

CSM MINIATURE ICORD SOCKS: 8 stitches around

Remove all except 8 needles in your cylinder. Set up on scrap yarn and test using heel tension spring; knit back and forth and knit all the way AROUND a couple times as well. If the first stitch wants to miss, lower your yarn carrier. (Try pattern first without single color.)

Attach heel tension spring and leave in work throughout pattern:

Toe: Knit ACROSS and BACK (2 rows). If using contrasting yarns, change color here.

FOOT: Knit AROUND 6 rounds. (If using contrasting yarns, change again here.)

Heel color: knit ACROSS to right; raise one needle, knit ACROSS to left. Repeat until 2 stitches remain. (PULL DOWN at center with a pick tool as you work.) Knit ACROSS pushing last needle down on each pass until all are back in work. (If using contrasting yarns, change again here.)

Leg color: knit AROUND 8-10 rounds. Remove on scrap yarn.

Thread initial yarn through toe stitches (8) and pull snugly; secure by going halfway round again and work end back up a wale. Using a latch needle, poke into a toe stitch and catch the float yarn that went across the back of the needles while you were knitting. Ladder up to the top and secure to scrap yarn with a pin. Repeat one more time with balance of float yarn. Thus, you now have ten stitches around your sock. (See note section.)

Either bind off top edge or latch around the top loosely to finish; weave in all ends.

Special Notes:

A standard metal buckle that may be sufficient with a hand pick to hold down at heel sections; or, use a heel fork with 1 or 1.5# weight. Do not use your standard weights (too heavy).

When laddering up from the toe in such tiny work, it easiest to use two regular cylinder needles putting one in each of two stitches of the "toe" to begin. Insert the blunt end of an inkpen (or suitable thin object) inside as if it was a "foot" to more easily see the floats you need to ladder. So they don't disappear, do one on each needle you inserted as you work your way to the top.

When you pass the place where you made the heel, catch a heel stitch to make sure no holes form. If your stitches seem too snug using two needles, pass one through the other and continue upward toward the top forming one rung instead of two as you ladder. (Your ink-pen "foot" will never know the difference.) Or, right from the start at the toe you can form one looser stitch instead of two snug ones. The laddering process will cause a slight curving of the item so it stays in foot shape instead of a long tube.

Why would anyone ever make this project? I seriously have no idea, except that they're so darned cute that I wish it wasn't so tricky. I've wanted to put them everywhere--around the neck of a teshirt, made into a necklace, on top of my inkpen, on little stretchers as earrings, on Icord as a bracelet, on small toy dolls, as package decorations, as Christmas tree decorations and a hundred other places. Once you get the hang of it, it gets easier.

Do remember, patience is a virtue. Once you work through this, you will be VERY virtuous, no matter what your previous reputation may indicate to the contrary. Good luck!