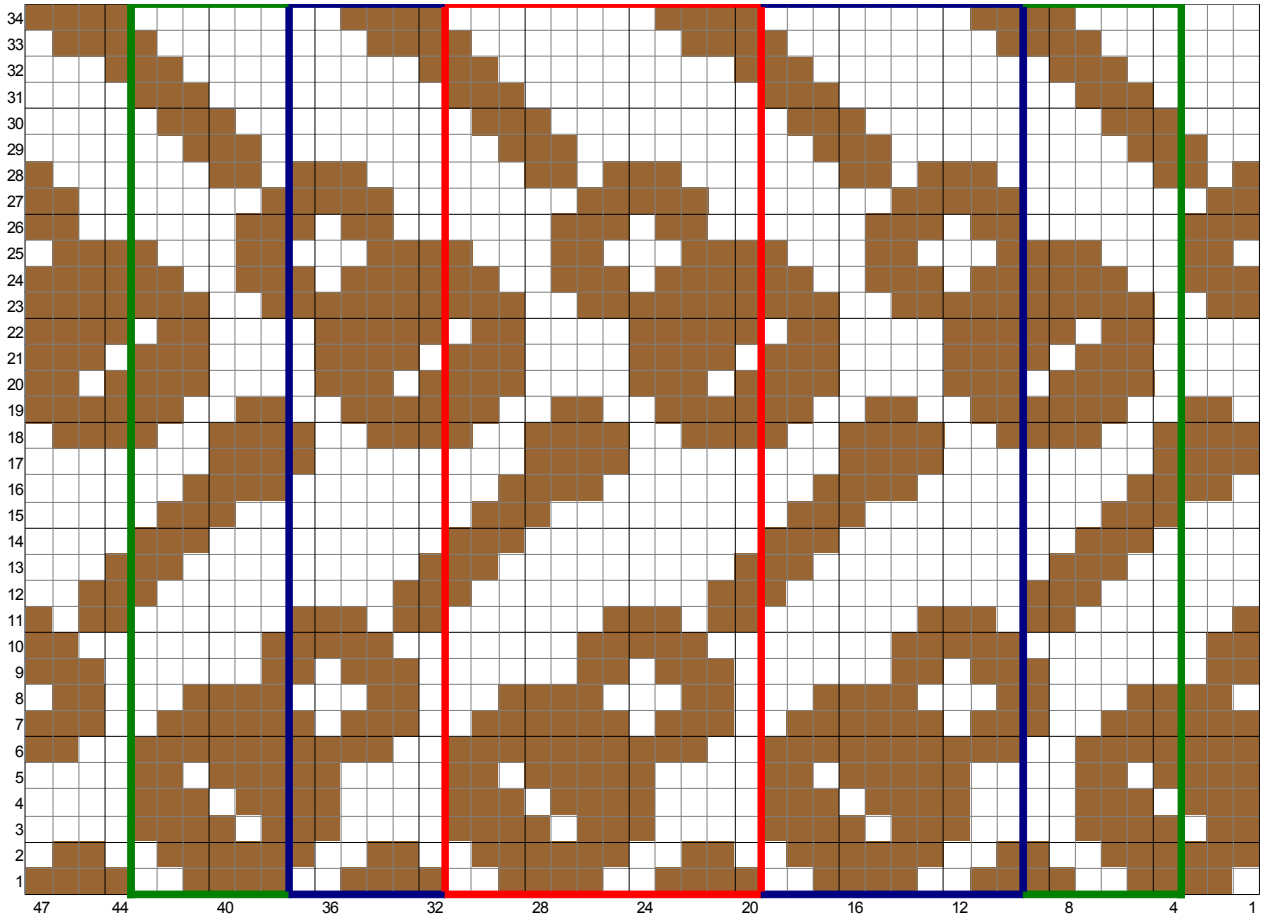


ukulele fret pattern, XL



Main Pattern

left foot



right foot

