BOXCAR WILLIE SOCKS
An Original Pattern From
Wooly Wonka Fibers

Skill Level: Easy/Beginner Sock Knitter

Materials: Approximately 400 yards of fingering (sock) weight yarn.

Needles: Size 1 US (2.25 mm) double-pointed needles

Gauge: 8 stitches per inch measured over stockinette stitch

Finished Size: Length of foot 9-1/4 inches long (to fit Women's Medium)

Notes: This easy sock pattern reminded me of rows of box-cars sitting in a train depot. The pattern is easily customizable. You may knit any heel or toe that suits, although I have used a short-row heel and wedge toe. The pattern also will work from the toe up, so feel free to adjust any of the details to suit your preferred sock-knitting style.

Instructions:

Using US size 1 (2.5-mm) DPNs, cast on 66 stitches loosely on 4 needles and divide as follows: Needle 1 – 15 stitches, needle 2 – 18 stitches, needle 3 – 15 stitches, needle 4 – 18 stitches.

Work K1, P2 rib for 15 rounds.

Box-Car Pattern:
Round 1: Knit.
Round 2: K1, P2; repeat to end.
Round 3: Knit
Round 4: Knit.

Begin working pattern rounds, starting with round #1. Work rounds 1 through 4 until leg of sock measures 7-1/2 inches in length (or desired length), and end with round 4.

Heel: Divide stitches for the short-row heel: Beginning with the stitches on needles 1 and 2, knit 31 stitches onto one needle. Knit last two stitches on needle 2 together (for 65 stitches total on your needles now). You will now work the 32 stitches for the short-row heel on needle 1, while needles 3 and 4 hold your patterned stitches for the arch.

Row 1: Turn work and purl back across the heel stitches until 2 stitches remain on the needle. Wrap next stitch and turn work.   (There will be 1 unworked/unwrapped stitch.)
Row 2: Knit back across heel stitches until 2 stitches remain on the left-hand needle. Wrap next stitch and turn work. (Again, there will be 1 unworked/unwrapped stitch.)

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until there are 12 stitches on your needles which have not been wrapped in the center. You are now ready to work all the wrapped stitches to complete the heel.

Row 1: Purl to first wrapped stitch. Work that stitch and the wrap together – P2tog. Wrap and turn the next stitch so that it now has 2 wraps. Turn work.
Row 2: Knit to first wrapped stitch. Work that next stitch and the wrap together – K2tog.

Wrap next stitch on the needles so that it now has 2 wraps.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until all _wrapped_ stitches have been worked, being sure to pick up BOTH wraps and knit together with the live heel stitch.

Purl 1 row incorporating the last unwrapped stitch into this row. Turn work and knit back across all 32 stitches on needle 1.

Join sock back into a round, and beginning with round 1, work stockinette on the 16 stitches on needle 1, the pattern stitches on needles 2 and 3 (a total of 33 stitches), and the remaining 16 stitches in stockinette onto needle 4. This will complete round 1 of the pattern rows for the foot.

When sock measures desired length minus 2 inches from the finished desired measurement, end with any round of the pattern, except round 2 (the purl-stitch round). Knit one round of plain stockinette on all needles, decreasing 1 stitch. You will now have 64 stitches. Organize stitches, so that you have 16 stitches on each of the 4 needles.

Begin working toe decreases:
Round 1: Knit to 3 stitches before the end of needle 1, then K2tog, K1. On needle 2, knit 1, then ssk, and knit across needle 2 and needle 3, until 3 stitches before the end of needle 3. Over the last 3 stitches of needle 3, K2tog, K1. On needle 4, knit 1, then ssk, and then knit to end of needle 4. (This is your toe-decrease round.)
Round 2: Knit all stitches.

Continue to repeat rounds 1 and 2 until 5 stitches remain on each needle. Knit across needle 1 so that all the stitches from needle 4 and needle 1 are now on needle 4. Slip all stitches from needles 2 and 3 onto one needle. Graft/Kitchener stitch the remaining live toe stitches together.

Weave in all ends. Make second sock to match.