

# Going to the Dogs - Toe Up sock Pattern

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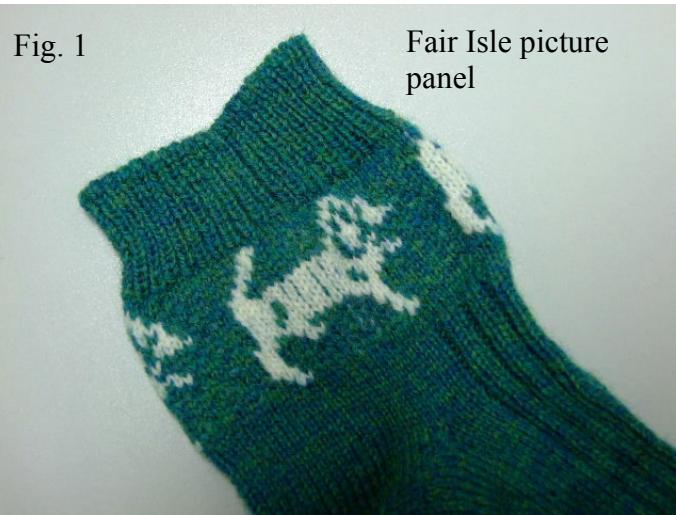
## Section I- Fitted toe (left /right)

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## Section IV- Double Knit Picture Panel

## Section V- Invisible BO for the finish.



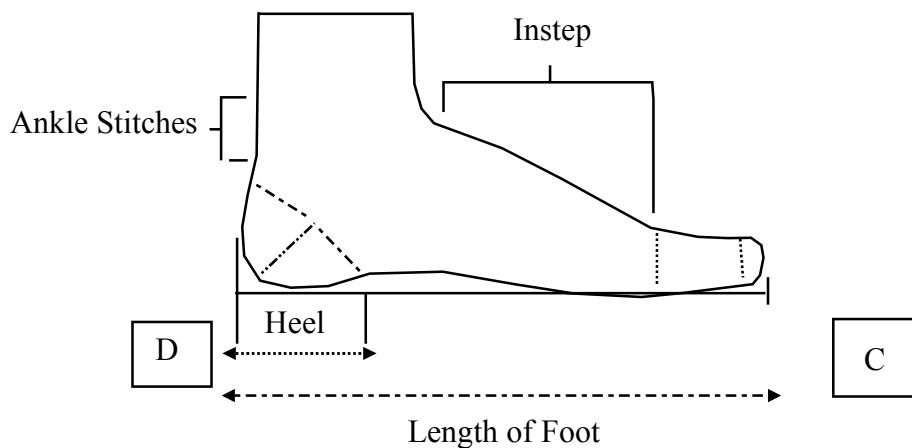
**Doggy Socks**

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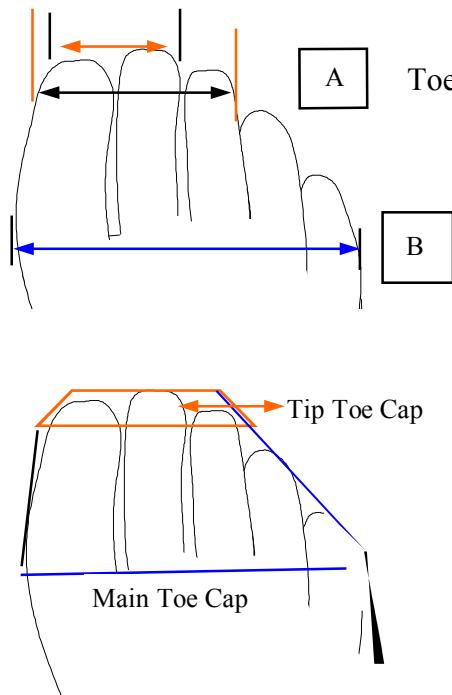
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## Measuring for the Perfect Fit.



One way to measure the length of your foot is to trace the outline on to a piece of paper or cardboard. However, don't do it while standing on it. This will flatten it out.



A Toe Cap measurement for Cast On

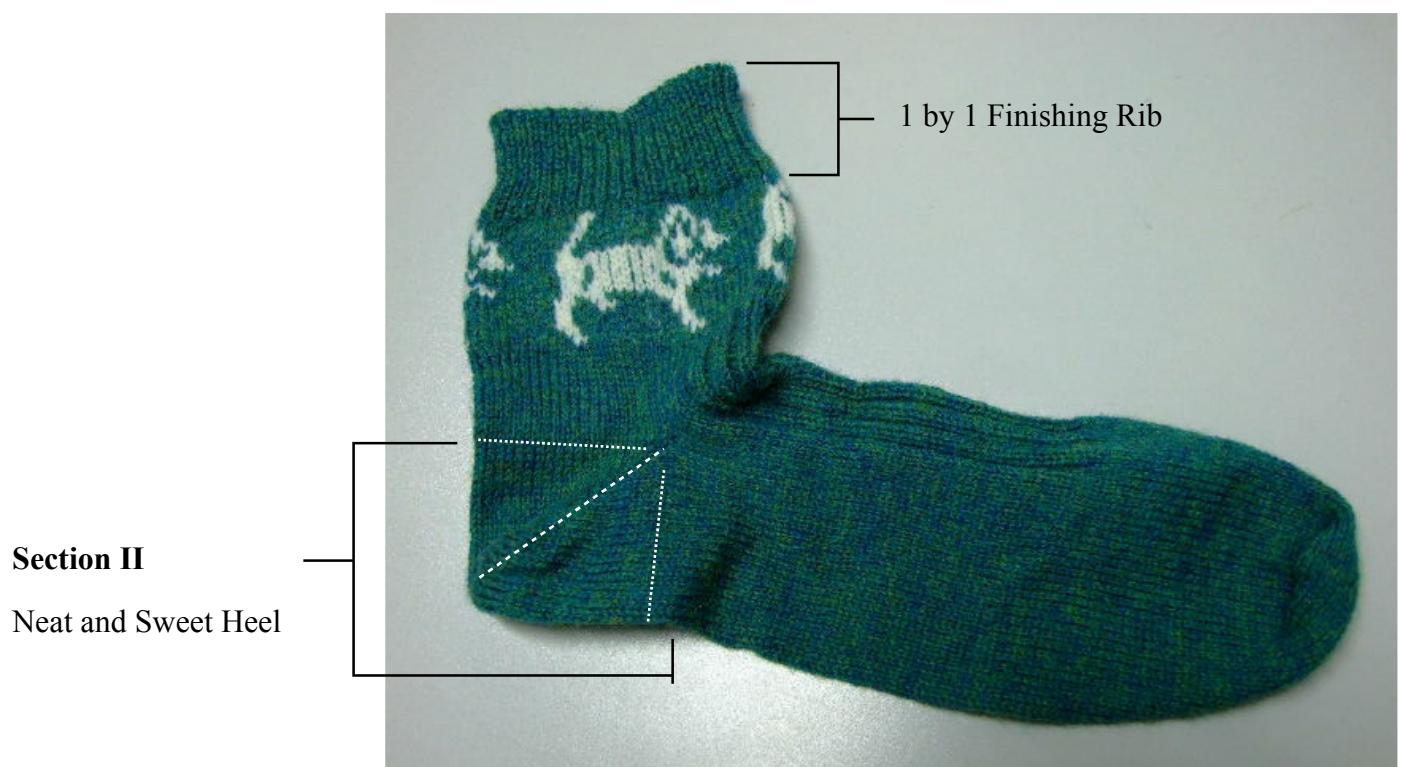
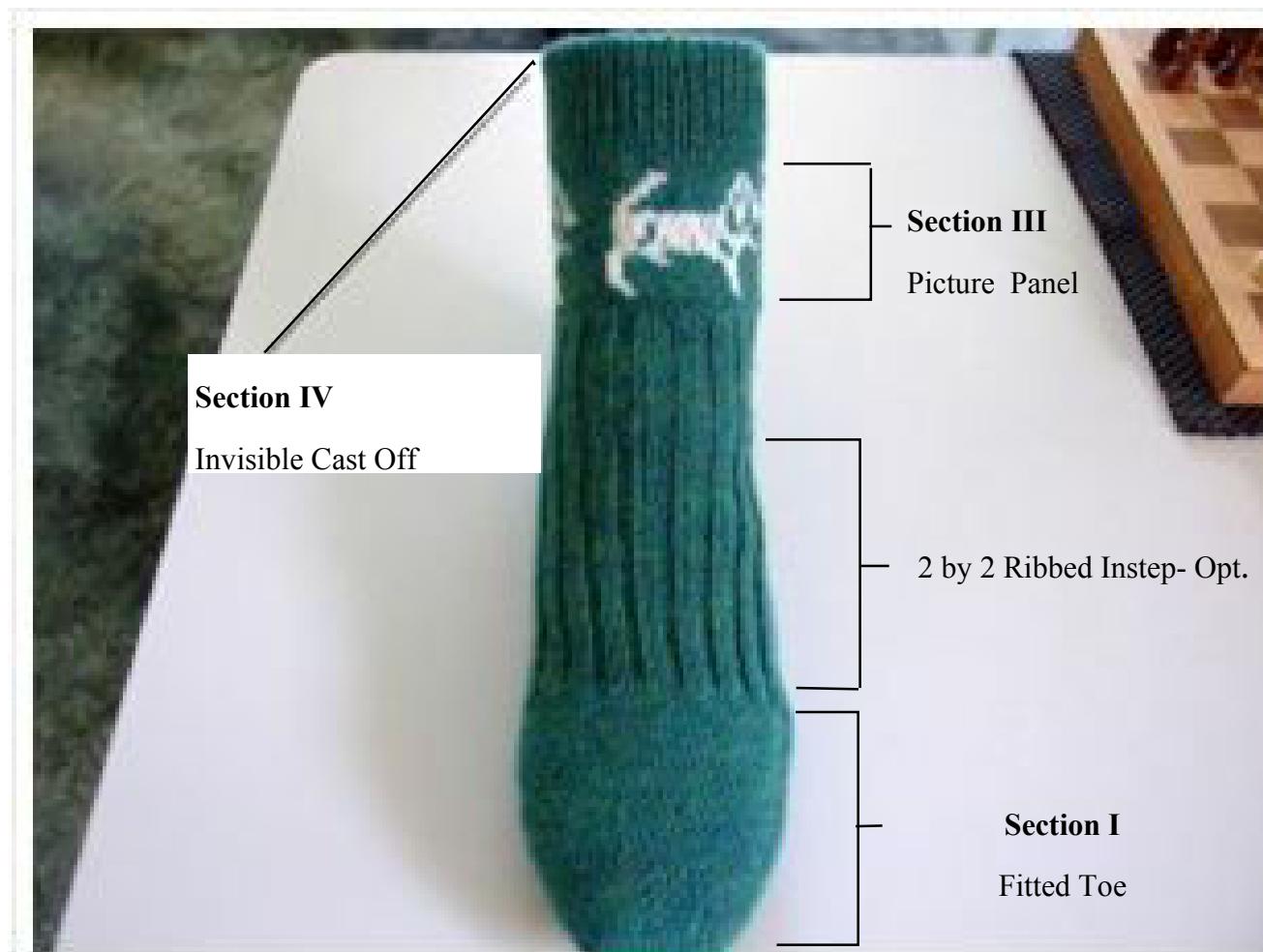
B Toe Base measurement, times 2, for total circumference of sock.  
*\*The reason I measure straight up from the edge is that I like my socks to fit close. You can measure around also.*

This is where the swatch practice really pays off. Make a sample toe using your measurements, gauge and favorite needles. If you have to adjust for fit, now's the time. Once you have the perfect fit, write the stitch count down on a 3 by 5 card. Now you have it forever.

Fig. A

MY sock	
A =	_____
B =	_____
C =	_____
D = *	_____
*The Practice heel will give you the most accurate measurement. Measure from the turn to the last row you closed the short rows.	

## Sock Lay out



## Knitting Notes

Unlike most patterns I have decided to begin this one with my swatch tutorials, each focusing on the different parts of the sock. After you have used them to practice the moves (especially if you haven't been introduced to this **toe up method**), I will lay out the pattern in it's simplest form, allowing you to plug in your numbers.

My sock patterns are always knitted using Magic Loop Method.

This PDF will instruct you how to knit short rows with no wrap and how to close them neatly. You will be able to use the technique for all your heels and toes for TOE-UP socks

**Materials:** Your favorite fingering yarn, and needles for socks. See some options below.

I used 3 skeins of Knit Pick Palette fingering yarn (235 yds each) for my main color and 1 for the doggies. You will have plenty left for more dogs.

\*If you opt for sports weight, I would at least have two skeins of main color and 1 of a contrasting color.

**Needles** - Size 2 and 0 (for double knit panel) for fingering yarn.

\* Use size 3 and 1 for Sports weight. That's what I used for my "Sparky Sock."

*This pattern can easily be adjusted to your gauge, and favorite needles. I suggest that you practice all Swatch tutorials with your chosen yarn and needles.*

All tutorials are available on my web site for free at - [www.idahostixandstrings.com](http://www.idahostixandstrings.com)

## Knitting Key

**K** = knit

**P** = purl

**Sl** = slip

**LN** = left needle

**RN** = right needle

**rnd** = round

**St** = stitch

**NA** = Needle A, first half of round (using Magic loop method)

**NB** = Needle B, last half of round ( using Magic Loop method)

**DKP** = double Knit pairs

**SPR** = slipped stitch in previous row

\* Since this move is the foundation of closing the short rows for both heels and toes, I decided to review it right off. The next couple of pages of will illustrate this stitch and how it is used. With a little practice you will soon become very good at it.

**MC** = main color

**CC** = contrast color

## What's is a SPR?

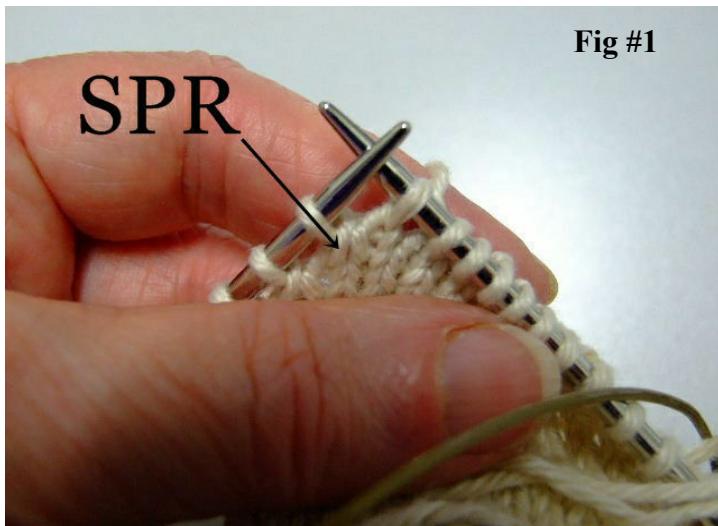


Fig #1

The **SPR** is actually created when you slip the first stitch of a row. How? Whether you have knitted or purled the last stitch of a row, once you turn and slip this last stitch, it has a tendency to make the one below it, lean toward the direction you are going, or toward the center of your work.

In Fig #1, the **SPR** on the knit side is pointed out by the arrow. You will see that it slants slightly toward the right. This is the loop we will use to begin to close our heel short rows.

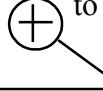
Don't forget to click the  to see it more clearly.



Fig #2

slip RN into SPR

Fig #2- shows the right needle picking up the **SPR** from the bottom up.



Fig #3

Knit SPR loop

Fig#3- The **SPR** is knitted by wrapping the yarn as to knit. Using the tip of the left needle the **SPR** is lifted over the wrapped yarn to form a new stitch.



Fig#4. Insert tip of left needle (LN) into slipped stitch to right of the new stitch then PSSO.

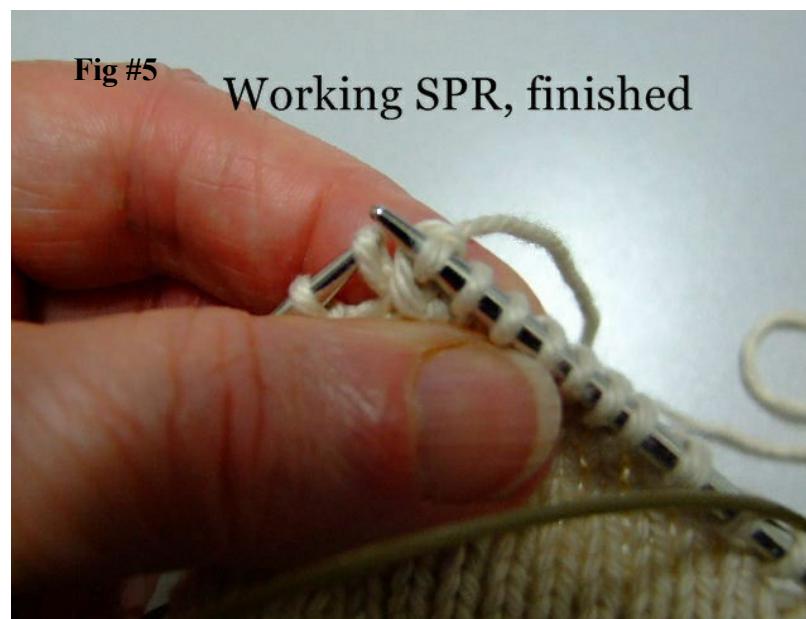


Fig #5. Once slipped st has been dropped over the new stitch, the closing move working the **SPR** is completed.

Next , turn.



**Working SPR-Purl side**

Fig # 6. Arrow points to the **SPR** on the purl side.

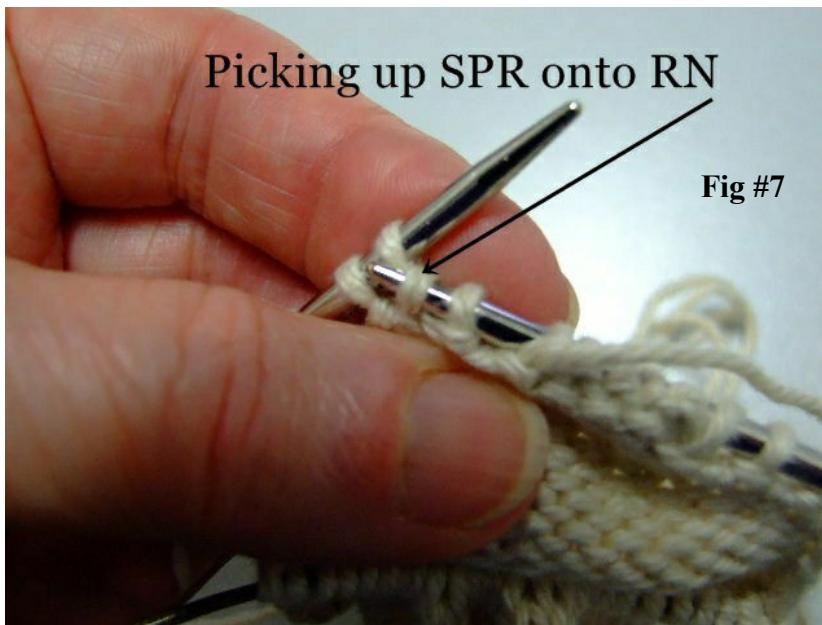


Fig. #7 Slip SPR onto RN, from the bottom.



Fig # 8. Once SPR is on RN, slip the tip of the LN in the back loop of the SPR. This put it in the position to be purled.

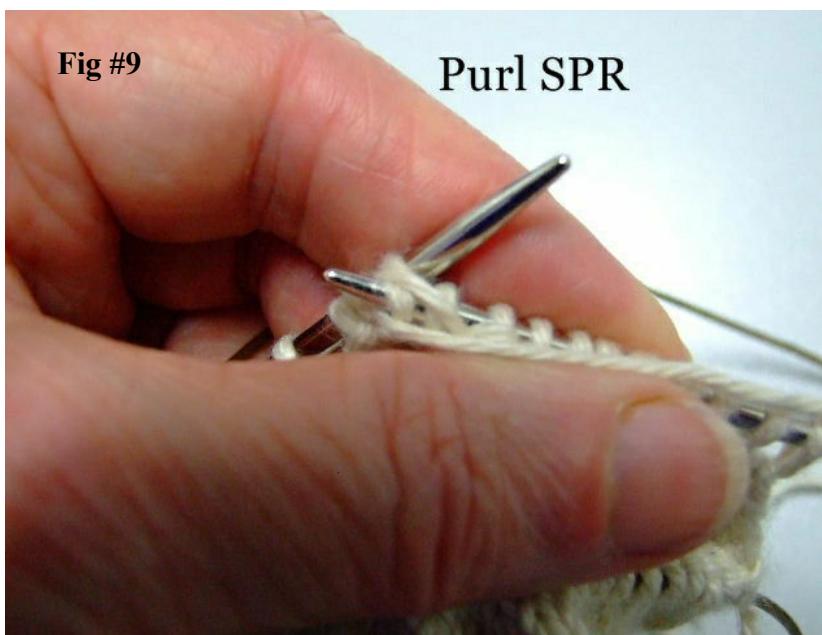


Fig #9. Wrap the yarn as to purl. Using the tip of your LN. Lift the SPR over the wrapped yarn, forming new st.

Pass stitch to right over new st.



Fig #10

Fig#10. Now pass the slipped stitch to the right over the new st, and drop it off the needle. Turn.

You have just completed working the SPR on the purl side.



Fig #11

Fig#11. You can see that the N-st, has no bar laying at it's base. If you look closely you will see that the one next to it on the left, has the horizontal bar lying directly under it.

The point is that they look entirely different.

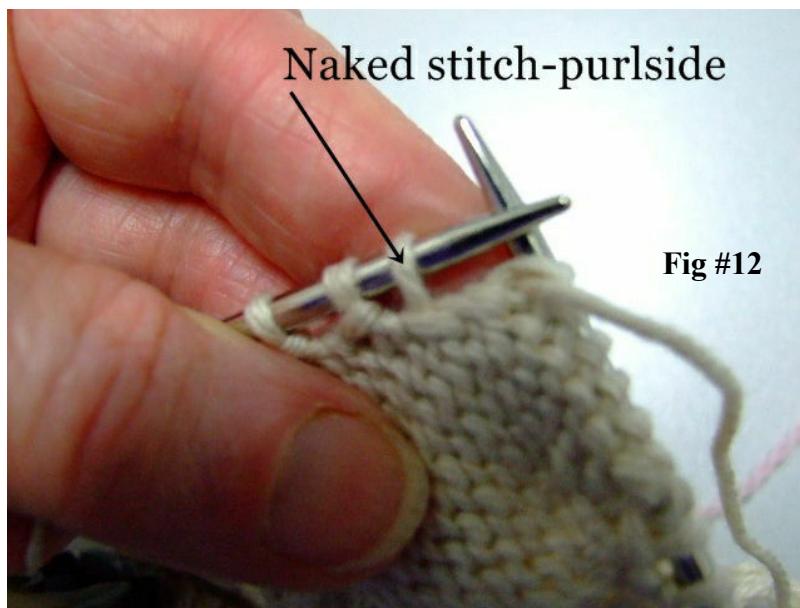


Fig #12

Fig#12. This is a picture of the N-st, on the purl side. It is easier to see than the one on the knit side. But with practice, you will be able to distinguish them very quickly from the others.

## Basic Sock Pattern

**Section I (pg 11)** - Make fitted toe as described in tutorial. After completing your toe, knit at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in even rounds.

\* *OPT. If you do not desire to do the ribbed instep, you can simply knit to heel section-Section III.*

**Section II - (See pg 4, for picture)** Begin instep 2x2 rib in center of instep sections of stitches. This will be determined by the left of right toe shaping. Be sure to lay the toe with straight side toward inside of foot. Center your 2x2 rib. In the picture of my sock you can see that I had 7 (knit 2's), bordered by purl 2, on each side. Total stitches in rib was 30, beginning with purl 2. Since I had 40 sts total on each needle, this left me 5 sts on each side of the instep rib to knit.

\* Note: If you have a high instep you will need to increase each side of the instep stitches about every 6th rnd. I do this by knitting the first stitch of the section, then YO, work the pattern across to next to last stitch, then YO, K- 1. The next round I knit through the back loop of the YO. If you like you can decrease these sts, once you have finished the heel and are working the ankle section.

\* The sole stitches are all knit.

You may have to adjust those side stitches (5 and 5) if you have a total stitch count that differs from mine. Just make sure that they are equal and that your rib pattern is centered.

Work instep rib, then sole to the desired length before starting your heel. \*If you have made the practice heel as I recommended, the length of the heel from the turn to the last row you closed the short rows can be subtracted from the total length of your sock, giving you the length you must work before starting the heel.

**Section III (pg 15)- Work your heel.**

After completing your heel, pick up your instep stitches and begin working in the round again. Work \*1 inch of ankle stitches, continuing the 2x2 rib on the instep only. \* *You can vary this measurement depending on where you want to place your picture panel.*

**Section IV ( pg 21)-** Set up your double knit picture panel as follows:

Rnd- a. Knit one, YO around. \* Don't forget to YO before starting NB.

Rnd - b. With smaller needle, YO, (this first YO completes the DKP for the last sts of NB). When you finish this round, you will purl it as you did the others, and then slip it back onto NB before starting the next round.) Knit one, YF, drop YO and pick it up with LN, from back to front ( see **illust. pg 21**).

Move both yarns to back. Continue across, knitting with MC color and purling with CC color.

c. Work two more rounds, knitting MC color, purling with CC color.

d. Work chosen chart. Space your doggies as you like. Try to keep them equal distance apart.

e. Work next two rounds with main color for knit, and a separate length of main color for the purls.

f. Break off purl side yarn. With larger needle, Knit 2 tog around with one strand of main color only.

**Section V (pg 23)** Establish 1x1 rib around. \**Remember to decrease a stitch in the center back if you had to add it for your panel.* Work rib for 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

\*. Set up for invisible bind off.

A. [ K 1, yf, slip purl]. Repeat [ ] around. (knit the knits; slip the purls)

## Section I - Shaping a New Toe

The standard shaping of most socks comes in two forms, either round, like a cap, or three sided, like the one in the picture below. However, I have been taking note that most socks seem to be stressed in the big toe area. Why? Because socks are not designed with a special place for the big toe. So my first endeavor was to design one that did. On the next few pages I will try to clearly define and illustrate what I do. Remember, I did say, try. Just for clarification, I use the Magic Loop Method, with a 40 inch circle needle for all my socks, so the instructions are given using this method. This, of course, would also work for the two circle needle method.



This tutorial illustrates how to make fitted (left/right) toes for Toe Up socks.

1. I start my **right and left** socks, by establishing the stitches I will need for a TIP-TOE CAP, using the yarn and gauge I normally use for my socks. Begin by measuring "A" at the left. It is about a half inch down from the tips of the first three toes. This gives me the width. Now apply your st gauge to that length.

*\*Example: If it measured 3 inches, and your gauge with # 1 needle is 9 sts per inch, your chain would require 27 loops, plus 10. You would pick up 27 sts through back loops of chain for your toe cap.*

2. Next, measure "B." This gives me the number of stitches to aim for with my increases on the "little" toe side.

*\* Example if your toe base measures 4 1/2 inches, and you are getting 9 sts to the inch, you would inc every other row only on the little toe edge until you have 40 sts on each needle. Total sts for sock would be 80.*

3. Crochet the chain from waste yarn. The number of stitches needed, (in my case was 24), plus 10 extra chain stitches. Cut the yarn about 5 inches from your last chain and pull it through. Tie a loop together with your working yarn, in the yarn you ended the chain with. This will tell you what end to start unchaining when you are through with your Tip Toe Cap.

4. Turning the chain over, and using your working yarn, begin picking up stitches in the back loop of the 5th chain from the last loop on the chain. See Fig.A

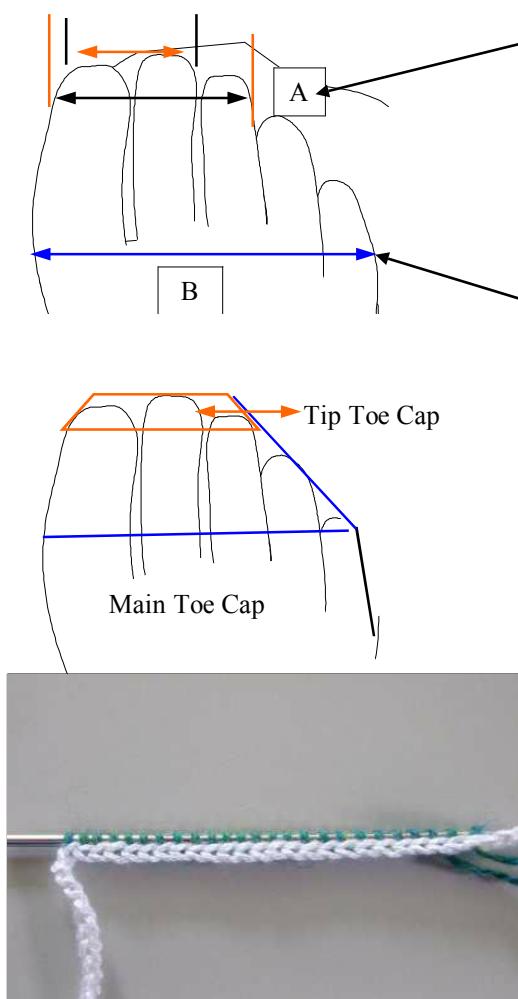




Fig. B

5. Work 3 or 4 short rows. \*See Neat and Sweet Tutorial on my website at [www.idahostixandstrings.com](http://www.idahostixandstrings.com) After your gaps are closed your toe tip should look like this, Fig B. You will notice that I have ended on the left side. Now, pull your needle through to the left so that your work rides on the cord.



Fig. C

6. By folding it in half, you will see your toe tip.

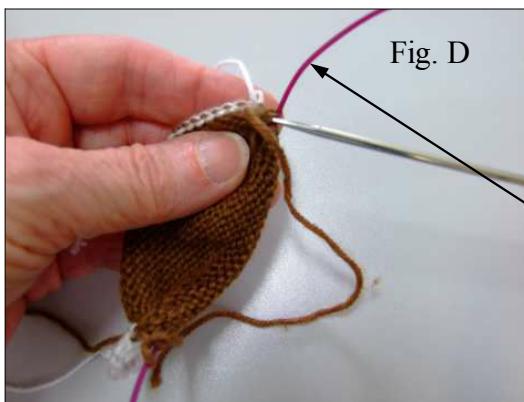


Fig. D

7. On the right edge, release the chain, and carefully pull it to the left until you can see the first stitch of the working yarn.

8. Grab the needle coming from the right end of your work. And insert it into the stitch held by the chain.

9. Gently pull the chain to the left releasing that stitch.



Fig. E

Continue across using the same procedure. Slip the needle into the stitch as shown. Gently pull crocheted chain to left releasing one stitch at a time. Be sure you pick up the last stitch held by the chain, **it is easy to miss**. You should have the same number of stitches on each needle. If you started with 24sts, as I did, you should now have 24 sts on each needle.

*If you DON'T, don't panic, you can pick one up in the first round.*

## See the finished fitted toe below



Fig. F

Here you see the Toe Tip Cap defined. Fig. F.

Now you are ready to shape the remainder of the main Toe Cap, working in the round. The loops you just picked up on your needle will be your NA.

### Increasing the “little toe edge”

Rnd #1. With right side facing you, knit across NA until one stitch is left on needle. YO, knit last st.

Continue round on NB. K 1, YO, knit across. This completes the first round.

Rnd #2. Knit even across NA. Knit in back loop of YO, Knit 1. (Inc made). NB- K 1, knit in back loop of YO, (inc made) knit across. Round completed.

Rnds #1 and #2 are repeated until all the necessary increases are made to match your necessary stitch count. (Toe Base measurement)

Next, knit even for  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch before you start the ribbed instep.

Below are picture of socks I have made using this method. You can see how nicely they round out when washed.



## Tip Toe Cap Chart # 1 (Practice)

 Knit – Right side

 Purl – Wrong side

 The orange box = SLIP stitch Knit side, Sl st purlwise, with yarn in back.

 The blue box = Lift, SPR ( Slipped stitch in Previous Row), K 1, PSSO. Always lift the SPR on to the right needle and work it on same needle.

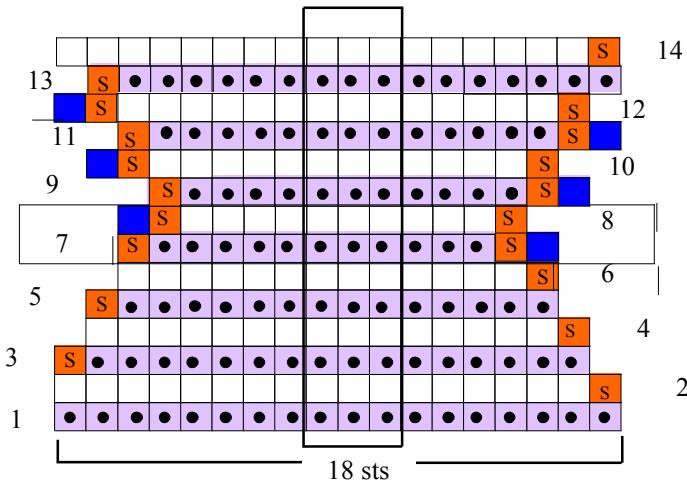
\*

See illustration on pages 12-20. What's an SPR?

Use this page for practice, then plunk in your number after measuring your foot as shown on page #1. I have left space for you to do this. It will not take long for you to learn this technique.

\* Note- Slip stitches on knit side, knitwise. Slip stitches on purl side, purlwise.

\*To Expand the chart, add your extra stitches in the center box.



## Tip Toe Cap

Chain 28 (\_\_\_\_), with waste yarn, and with a slightly larger hook than the needle you are going to use. Leave about a 5 inch tail. Pull through the last chain and **immediately** tie your working yarn together with the tail you just cut. This reminds you what end you are going to undo to pick up the stitches off the chain.

Turn the chain over, and begin picking up your 18 (\_\_\_\_) stitches using the 5th loop to the left of the last chain made.

Row 1 – Purl across (wrong side row)

Row 2 – Sl 1 (\*knitwise), K 17 (\_\_\_\_). Turn.

Row 3 – Sl 1 (\*purlwise), P 16. (\_\_\_\_) Turn.

Row 4 – Sl 1, K 15 (\_\_\_\_). Turn.

Row 5 – Sl 1, P 14 (\_\_\_\_). Turn.

Row 6 – Sl 1, K 13. (\_\_\_\_). Turn.

Row 7 – Sl 1, P 11, (\_\_\_\_). Sl 1, lift, SPR ( Slipped stitch in Previous Row), P 1, PSSO. Turn.

Row 8 – Sl 1, K 10, (\_\_\_\_). Sl 1, lift, SPR ( Slipped stitch in Previous Row), K 1, PSSO. Turn.

Row 9 – Sl 1, P 11, (\_\_\_\_). Sl 1, lift, SPR ( Slipped stitch in Previous Row), P 1, PSSO. Turn.

Row 10 – Sl 1, K 12, (\_\_\_\_). Sl 1, lift, SPR ( Slipped stitch in Previous Row), K 1, PSSO. Turn.

Row 11 – Sl 1, P 13, (\_\_\_\_). Sl 1, lift, SPR ( Slipped stitch in Previous Row), P 1, PSSO. Turn.

Row 12 – Sl 1, K 14, (\_\_\_\_). Sl 1, lift, SPR ( Slipped stitch in Previous Row), K 1, PSSO. Turn.

Row 13 – Sl 1, P 16. (\_\_\_\_). Turn.

Row 14 – Sl 1, K 17. (\_\_\_\_).

Row 15 – Pick up stitches (\_\_\_\_).from chain as instructed on previous pages.

You are now ready to work in the round. Again, your should have equal sts on needles, A and B.

### Section III Short Row Heel Practice

This short row heel practice should be done with the yarn and needles you are going to use for your socks. Why? Because you will have an exact measurement of the heel length from the turn. This measurement will assist you in knowing exactly when to start your heel-which will give you the perfect fit.

#### Reference terms:

**K** = knit

**RN** = right needle

**P** = purl

**LN** = left needle

**Sl** = slip stitch

**YB** = yarn back

**KTB** = knit through back loop

**YF** = yarn forward

**NA** = Needle "A", holds the first half of the rnd.

**NB** = Needle "B", holds the second half of the rnd.

**N-st** = Naked stitch- this st has been robbed of the horizontal loop( *that was laying at its base*) created by the slipping the st at the beginning of the previous row.



**Knitting notes.** Be sure to keep **all** Slip sts and next 3 sts of beginning of rows of short row heel very snug. This will help make the turn of the heel neat.

Note the move in the illustration in the picture on the left. I am pushing down on the yarn to tighten the purl side slip stitch at the beginning of the row.



**OK! Let's get going!**

To begin this practice heel, cast on **40 sts**. Divide in half and set up for magic loop, with 20 sts on NA, and 20 sts on NB.

\* With crochet hook transfer 1st st of NA to NB. Next, transfer 1 st of NB , to NA. This joins the rounds.

Rnd # 1-5 Knit.



Rnd #6. Knit across NA. At the begin of NB, K 1 st. Place this st onto a piece of yarn. Now knit the next 2 sts.



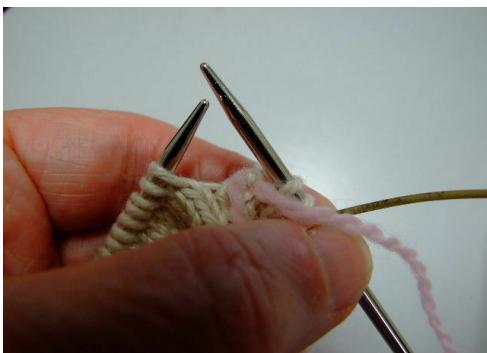
Pull RN thru, slipping all three sts onto NA.



Knit 14 sts. (3 sts remain on LN).



5. Slip the remaining 3 sts of NB onto NA, by pulling the LN through..



### Beg. Heel Row

**Row 1.** K 2; K 1, drop st onto yarn. Knit across 20 sts. Keep first and last st **tight**. Turn.

### Short Row -Heel Practice cont-

Row -2. (Yf), Sl-1(purlwise, *repeat for all purl side rows*); P 19. Turn.

Row -3 (Yb), Sl 1(knitwise, *repeat for all knit side rows*); K 18. Turn

Row -4 Sl 1, P 17. Turn.

Row -5 Sl 1, K 16. Turn.

Row -6 Sl 1, P 15. Turn.

Row -7 Sl 1, K 14. Turn.

Row -8 Sl 1, P 13. Turn.

Row -9 Sl 1, K 12. Turn.

Row -10 Sl 1, P 11. Turn.

Row -11 Sl 1, K 10. Turn.

Row -12 Sl 1, P 9. Turn.

**Row -13** Sl 1, K 7. Sl 1, work **SPR**. \* See illustration -Fig.'s #1--5 p g s 6 - 9

Work **SPR**(Slipped stitch in Previous Row); with tip of RN, pick up the horizontal loop laying at the base of the st to your left from the bottom, leaving it on the RN. Wrap the yarn as to knit, then with the tip of the LN, lift the loop over the new yarn and drop it off the RN. Now, pass the slipped st to the right of the new st, over the top. Turn.

**Row 14.** Sl 1, P 6, Sl 1, work **SPR** as follows: Pick up the horizontal loop laying at the base of the st to your left from the bottom, leaving it on the RN. Slip the tip of the LN into the back of the loop. Wrap the yarn as to purl, then with the tip of the LN, lift the loop over the new yarn and drop it off the RN. Now, pass the slipped st to the right of the new st, over the top. Turn.\* See illustration Fig.'s #6--10 beginning on page 14.

**Row 15.** Sl 1, K 7; slip “naked st” (**N-st**) knitwise, work **SPR** as in row 13.\* See Fig.'s #11, page 16.

**Row 16.** Sl 1, P 8; slip **N-st** onto RN by inserting RN through back loop, as shown in picture. Work **SPR** as in row #14. Turn.\* See Fig.'s #12, page 16

Row 17. Sl 1, K 9; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Turn.

Row 18. Sl 1, P 10; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Turn.

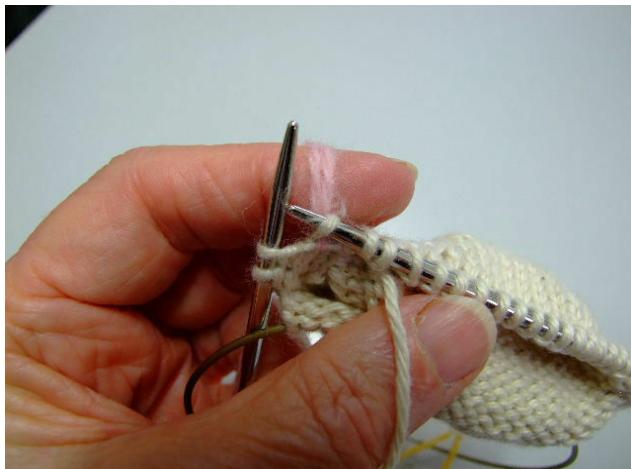
Row 19. Sl 1, K 11; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Turn.

Row 20. Sl 1, P 12; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Turn.

Row 21. Sl 1, K 13; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Turn.

Row 22. Sl 1, P 14; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Turn.

Row 23. Sl 1, K 15; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Turn.



Row 24. Sl 1, P 16; Slip **N-st** as before; work **SPR**. Without turning, slip last N-st as before, pick up purl bar of st on yarn, just to your left. Use this loop to work the SPR as before. Turn.



Row 25. Sl 1, K 18; slip last N-st as before. Slip the tip of your RN under the purl bar of the st held on the yarn to your left. Use this loop, as you did for the **SPR** on the knit side.



Row 25 cont- Next, lift stitch on yarn, slip it onto LN. With RN, knit in back loop. Knit next 2 sts.

You are now ready to knit the instep stitches. Slip the 14 instep sts into the start position and knit across.



As you move to NB, to complete the round, make sure that the first stitch is up against the cord of the circle needle. No gaps , please.

Knit across the 14 sts.



Begin the next round on NA, by knitting 2 sts. Again, make sure it lies close to the cord, as before.



Pick up the stitch held on the yarn, put it on the LN, and knit it through the back loop.

Continue, knitting across NA. After knitting one more complete round, slip the extra stitches on each end back to their respective needles so that you have 20 sts on N-A, and N-B.

Knit a couple of more rounds then bind off. If you have done it correctly, it should look like the picture at the left.

Once you have done this several times it becomes easy. Then you can share it with someone else.





### Making it Neat

It seems that no matter how we try to keep our slipped stitches tight, there always seem to be a few that get away from us.



I have learned to deal with this by picking up the leg of the loose stitch with one of my small DP's . Next, pull up the excess yarn, then lifting each leg of the adjacent stitches, feather out the excess across the stitch row.



This method seems to work fine for picky people like me.



## Section IV

### Double Knit Picture Panel

After completing your ankle stitches, you are ready to start your Double Knit Picture Panel. But before you do, you will need to decide the amount of stitches you will need for the chart you have selected.

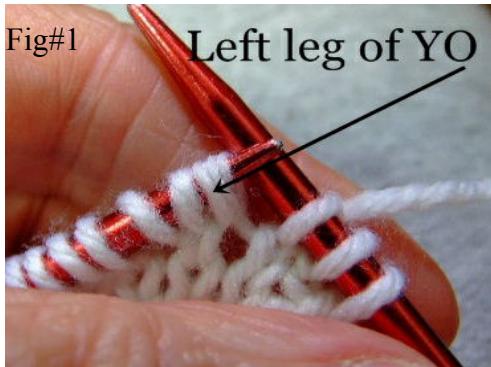
To do this, look at the total number of stitches on the bottom edge of the chart. Divide that number into the total number of stitches you have on both needles. If it is over three, you can place three of your figures in your picture panel. Subtract the total number of stitches for your pictures from the total number of stitches. That will give you the number of stitches left that you will use to separate your figures (doggies). If the number can not be divided by three then add one st or so into the row preceding the beginning of your panel so that you have equal stitches between your dogs.

*These extra sts can be decreased or in some cases increased one more in the round in which you set up your rib pairs for the finishing rib section.*

#### Setting up DKP's (double knit pairs for panel)

Round #1- Knit 1, YO, around. \* At the end of NA, you will have a knit. As you begin NB, YO, then knit 1, and repeat across ending with a knit.

Round #2 - YO, knit 1, pick up YO through back loop, sticking your RN in from back to front, give it a twist and place it on the LN. Purl this loop. \*See illustration below.



In Fig#1, you can see that I have dropped the YO and picked it up with the LN from the back. The left leg of the YO is now on the front.



In Fig.#2, I am getting ready to purl the YO.

Rnd #3 - Now, change to smaller needle and begin double knit. Knit first stitch of DKP with main color, and purl second stitch of DKP with alternate color. Work all stitch pairs.

Rnd. #4 - Repeat rnd #3.

Rnd 5 - Begin chart. Work all rounds.

#### Closing the Double Knit.

Rnd #1 - Break off alternate color. With an extra strand of your main color, work the second half of the DKP with main color (both sides are worked with main color).

Rnd #2 - Repeat around #1.

Rnd #3 - Break off main color for purl side. With larger needle, and **one** strand of main color knit 2 stitches together by slipping the knit knitwise, then knit the purl, and pssو. Repeat around.



Why the change in needle size? Double knitting is always larger. So to keep your gauge similar, you need to decrease the size of your needle one or two sizes. I decrease mine 2 sizes, but your knitting gauge may not be the same so experiment. You might even try changing needle on the 2nd row of the set-up. I recommend doing a small swatch first. See what works best for you.

Another tidbit of info. The reason for the extra main yarn in the closing rows is that it eliminates those dots that come with some of the closures that I have tried by other knitters. I didn't like them, so this was my way of getting rid of the little pests. It just means you have two more ends to weave in. I can handle that!!!

If you need help with the double knitting, check out my web site at [www.idahostixandstrings.com](http://www.idahostixandstrings.com). I have posted a video showing you how I do it. Check out the Video Tips page.

## Section V

### Invisible Bind Off



To set up for the invisible bind off swatch, cast on 30 sts. Work 1 by 1 rib for about 2 inches. Now work the next two rows as follows.

**A. Set up row #1** = knit 1, yarn forward, slip the purl st. ; yarn back K the next st. Repeat this process till all Knits are knitted and all purls are slipped.

As you can see in Fig. #1, I have used the brown yarn to knit the stitches. You can also see the yarn lying in front of the slipped purl stitches.

**B. Set up row #2** = with yarn in back, Slip the knit st. With yarn in front purl the purl st.

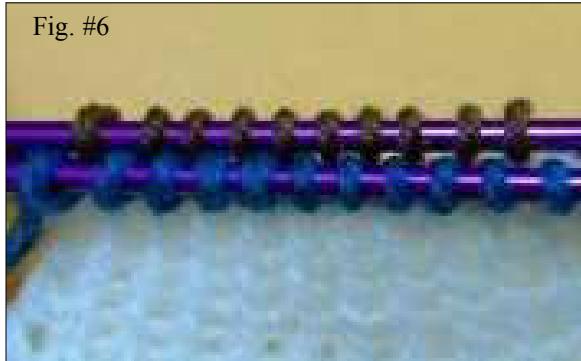
Here in Fig #2 you can see that I am purling with the blue yarn.

In Fig. #3 you can see the results of the two set up rows.

Now, using 2 double point needles, I will place the knits on one needle and the purls on the other needle. I have two of the same color, but it is helpful when first learning this to have a different colored needles, one for knits and one for purls.

Holding the two needles in the right hand, I pick off the knit stitch first with the front needle. Fig. #4

Fig. #5 Anchoring the knit stitch with my index finger, I pick off the purl onto the other (back) needle. I alternate back and forth till all stitches are picked up.



In Fig. #6, you see the stitches aligned on their separate needles, ready to be joined together at the top.



In Fig. #7, I am checking to see if I have the right number of pairs.

Now I am ready to proceed with the infamous Kitchener Stitch.

## Putting it All Together

Before we begin our Kitchener Stitch closure, take your working yarn around the needle just till it meets underneath the needle.. Mark where it meets by pinching you index finger and thumb around the yarn. Unwrap it. This is the measurement for one stitch. In my example this was 5/8 inch. I had 26 sts. You can multiply  $5/8 \times 26$ , or do what I did. I simply calculated that  $1/2$  inch times 26 would give me 13 inches , and 26 divided by 8 ( $1/8$ )= 3.25, both together are  $16\frac{1}{4}$  inches. I added about 4 inches extra to carry through my yarn needle. This measurement will be the amount of yarn I will need to complete my Kitchener stitch closure. **I don't have to guess anymore.** But if you do come up short sometime, don't panic, make a Russian join, or just leave a tail long enough to work in, and start another piece of yarn.

*I prefer the Russian join that has been trimmed back. There is a great tutorial on this join on You Tube.*

*On the following pages I will demonstrate how I do it.*

*But first you have to learn a song!!! Put is to whatever tune you want. But memorize it. It goes like this*

**Knit OFF, Purl!  
Purl OFF, Knit!**

*I'm not kidding. It worked for me when nothing else did.*

## Kitchener Stitch Closure



Fig. #8



Fig. #9

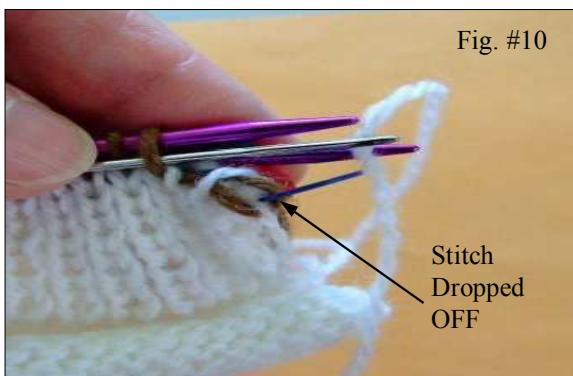


Fig. #10

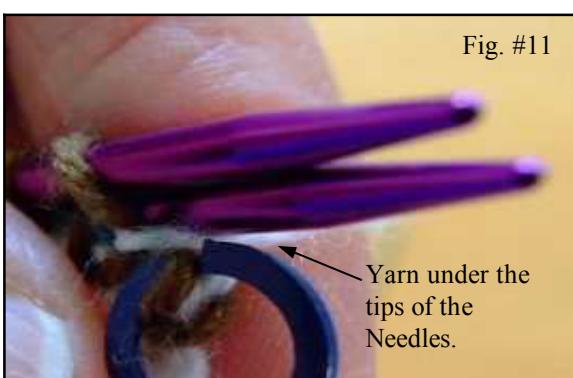


Fig. #11

Before I begin my Kitchener Stitch closure, I mark the first two stitches (Fig. #8). Why, because when I am knitting in the round, as on a sock, I will eliminate the two set up stitches that usually begin the process. What two stitches?

*When you are **not** working in the round, you would begin by sticking your yarn needle in the first knit st. purlwise. Pulling the yarn through, you then take it under the needle tips and to the back sticking the yarn needle through the purl st. knitwise. The next step would then begin with the KNIT OFF. BUT... ... since my socks are knitted in the round, I will want to be able to identify those stitches when I am done with the bind off, so that I can finish by inserting my yarn needle into the first knit stitch as if to purl, then insert it into the second stitch (purl) as if to knit. This brings it all together nicely. Now, down to business!*

### 1. Now I begin my “song.” **KNIT OFF.....**

This means stick your yarn needle into the first stitch as if to **knit** it (Fig. #9). Pull the yarn through and drop the stitch **off** the needle. Fig. #10

### 2. **PURL-**

Once you have dropped the knit stitch OFF the needle, insert the yarn needle into the stitch to the left as if to **PURL**. Fig. #10

**\* Take up any slack in yarn, but do NOT pull tight. Just pull it so it lays smoothly between all the phases of the closure.**

### 3. Now bring yarn underneath the tips of the needle and to the back. Fig. #11

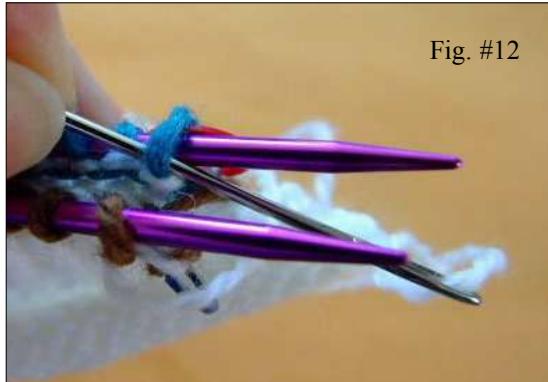


Fig. #12

4. **PURL OFF**– Insert the yarn needle into the purl stitch , pull the yarn through and drop it off the needle. Take up the slack.



Fig. #13

5. **KNIT** – Bringing the yarn up between needles, Fig. #13



Fig. #14

..stick your yarn needle knitwise, into the next stitch to the left of the stitch you just dropped off. Fig. #14



Fig. #15

Pull the yarn through the stitch.



Fig. #16

Bring yarn around underneath needles to the front. Now we are ready to start our song again.

**KNIT OFF, PURLED  
PURLED OFF, KNIT!**

Repeat this process across your practice swatch.

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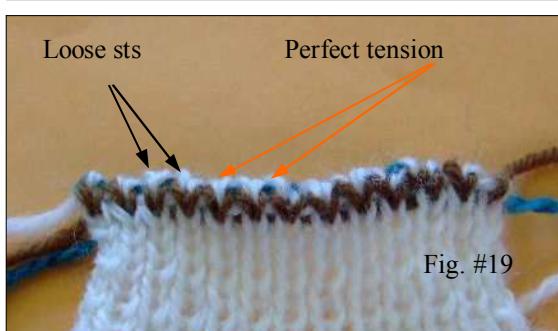
Fig. #17

Fig. 17 show how the stitches lay close together, but are not pulled tight.



Fig. #18

In Fig. #18, I am pulling the stitches to the right with a little tug, to make sure I have not gotten them too tight. I do this quite often.



Loose sts

Perfect tension

Fig. #19

In Fig. #19, I have purposely left a couple of stitches loose. You can see them to the left.

In the middle you see no “big bumps” just a smooth rounded top.



Fig. #20

Fig. #20 Shows what a nice stretch this bind off has.

