

Never-Never

A Five Part Sock Knit-A-Long

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The magical realm of the Nevernever, the land of Spirit, Faerie, and the Outer Gates, as described in Jim Butcher's The Dresden Files was the inspiration for these 2-tone socks. The Nevernever exists in parallel to our world, connected, but still wholly separate. Filled in equal parts with nightmares and beauty the creatures of the Nevernever are supernaturally powerful citizens of immortal courts and monarchies. As much as they pose a threat to humanity, mere mortals pose an even greater threat to them. When a denizen of the Nevernever crosses into the mortal world they risk being reduced to ectoplasm as their forms cannot exist in our world without magical intervention.

Never Never socks are reminiscent of that duality experienced by the denizens of the Nevernever. They are executed using stacked increases and decreases to create the ectoplasm motif at the cuff and toe. The socks were written to be worked in a light and cool cotton yarn. They do not depend on that, and you can use a wool yarn with equally dynamic effect. Note that cotton has a natural looser gauge than similarly weighted wool and if working in wool you may want to go up a sock size from what is written.



Recommended Yarn

35-40g/150 yards (each) of fingering weight yarn for the main color, and contrast color.

Needles

US0/2.0mm and US1.5/2.5mm 36" or 40" Circular needles for working in magic loop, or same size DPNs. Adjust needle size to achieve gauge as needed.

Notions

5 Stitch Markers, including one visibly different marker for BoR. If working your socks 2-at-a-time you will need 10 stitch markers, including 2 BoR Markers.

Gauge

30 sts and 34 rows = 4" on larger needles in stockinette. *Stitch gauge is very important to achieving a well-fitting sock, however if you are off on the row gauge and on target for the stitch gauge that is not something to worry about, you can work the sock as long or short as you wish. Note that socks usually fit best when worked with some negative ease (i.e. the sock, unstretched, is slightly smaller than your foot circumference), though this is up to your personal taste. Take the time to check your gauge for this project.*

Sizing

Size 1(2, 3, 4, 5) = 7(8, 9, 10, 11)" circumference.



Abbreviation Key

BO - - - - - Bind Off

CC - - - - - Contrast Color

CO - - - - - Cast On

K - - - - - Knit

K2tog/K3tog Knit 2(3) together.
Decreases 1(2).

KyoK - - - - - Knit-Yarn Over-Knit.
Knit into the next stitch but do not slip it off the needle. YO, and K again into the stitch, this time slipping it from the left needle after you finish the Knit.

M - - - - - Marker

MC - - - - - Main Color

P - - - - - Purl

R - - - - - Round

SSK - - - - - Slip 2 stitches as if to knit. Insert the left needle through the back loop of these 2 slipped sts, and knit them together through the back loops. Decreases 1.

S2B - - - - - Slip 2 Back: Slip the first 2 sts on your right needle to the left needle to be worked again.

S11 - - - - - With your yarn held behind your work, slip 1 stitch without working it.



Special Stitches

- **German Short Rows (GSR):** This sock features a ribbed short-row heel. While you can certainly substitute a traditional wrap-and-turn short row technique, the GSR is especially nice in a ribbed or garter ridge project, and I find has more structural stability than wrapping which is a great compliment to cotton yarn. Short rows are executed by working across only a portion of the stitches on your needles and then turning to work back in the other direction. They create a nice round heel that conforms well the shape of a foot. For GSR, rather than wrapping the last stitch before turning we will instead slip the stitch, turn, and bring the yarn up over that slipped stitch, pulling it tight and causing the 2 legs of the stitch to sit on top of your needle. This is called a Pulled Stitch (PS). For this sock we will use Pulled Stitches (PS) and Double Pulled Stitches (DPS).

Pulled Stitch (PS)

1. Work to the st indicated in the instructions. Turn your work. Your yarn is now in front of the work if the last stitch worked was a knit, and behind your work if the last stitch worked was a purl. Slip the last stitch worked.
2. Bring it up over the needle and over the slipped stitch (not between the needles, but OVER the needle that the slipped stitch is on). Tension the yarn firmly behind your work so that the slipped stitch is pulled up causing the 2 bars of the st that are normally below the needle to be pulled up onto the needle. This is a pulled stitch (PS).
3. When the time comes to work that pulled stitch, in the 2nd half of the heel, when you reach that pulled st, it will look like 2 sts on the needle because of the way you pulled the st up onto the needle. Do NOT treat it as 2 sts. Knit or purl through the center of it as if it were any other single K or P (this will feel a bit like working a K2tog or P2tog).

Double Pulled Stitch (DPS)

1. Work to the PS indicated in the instructions remembering to treat it as a single stitch. Turn your work. Your yarn is now in front of the work if the last stitch worked was a knit, and behind your work if the last stitch worked was a purl. Slip the last stitch worked.
2. Bring it up over the needle and over the slipped stitch (not between the needles, but OVER the needle that the slipped stitch is on). Tension the yarn firmly behind your work so that the slipped stitch is pulled up causing the 4 bars of the st that are normally below the needle to be pulled up onto the needle. When creating a pulled st on top of another pulled stitch you'll wind up with 4 bars on the needle, 2 from each PS. This is a pulled stitch (DPS). Don't worry that it looks lumpy and weird on the needle, it makes a nice strong faux seam in the work when you work the next row or round across the DPS.
3. When the time comes to work that DPS, it will look like 4 sts on the needle because of the way you pulled the st up onto the needle. Do NOT treat it as 4 sts, or as 2 individual PS. Knit or purl through the center of it as if it were any other single K or P (this will feel a bit like working a decrease, but no sts are actually being decreased).

- **Stacked Increases and Decreases:** These are worked in a technique rather similar to working a bobble. First you will increase several sts into a single st. However, rather than decreasing those sts in the same place like you would for a bobble, you will knit 1 or more rounds and then decrease the same number of sts between the increased sts rather than on top of them.

Stacked Increases

1. When indicated in the pattern you will increase several sts into a single stitch using 2 specific stitches:



- a.* **KyoK:** Knit, yarn over, Knit into the same st to increase 1 st into 2 sts. Knit into the stitch as usual, but do not slip it off the needle. Yarn over, then knit into the stich again, this time slipping it off of the needle. 2 sts increased.
 - b.* **S2B:** Slip 2 back: WITHOUT turning your work, slip the last 2 sts worked back onto the left needle to be worked again, leaving 1 K on your right needle, and slipping the YO and the 2nd K to the left needle.
2. Stacked increases work by working first a KyoK, then an S2B and repeating the number of times indicated in the pattern. The more repeats you work, the taller your “stack” of sts will be. On the final repeat of KyoK you will NOT work an S2B, and this is indicated in the pattern.
3. You should have a symmetrical stack of sts, with the YO from the final KyoK at the peak, and an equal number of Ks on either side of it. K across the 2nd side of the stack until you reach the st that was originally on your needle right after the first st you increased into.

Stacked Decreases

1. When indicated in the pattern you will decrease several sts, beginning between 2 stacks of increased sts and decreasing evenly “up” the 1 side of each stack. When working stacked increases and decreases in the round, you will need to move the position of the Beginning of Round (BoR) prior to working the decreases. This will be indicated in the pattern the round before working the decreases.
 - a.* **K3tog:** Inserting the needle from front to back, beginning at the left most st, through the center stitch and out the back of the right most st, Knit 3 sts together as if they were 1 st. 3 sts decreased to 1 st.
 - b.* **S2B:** On the decrease, the S2B functions in the same manner as it did on the increase, but this time you will be slipping the K3tog just worked, followed by the next stich back in the round. This serves to set up each K3tog so that it contains 1 st from the left stacked increase, the st from the K3tog just worked, and 1 st from the stack of increases to the right of the decreases. Just as with the stacked increases, on the final K3tog you will not follow it with an S2B and this is indicated in the pattern.
 - c.* **Note:** After completing the decrease round you will be left with the same number of stitches you originally had before working the stacked increase round. Take your time working the increases and decreases, taking care to work an equal number of each on each stacked increase and each stacked decrease.