Woolcotte Bed Socks

SIZE: Woman's sm - med (woman's large – X large).
Materials: 1 ball Woolcotte
Gauge: 18 sts = 4" over st st on US 8 needles
Needles: 1 set of double points size US 8, <u>**or size necessary to obtain given gauge**</u>.

CUFF: With one needle, cast on 32 (36) sts. Divide onto 3 needles. Being careful not to twist the sts, join and work in the round as follows: (K2, P2) around. Work in K2-P2 ribbing for 2". Knit 2 rounds plain.

At beginning of next round, divide for heel.

DIVIDE FOR HEEL: Transfer sts around so that the first 16 (18) sts are on the first needle, and the rest of the sts divided onto the other two needles. Work back and forth across the first needle ONLY as follows:

Row 1: *(Slip 1, k1), repeat from * across.

Row 2: Slip 1, **purl across**. Repeat these 2 rows for 16 (18) rows total, then work row 1 once more. The heel will be 17 (19) rows long.

TURN HEEL:

Row 1: Slip 1, purl 9 (10), p2tog, p1, TURN.

Row 2: Slip 1, k5, k2tog, k1, TURN.

ABBREVIATIONS: K = knit, P = purl, st(s) = stitch(es), k2tog = knit 2 sts together, SKP = slip 1 stitch as if to knit, slip a second stitch as if to purl, then knit the 2 stitches together.
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Row 3: Slip 1, purl to 1 st before the last turn (you'll see a small gap where the last turn was), p2tog, p1, TURN.

Row 4: Slip 1, knit to 1 st before the last turn (look for the gap), k2tog, k1, TURN.

Repeat rows 3 & 4 until all sts at the ends are used up, ending with a right side row. There will be 10 (12) sts left.

GUSSET: Continuing to work with the same needle, pick up and knit 8 (9) sts along the side of the heel (needle 1). Using a new needle, knit across the sts on the next 2 needles (needle 2). Using a new needle, pick up and knit 8 (9) sts along the other side of the heel, and continue knitting to the center of the heel sts [5 (6) sts] (needle 3).   There should now be 13 (15) sts on needles 1 & 3, and 16 (18) sts on needle 2. The center of the heel is the beginning of the round; needle 2 contains the instep sts.

Begin decreasing as follows:

Round 1: Knit around.

Round 2: Knit to within 3 sts of the end of the first needle, k2tog, k1. Knit across second needle. On third needle, k1, SKP, knit to end.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 until there are 8 (9) sts left on both needles 1 & 3. Needle 2 will remain at 16 (18) sts since no decreases take place there. You will now be back to the original # of sts [32 (36)]. Begin to work in the round again, until length from back of heel is 6.5 (7.5)", **OR** 1½" less than desired length of finished sock. At this point you can slip the sock on to see the length. Only the toenails should stick out.

TOE SHAPING: Rearrange the sts on the needles so that there are now 8 (9) sts on each of needles 1 & 3, and 16 (18) sts on needle 2. Begin decreasing as follows:

Round 1: On needle 1: knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. On needle 2: K1, SKP, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. On needle 3: K1, SKP, knit to end (center of heel).

Round 2: Knit.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 until there are 12 (16) sts left [3 (4) sts on needles 1 & 3, and 6 (8) sts on needle 2].

KITCHNER STITCH: Continuing to knit with needle 3, knit to the end of needle 1. There are now only 2 needles in use, half the sts on each. Cut the yarn, leaving 18". Thread it onto a blunt needle. Hold the 2 needles parallel, you will now have a front needle and a back needle. Always keep the yarn beneath the needle as you work.

Step 1: Go into the first st on the front needle as if to knit, pull the st off the needle.

Step 2: Go into the second st on the front needle as if to purl, leave st on the needle.

Step 3: Go into the first st on the back needle as if to purl, pull the st off of the needle.

Step 4: Go into the second st on the back needle as if to knit, leave the st on the needle.

Now you have 4 new sts to work with. Repeat steps 1 - 4 until all sts are woven. Anchor on inside, weave in ends.

Make a second sock; counting rows to make sure it is the same length.

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