

Bountiful Christmas Stockings

by Lacie Glidden July 08, 2019

Christmas stockings should be as bountiful as your Christmas spirit! The third pattern in our Holiday KAL is for cabled stockings spacious enough for a generous portion of trinkets and treasures, without being overtly gargantuan.



Each stocking uses two skeins of Briggs and Little Heritage (or Tuffy) worsted weight yarn. It is a heavy worsted yarn.



Each year lo about September, many folks wanting to carry on the tradition call me looking for yarn for Christmas stockings that were knit eons ago by a family member. There were several popular colorwork patterns that were very beloved in years gone by. I hear many touching stories of grammies making socks for grands and great-grands even!



I've gotten quite a few laughs when I tell folks I'm knitting Christmas stockings in July, but each year in December I wish I had them and by then it's too late.

Materials:

Size 8 US/5.00mm double pointed needles

2 skeins Briggs and Little Heritage

Begin at cuff.

Cast on 96 stitches. Work in Knit 1, Purl 1 rib for 20 rows. Now, flip the bottom of your work up to your live stitches. Pick up a stitch from the cast on edge and knit it together with the corresponding live stitch.

This part is easier than it sounds, but if it's too intimidating go ahead and keep going and just sew the cuff down later.

Set up for cable pattern: *knit 4, purl 4, knit 4, purl 4, knit 12, purl 4, knit 4, purl 4, knit 4, purl 4* repeat between ** once more.

Work as established for 4 rounds.

Cable round 1: *Cable 4 back (slip 2 stitches to cable needle, hold to back, knit 2, knit 2 from cable needle), purl 4, cable 4 back, purl 4, cable 6 back (slip 3 stitches to cable needle, hold to back, knit 3, knit 3 from cable needle), Cable 6 forward (slip 3 stitches to cable needle, hold to front, knit 3, knit 3 from cable needle), purl 4, cable 4 back, purl 4, cable 4 back, purl 4* repeat between ** once more.

Work as established for 8 rounds.

Cable round 2: *cable 4 back, purl 4, cable 4 back, purl 4, knit 12, purl 4, cable 4 back, purl 4, cable 4 back, purl 4* repeat between ** once more.

Work as established for 8 rounds. Repeat these two sequences (alternating cable round 1 and cable round 2 every 8 rows) until you have 13 small cables and 7 large horseshoe cables.

Heel:

Beginning at start of round, slip first 6 stitches (a small cable and 2 purl stitches) to the end of last round. knit 1, purl 1 for 30 stitches. TURN WORK and begin working the heel flap flat. Purl 1, knit 1, to end. Work 22 rows of seed stitch, purling the knits and knitting the purls, ending with a wrong side row.

Turn the Heel:

knit 20, knit 2 together, knit 1, turn.

slip 1, purl 12, purl 2 together, turn.

slip 1, knit 12, knit 2 together, turn.

Continue as established until there are no 'side' stitches left, ending with a right side row.

pick up 12 stitches along the edge of the heel flap. These stitches will become "needle 1".

Knit as established in cable pattern across the top of the foot. There will now be 2 purl stitches, 3 small cables, 1 large horseshoe cable, and 2 more small cables, and 2 purl stitches across the top of the foot. "needle 2"

Pick up 12 stitches along the other edge of the heel flap. "needle 3"

Knit a few stitches from needle 1 to needle 3 so it forms a comfortable triangle.

Place marker to mark the beginning of the round if you wish.

Instep Decrease round: Knit to last 2 stitches on needle 1, knit 2 together, knit 1. Work as established in cable pattern for needle 2. On needle 3, knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit to end.

Work instep decrease every other round, working even as established on the off rounds until you have 94 stitches left. Work as established for 7 more small cable rounds, or until desired length, ending 4 rows after a cable 2 round.

Toe Shaping:

Set stitches up so that you have 24 stitches on needle 1, 47 stitches on needle 2, and 23 stitches on needle 3.

Knit to last 3 stitches on needle 1, knit 2 together, knit 1. On needle 2, knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over. Work in pattern until last 3 stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1. As you decrease on needle 2, work in pattern until the stitch is decreased. On needle 3, knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit to end.

Repeat decrease round every other round, continuing to work the cable pattern across the top of the foot as long as you can.

When you have 34 stitches left and you are 8 rows after a cable 1 round, divide stitches evenly between 2 needles and kitchener them together.



Hanger Loop:

Working with 2 needles, cast on 5 stitches. Work these stitches in an I-cord (slipping them back to the front of the needle and pulling the yarn tightly across the back of the work to form a tube) for a few inches, about 36 rows. Cast off and sew the loop to the stocking in the middle of the horseshoe cable that goes up the back of the heel.

