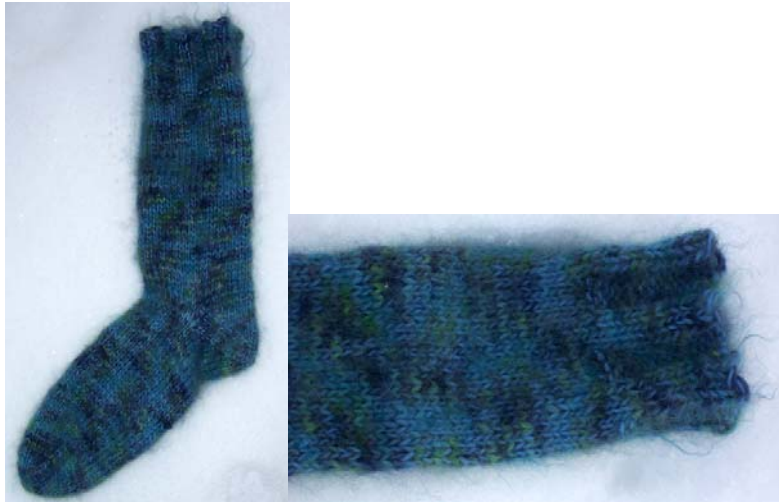


# SUPERFAST SOCKS

Simple socks with afterthought heels that work up really fast.



## Requirements

- La Gran Mohair, 2 skeins
- Top of the Lamb sport weight SINGLES in a compatible color, 1-2 skeins
- Size 7 and 5 double pointed knitting needles – bamboo preferred
- Yarn needle for toe and heel grafting

## Gauge

4 sts = 1", 5.5 rows = 1" for stockingnet. It is ok to be a little over gauge on this and full it down to fit as you wash it. Don't measure near ribbing as the gauge will be skewed there.

## Cast-On

Using the larger needles, cast on 36 stitches using a stretchy cast-on method. I use backwards loop over two needles done firmly. Place marker. Join and knit K3, P3 ribbing for about 2.5" or about 17 rounds.

## Leg

Change to circular stockingnet and knit about 5.5" for a total of 8". Try the sock on for fit – it should come to just under the ankle bone.

## Provisional Heel

Heels will be worked just like a separate toe when the body is complete. This gives a sock that looks funny off the foot, but fits so well. So as you work the sock, just save a place for the heel when you get to right length. I use a slippery yarn, usually crochet cotton or nylon yarn and knit across the two heel needles, leaving the original yarn where it dropped. Now go back to the beginning of the heel stitches and knit across them with the original sock yarn. Continue for foot.

## Foot

Knit around for 5.5" or until you reach the furthest knuckle of your big toe. In order to get the best fit, I usually break off the yarn and do the heel, so I can judge the foot length.

## Heel

Now we go back and pick up the heel stitches, using smaller needles. You may want to pick up extra stitches at the corners to avoid the hole, however on this sock you will not see it much due to the mohair. Knit one round plain, distributing your stitches evenly. Now start your paired decreases.

Needle 1 K1, SSK, knit across needle.

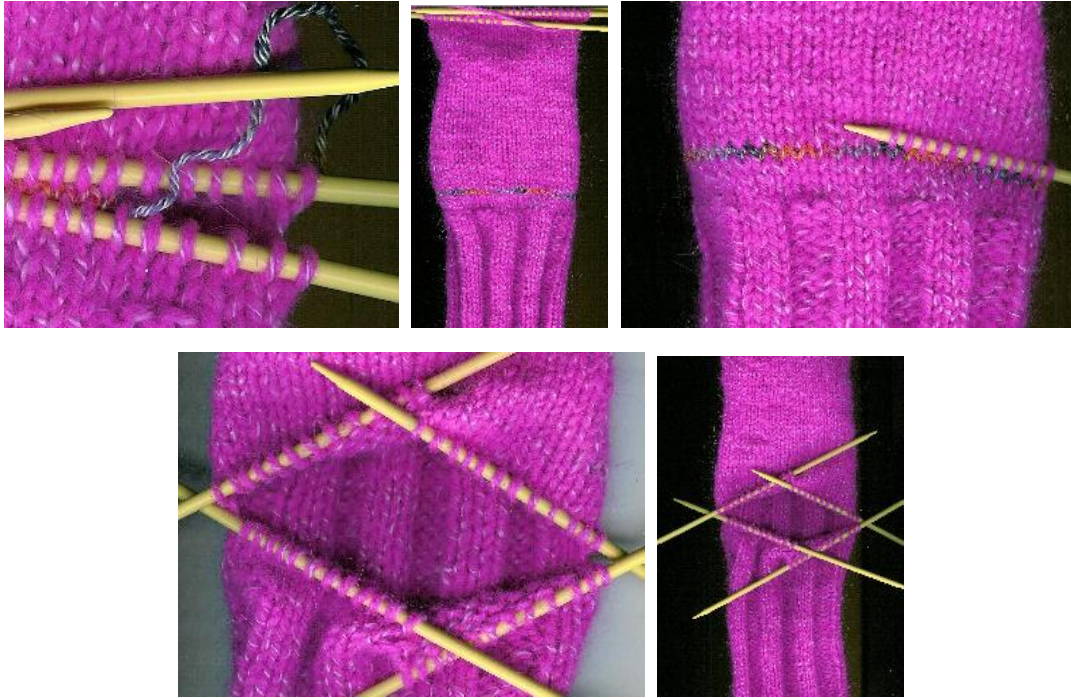
Needle 2 Knit across to the last 3 sts, K2Tog, K1.

Needle 3 K1, SSK, knit across needle.

Needle 4 Knit across to the last 3 sts, K2Tog, K1.

Work until 16 sts remain, 4 on each needle. Graft remaining sts together.

A good link for grafting: <http://knitty.com/ISSUEsummer04/FEATtheresasum04.html>



## Toe

Now try on the sock to make sure it is long enough before starting the toe. Have the foot come up past the big toe's bottom knuckle. Change to smaller needles and knit 1 round. Repeat the heel.

## Hints

Sometimes when you pick up heel stitches, you get some extra on one side and not the other. When you distribute your stitches around and notice this, lose the extra stitches in the first decrease round by decreasing where you need it and plain knitting where you don't want to lose stitches. The extra decrease round will not be noticeable, and your sock heel won't be lopsided.

Your sock will fuzz out as you stitch. The haze just gets bigger and bigger as you go. After you wash it, it will be much fuzzier. So make sure any ends are darned in well before you wash your sock. I like to wash in the hottest water my sink will produce and use Dawn dish liquid and rubber gloves. I do not agitate, but just let it soak for 10 minutes. Rinse at least twice in water that is as hot as the wash water. Don't wring. Lay flat to dry or use sock blockers.

There are many heel variations, but I favor two beside the standard in this pattern. Add wooly nylon that is used in serger machines. I add one or two strands for the full heel and sometimes the foot and toe too. Matching is a problem, but since you are multi-stranding anyway, it might be easy to find one in the color family you are using. This also makes the heels stretchy like lycra, so don't knit too firmly. The second variation involves having two balls of each yarn, or knitting from the outside and inside of each ball. This method can be a pain for yarn control, but gives a superior heel. Just knit in the new set of ends by weaving above and below current stitches. Now knit a stitch from ball one then knit a stitch from ball two. You will have to break off before you graft, but it is double thick and cozy.

Do not despair if your socks are a little large. Just use a little more vigor when you wash your socks and wear in sneakers for the first few times. The socks will naturally mold to fit your foot. Now they are snugger and more air tight.

**Sock blocker directions** <http://www.needletrax.com/blockers.htm>

