

AUSTIN RAINBOW SOCKS

I went to visit [The Knitting Nest](#) while I was in Austin, Texas for [#SXSW](#) (South by South West, a music film and tech conference) last year. I bought some Bernat Mosaic yarn and a set of short 5mm needles and decided to knit my youngest daughter [@TheCheekster](#) some rainbow socks. I didn't have a pattern, but have made quite a lot of socks recently, so decided to wing it.



I started knitting the socks in the store and finished them on the plane on the way back to London. I think they worked out really well. There's a pic of the first pair I made on the left here of [@TheCheekster](#) wearing them when I got home. I wrote a blog post "[Austin Rainbow Socks](#)" about it at the time.

I've aimed to make the pattern as easy as possible so that it is suitable for even inexperienced knitters to make their first ever pair of socks. If you follow the pattern and knit these socks I'd love to hear from you. I'd also love to see a pic of your [#austinrainbowsocks](#), do use the hashtag on Instagram or Twitter.

Fits

Women's small to medium

The socks fit both [@thecheekster](#) and me, we are size 6 and size 5 ½ respectively

Finished size

18cm circumference, length to suit you

Materials

Bernat Mosaic [100% acrylic, approx. 191 m per 100g ball]

Colour: shown here in "Rainbow" and "Budgie", I love the Bernat Mosaic colourways, they are so colourful.

Set of 4 x 5mm double pointed needles, I used the short 12.5cm length needles

Tension

18sts x 24 rows = 4 inches in st st

Time to knit

I'm an experienced knitter, it takes me about one evening whilst watching TV to make a pair. I'm sure many knitters are faster than me and could possibly make 2 pairs in an evening. If you are an inexperienced knitter it may take you longer but it will be worth it!

Abbreviations

RS = Right Side

WS = Wrong Side

Sts = Stitches

K = Knit

P = Purl

S1 = Slip 1 stitch from left hand needle to right hand needle.

St St = Stocking Stitch, when knitting in the round this is knit every row.

SSK = Slip Slip Knit. Slip two sts one by one from the left hand needle to the right hand needle, then knit the two stitches together. SSK is a decrease like K2tog which slants in the opposite direction.

K2 P2 rib = (Knit 2sts, Purl 2 sts) repeat until



Directions

Cast on 28 sts over three needles. I do this by casting on 28 sts onto one needle then putting 10 sts each on needles 1 and 2 and 8 sts onto needle 3.



Rib

Knit 5 rounds in K2 P2 rib.

Leg

Knit 20 rounds in st st.

Heel Flap

Split the sts so that the first 14 sts are on needle 1, the next 7 on needle 2 and the last 7 on needle 3.

Working on needle 1 only continue as follows:

Row 1: slip 1 st, knit to end turn

Row 2: slip 1 st, purl to end turn

Repeat these two rows 5 more times (knit 12 rows in total)

Turn Heel

Row 1: Knit 8 sts, SSK, knit 1, turn

Row 2: Slip 1, p3, p2 tog, p1, turn

Row 3: S1, K4, SSK, K1, turn

Row 4: S1, p5, K2 tog, K1, turn

Row 5: S1, p6, p2 tog, turn

Row 6: K8 (8 sts)



Gusset

Pick up and knit 7sts down left side of heel. Knit across 14 sts on needles 2 and 3 onto one needle. Pick up and knit 7sts up right hand side of heel and then across the first 4sts on needle 1. You should now have 36sts across 3 needles.

Repeat the next 2 rounds until you have decreased back down to 28sts across the three needles.

Row 1: knit all sts

Row 2: knit to last 2 sts on needle 1, SSK, knit across sts on needle 2, needle 3: K2tog, knit to end.

Foot

When you have 28sts across all sts continue knitting in st st until foot measures 2cm less than the required finished length. As long as you are careful to keep your sts on the needles you can



put the sock on and try for size as you go along. For our socks this measurement is 10cm.

Toe shaping

Repeat the next 2 rows 3 times

Row 1: Needle 1 - knit to last 2 sts k2 tog, needle 2 - SSK, knit to last 2 sts K2tog, needle 3 - SSK knit to end.

Row 2: Knit

You should have 14 sts remaining. Place sts from needles 1 and 3 onto the same needle, you

should have 7sts each on 2 needles.

Break yarn at about 30cm and using Kitchener stitch to graft the sts together. I couldn't do Kitchener stitch until I watched this video "[Kitchener stitch to finish a sock](#)" and suddenly it all made sense.

Finishing

Bind off and sew in ends.



Your sock is finished, well done! Yay! Now take a pic and post it on instagram or Twitter, tag me [@Dr_Black](#) and [#austinrainbowsocks](#). I can't wait to see them!

About #austinrainbowsocks' designer



Sue Black lives in London, UK. She LOVES knitting and social media. She has been knitting since she was 4, and crocheting since she was 8. That's now a very long time :-o

Sue is [@Dr_Black](#) on Twitter, [blackse on Ravelry](#), and blogs at "[The Adventures of a Cheeky Geek](#)".