

Vanilla Latte Socks

by Virginia Rose-Jeanes

I grew up drinking lattes, though I didn't know them by that name. My grandmother called it coffee milk and I always felt like such a big girl when I visited Nannie and got to drink coffee with breakfast! Lattes still mean comfort to me and a splash of vanilla to the milk just makes them better.

These socks are like comfort food – just your basic top-down heel-flap socks – so easy you can knit them almost without a pattern and love them every time. If you're a beginning sock knitter, you might knit them with your easiest ribbing at the top, and knit a stockinette heel flap instead of a slip stitch one, and then finish with a star toe so you don't have to worry with Kitchener stitch at the end. If you're more adventurous, vary the ribbing at the top, change up the heel and toes, and you have your very own custom sock pattern that is dead on easy - a two row pattern repeat and one of the two is knit – almost decaf.

Knit in a solid or semi-solid, they're understated and elegant, and the simple design is a perfect backdrop for stripes or for wild yarns which would overpower a more intricate pattern.



Yarn: Fingering weight yarn, approximately 350 yards (Sample was knit with 64 stitches on US 1 (2.25mm) needles with two 50g skeins of KnitPicks Felici.

Gauge: 8 stitches to 1"

Needles: US 0 to 2 (2.0mm, to 2.75mm) or size needed to get gauge appropriate for your yarn
2 circulars or 1 long circular for Magic Loop

Feel free to change up your combination of yarn, needles, and cast-on stitches depending on your yarn choice or the size of the recipient's foot. If you are knit tightly, you might cast on 72 stitches on US 0 (2mm). For a medium to heavy fingering weight yarn, 56 stitches on US 1.5 or 2 (2.50mm or 2.75mm) might be better. If you're an experienced sock knitter, you probably already have your favorite yarn weight/stitch count combo.

Key:

K knit

P purl

k2tog knit 2 together

p2tog purl 2 together

ssk slip 2 stitches knitwise to right needle. Insert left needle through the front loops and knit tog.

Ribbing:

Cast on 56(64, 72) stitches in your favorite stretchy method (I use long-tail cast-on) and rib as you wish! *k1, p1* repeat across, **or** *k2,p2* repeat across, **or maybe** *k3,p1* repeat across. If you want a bit more caffeine, knit through the back loops of the knit stitches for a twisted rib. How long you make your cuff is up to you. I prefer a medium length – about 1 ¼ inch or about 15 rounds.

Pattern

Round 1: *K6, P2* repeat across

Round 2: Knit across

Knit in pattern until the leg measures 7” or desired length, then make a heel.

Heel Flap:

Your heel flap will consist of 28(32, 36) of the stitches knit flat on just one of the needles.

Pick a heel stitch from the choices below.

Stockinette:

Row 1: sl 1, knit across

Row 2: sl 1, purl across

Knit these two rows a total of 16 times (32 rows), then proceed to Heel Turn.

Slip Stitch Rib:

Row 1: *sl 1, k1* repeat across

Row 2: sl 1, purl across

Knit these two rows a total of 16 times (32 rows), then proceed to Heel Turn.

Eye of Partridge:

Row 1: *sl 1, k1* repeat across

Row 2: sl 1, purl across

Row 3: sl 2, *k1, sl 1* across ending with k2

Row 4: sl 1, purl across

Knit these four rows a total of 8 times (32 rows), then proceed to Heel Turn.

Heel Turn:

Row 1: sl 1, k 16 (18, 20), ssk, k1, turn

Row 2: sl 1, p 7, p2tog, p1, turn

Row 3: sl 1, knit to one stitch before gap, ssk, k1, turn

Row 4: sl 1, purl to one stitch before gap, p2tog, p1, turn

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 until all stitches have been worked, but do not slip first stitch on last purl row.

Knit across and pick up 17 gusset sts, pick an extra stitch in the ladder between the stitches on the row below, (18 stitches picked up.) Knit across instep stitches in pattern. Pick an extra stitch in the ladder between the stitches on the row below, and then pick up 17 sts on the other gusset side (18 sts picked up). The beginning of the round is now located at the center of the heel.



Gusset

Decrease gusset stitches until 56(64, 72) sts total remain, as follows, knitting in pattern across instep.

Round 1: Knit to 3 stitches before instep, k2tog k1. Knit in pattern across instep stitches, k1 ssk, knit remaining stitches.

Round 2: Knit.

Continue knitting the instep stitches in pattern and the sole stitches in stockinette until the foot is 1.5(1.75, 2) inches shorter than your desired finished length (or depending on the amount of negative ease you prefer).

Toe Shaping

Rounded Wedge Toe:

Row 1: K1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts on instep needle, k2tog, k1. K1, ssk, knit to last 3 sts on sole needle, k2tog, k1.

Row 2: Knit

Knit these two rows 5(6, 7) times 36(40, 44) total stitches remain) then repeat Row 1 4(5, 6) more times 20 total stitches remain).

Try on or measure carefully before cutting yarn in case you need to rip out the toe to change the length! When you're satisfied with the length, cut yarn, leaving a long tail.

If you are using the Magic Loop method, transfer stitches to double pointed needles or two circs.

Bind off the first stitch on each end of both needles as follows:

Slip the first two stitches to the right needle. Pass the first stitch over the second, and return the stitch to the left needle (16 total stitches remain).

Graft stitches using Kitchener Stitch to close toe. Weave in ends.

Star Toe:

Rnd 1: 56 sts - decrease 1 evenly spaced (55 sts)
64 sts - increase 2 evenly spaced (66 sts)
72 sts - knit all sts

Rnd 2: *k9 (9, 10), k2tog* repeat around

Rnds 3 and 4: Knit

Rnd 5: *k8 (8, 9), k2tog* repeat around

Rnds 6 and 7: Knit

Rnd 8: *k7 (7, 8), k2tog* repeat around

Rnds 9 and 10: Knit

Rnd 11: *k6 (6, 7), k2tog* repeat around

Rnd 12: Knit

Rnd 13: *k5 (5, 6), k2tog* repeat around

Rnd 14: Knit

Rnd 15: *k4 (4, 5), k2tog* repeat around

Rnd 16: Knit

Rnd 17: *k3 (3, 4), k2tog* repeat around

Rnd 18: *k2 (2, 3), k2tog* repeat around

Rnd 19: *k1, (1, 2) k2tog* repeat around

Rnd 20: (72 *stitches only*) *k1, k2tog* repeat around

Rnd 21: *k2tog* repeat around



6 stitches remain. Cut yarn leaving an 8" tail. Pull through remaining stitches twice and to inside of sock, weave in ends.