



# Easy Peasy Plaid

by FiberFrosting Designs



## GAUGE

In stockinette with larger needle, in the round:  
9 sts/inch, 12 rows/inch, (9 st/2.54cm, 12 rows/2.54cm).

## SIZES

Women's **S (M, L, XL)**. To fit foot circ. of:  
**7.5 (8, 9, 10)** inches or **19 (20, 23, 25.5)** cm  
and length of:  
**8 (9, 10, 11)** inches or **20 (23, 25.5, 28)** cm

**T**hese toe up socks have contrasting toe and heel, with some “easy peasy” plaid to top them off. The plaid is done in two colors and is achieved using slip-stitches, worked with only one color at a time. Easy, right? The plaid stitch pattern is from Barbara G. Walker's “Charted Knitting Designs, A third Treasury of Knitting Patterns”. I fell in love with the classic simplicity of this stitch and I hope you do too. There is also 2 options for the short-row heel; one that is the standard use of half (50%) of the stitches, and a 60% version that swipes a few stitches from the front to create a slightly larger heel for those with larger heels or high insteps.

## TECHNIQUES AND DIFFICULTY LEVEL

The pictured socks were worked from the toe up, two at a time, using the magic-loop method. Of course, you could use another method for working in the round. This pattern is intended for a knitter that already is familiar with:

- the magic-loop method or able to use another method for working in the round and substituting in pattern.
- the Turkish cast-on method, or other cast-on method of choice for toe-up. If you are not familiar with the Turkish Cast-On, see the Tutorials section (on the last page) for a link to a tutorial on my website.

## SUPPLIES

**Yarn:** Two skeins of 50g, 200yd/183m fingering weight sock yarn in coordinating colors (one skein of each color). For larger sizes with longer cuffs, an additional skein of your main color might be required. Optional: a 3rd or even 4<sup>th</sup> color can be used for Color A and Color B of the plaid, which is handy when main color is variegated and contrasting color is same as one of the colors in the variegated yarn. Additional colors also help if you don't have quite enough MC or CC yarn. Change it up and have fun!

## Needles for Working in the Round:

US 1 (2.25mm) or size needed to get gauge.

US 0 (2.0 mm) or 1 size smaller than gauge needle above.

**Notions:** Beginning-of-round marker (BORM), Half-way marker (HWM) if needed, tape measure for measuring progress, and a darning needle to weave in ends. If working the 60% heel, you may also need 2 small stitch holders to hold up to 4 stitches each.

## ABOUT THE DESIGNER

*Hi, my name is Naomi Frost, the person behind FiberFrosting Designs. I am a retired software developer that loves family, nature, science, and the fiber arts. Thank you so much for your interest in my pattern. I sincerely hope it brings you joy. Feel free to contact me through IG direct message, email, or Ravelry message if you have questions about this design. If you love it, please consider showing your appreciation by leaving me a small donation on Ko-Fi: <https://ko-fi.com/fiberfrosting>. Donations go toward costs for materials and tech editing. Thank you so much!*

*Naomi*

## INSTRUCTIONS

### TOE

Toes are slightly rounded, worked in Stockinette Stitch, with your Contrasting Color yarn (CC).

With CC, cast on **20 (20, 24, 28)** stitches per sock using the Turkish cast-on method (or other toe-up method of choice). Place BORM. You might also need to place a HWM to separate the top (instep)/bottom (sole) stitches, if not already naturally separated on needles (as with magic-loop and 2 circs methods). Throughout this pattern, simply slip markers as they are encountered, unless otherwise noted.

Rounds 1-5 (**5, 6, 7**):

Sole: Kfb, k to last 2 sole stitches, kfb, k1.

Instep: Kfb, k to 2 stitches before BORM, kfb, k1.

Round **6 (6, 7, 8)**: Knit to end of round (no increases).

Repeat last 2 rounds until there are **56 (64, 72, 80)** stitches per sock.

Knit **4 (4, 5, 6)** rounds of Stockinette Stitch (no increases).

### FOOT

The foot is knit in Stockinette Stitch, with the Main Color yarn (MC).

Cut CC, and attach MC.

Round 1: Knit to end of round.

Repeat Round 1 until ready to start heel as follows:

For the standard 50% heel, knit until sock measures **6.5 (7.25, 8, 9)** inches [**16.6 (18.5, 20.3, 23)** cm] long.

For the larger 60% heel, knit until sock measures **6 (6.5, 7, 8)** inches [**15.3 (16.6, 17.6, 20.3)** cm] long. (Yes, you read that right, you do not knit as far for the larger heel because it will be longer than the standard heel.)

#### Set up for heel:

Standard 50% heel option: No special set-up needed, just knit one round and continue to next page for heel instructions.

Larger 60% Heel Option: The setup for 60% heel will require you to put some stitches on stitch holders if you are doing **two-at-a-time (side-by-side on 1 or 2 long circular needles)**.

If you are **NOT** knitting two-at-a-time as described above, you can simply rearrange as follows:  
Move **2 (3, 4, 4)** stitches from each side of the Instep to the sole-side of the sock and also adjust BORM and HWM accordingly. Knit to new location of BORM. Continue to heel instructions on next page.

With MC, knit and rearrange stitches as follows (also moving BORM and HWM, if used, accordingly):

Sole: First sock: Knit sole stitches.  
Second sock: Knit sole stitches,  
k **2 (3, 4, 4)** instep stitches. These are now sole stitches and should be with them now.

Instep: Second sock (continued): Knit to last **2 (3, 4, 4)** stitches. The remaining instep stitches are now considered sole stitches. Put them onto stitch holder until ready to knit them next round.  
First sock (continued): Slip first **2 (3, 4, 4)** stitches onto stitch holder or scrap yarn, knit to last **2 (3, 4, 4)** stitches and slide those stitches to back to the sole stitches.

**IMPORTANT:** The held stitches are considered sole stitches now. Don't forget to add them back in and work them on the first row of the heel.

## HEEL

The heel is worked with CC in short-rows (back and forth), on sole stitches only.

### First half of heel:

Row 1 (RS): With CC, s1, knit to last heel (sole) stitch (or HWM, if used), turn.

Row 2 (WS): S1 wyif, purl to 2 stitches before BORM, turn.

Row 3: S1, knit to last 2 heel stitches, turn.

Row 4: S1 wyif, purl to stitch before gap, turn.

Row 5: S1, knit to stitch before gap, turn.

Repeat Rows 4 & 5, ending when

Regular Heel: **10 (10, 12, 14)** center heel stitches remain between gaps after a RS row is worked.

60% Heel: **10 (12, 14, 16)** center heel stitches remain between gaps after a RS row is worked.

### Second half of heel:

Row 1 (WS): S1 wyif, purl to gap, LLiP, turn.

Row 2 (RS): S1, knit to gap, LLi, turn.

Row 3: S1 wyif, purl to stitch before gap, p2tog, LLiP, turn.

Row 4: S1, knit to stitch before gap, ssk, LLi, turn.

Repeat Rows 3 & 4 until there are only 2 unworked stitches (1 MC and 1 CC) on each side of heel.

### Finishing up the heel:

Row 1 (WS): S1 wyif, purl to stitch before gap, p2tog, LLiP, s1, turn.

Row 2 (RS): With MC, k2togTbl, knit to stitch before gap, ssk, LLi, slip LLi stitch back onto holding needle, k2tog.

You should now be back to your original foot stitch count: **56 (64, 72, 80)**.

Work second heel in the same manner.

Knit instep stitches to complete the round.

## ANKLE

The ankle section is just a small Stockinette Stitch section to transition from the heel to the plaid pattern on the leg.

For sizes **small** and **medium** only:

If you did a 60% heel, you might want to move 4 (6) stitches back to the front needle(s) while working the ankle. Although this step is not completely necessary, it will keep full pattern repeats together so that you will start the front and back of the leg at the beginning of a pattern repeat. You can move all of the stitches from either the back or front, or evenly divided between both; whichever works best for you. Two-at-a-time knitters will find that moving them all at the outside edges will eliminate the need to put the inner edge stitches (where the two socks are side-by-side) on holders again.

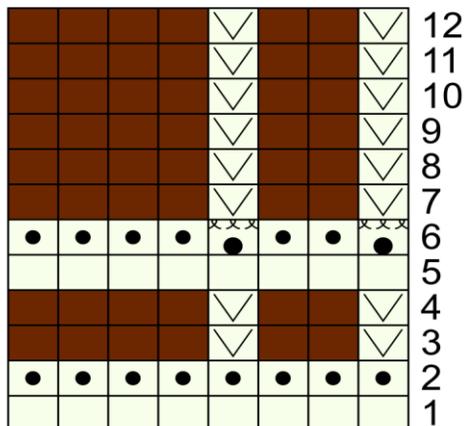
Work 10 rounds in Stockinette Stitch.

 **For the 60% heel option**, if you have any held stitches remember to add them back in and include them as sole stitches for working the heel.

## LEG

The design on the leg will be done entirely in Plaid Stitch (see Plaid Stitch Chart and instructions below), repeated all the way around the leg. The colors you use for Color A and Color B don't necessarily have to be your MC and CC. For the socks on the cover photo I used the MC for Color A and CC for Color B. You could reverse that or even introduce a 3rd (and even 4<sup>th</sup>) color to use for Color A or B. This is recommended when your MC is a variegated yarn. The pattern can get lost in all those color changes, so it will "pop" more if you use 2 solids for Color A and Color B (one of those can be the CC yarn, but certainly doesn't need to be).

### Plaid Stitch Chart



Yarn	Stitches
Color A	k
Color B	p
	s1
	pw3

Round 1: With A, knit all stitches.

Round 2: With A, purl all stitches.

Rounds 3-4: With B, [s1, k2, s1, k4] to end of round.

Round 5: With A, knit all stitches.

Round 6: With A, [pw3, p2, pw3, p4] to end of round.

Rounds 7-12: With B, [s1, k2, s1, k4] to end of round.

When slipping the pw3 sts, let the extra wraps drop off.

Work Rounds 1-12 three times, or until leg is close to desired length, **ending after working a Round 4 round.**

Repeat Rounds 1& 2 of the chart once more to finish off the Plaid Stitch design on the leg.

### Finishing up Leg and prep for cuff:

Knit 5 rounds of Stockinette stitch in MC.

Cut MC.

Knit 1 round in CC.

## CUFF

Cuff is worked in CC with smaller needle.

Work [k2, p2] rib for 8-12 rounds (or more, if desired).

## FINISHING UP

Using larger needle, bind off using Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind-off, or other STRETCHY bind-off of your choosing.

Weave in ends with tapestry needle.

## STITCH GLOSSARY

A	Color A of charted pattern. Can be MC or CC, or another color of choice.
B	Color B of charted pattern. Can be MC or CC, or another color of choice.
BORM	Beginning/end of round marker.
CC	Contrasting color yarn (used for heels, toes, and cuff).
Holding Needle	The knitting needle holding stitches that have not been worked yet.
HWM	Half-way point marker.
k	Knit.
k2tog	Knit 2 stitches together.
K2togTbl	Knit 2 stitches together through the back loops.
LLi	Left Lifted Increase: Knit into the back loop of the stitch 2 rows below the stitch on the working needle. It can be knit into directly, but if you find it difficult, lift the stitch onto the holding needle before knitting it.
LLiP	Left Lifted Increase Purl: Purl into the front loop of the stitch 2 rows below the stitch on the working needle. Lift the stitch onto the holding needle before purling it.
MC	Main Color yarn.
p	Purl.
p2tog	Purl 2 stitches together.
pw3	Purl with an additional 2 wraps around needle (total of 3 wraps).
RS	Right (public) side of sock.
s	Slip stitch purl-wise, onto working needle.
ssk	Slip 2 stitches (individually) knit-wise and knit them together through the back loops.
Stockinette Stitch	When working in the round, Stockinette Stitch is achieved by knitting all stitches.
tbl	Work the stitch through the back loop.
Working Needle	The knitting needle holding stitches that have been worked.
WS	Wrong side (inside) of sock.
wyif	With yarn in front: Carry the working yarn held in front of the stitch being worked (like you would for a purl stitch).

## TUTORIALS (ON WEBSITE)

Turkish Cast-On: <https://fiberfrostingdesigns.com/skill-center/turkish-cast-on-tutorial/>

Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind-off: <https://fiberfrostingdesigns.com/skill-center/jssbo-tutorial/>

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