

Melisandre

A sock pattern by Kimberly Pieper

Inspired by the mysterious character Melisandre of Asshai from George R. R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* series, this toe-up sock features a swirling rib pattern that blazes up the leg. As a priestess of the red god R'hllor, Melisandre claims to have prophetic visions when she gazes into the flames. Maybe she sees a pair of these sizzling socks in your future!



Toe:

Cast on 16 sts using Judy's Magic Cast On (or your favourite toe-up method) and knit one round of stockinette with the stitches distributed as follows:

Magic loop:

Needle 1 (instep): 8 sts
Needle 2 (sole): 8 sts

Yarn:

Approx. 350-400 yards of solid or semi-solid fingering weight yarn. The sample was knit with two skeins of Wildfoote Luxury Sock in Blue Blood Red (75% wool, 25% nylon, 215 yds/50 g)

Other Materials:

2.50mm needles (or size required for gauge), darning needle

Gauge and Sizing:

8 stitches and 12 rows per inch in plain stockinette. Two sizes are provided: M (L), fitting legs with circumferences of approx. 8-9.5 (9.5-11) inches.

Abbreviations:

sts	stitches
sl	slip
k	knit
p	purl
m1	make 1
m1p	make 1 purl
k2tog	knit 2 together
p2tog	purl 2 together
ssk	slip slip knit
w&t	wrap and turn

DPNs:

Needles 1 & 2 (instep): 4 sts each

Needles 3 & 4 (sole): 4 sts each

Proceed with the toe increases:

Instep: k1, m1, k to 1 stitch before end of instep, m1, k1

Sole: k1 m1, k to 1 stitch before end of sole, m1, k1

Repeat this round until you have a total of 32 stitches. Then begin inserting a round of plain stockinette between the increase rounds. Continue until you have a total of 64 (72) stitches, ending after working a stockinette round.

Foot:

Work by repeating chart 1 across the instep stitches and knitting the sole stitches until you are approximately 3 inches from the desired foot length, ending after an odd row.

Gusset:

Increase for the gusset as follows:

Round 1: work chart 1 across instep, k1, m1, k to 1 stitch before end of sole, m1, k1

Round 2: work chart 1 across instep, k to end

Repeat these two rounds until there are 54 (60) sole stitches, ending with an odd chart row. On the final round, proceed directly to the heel instructions once the instep stitches have been worked.

Heel:

The heel is worked back and forth over the sole stitches:

(RS) Row 1: k37 (42), m1, k1, w&t

(WS) Row 2: p22 (26), m1p, p1, w&t

(RS) Row 3: k20 (24), m1, k1, w&t

(WS) Row 4: p18 (22), m1p, p1, w&t

(RS) Row 5: k16 (20), m1, k1, w&t

(WS) Row 6: p14 (18), m1p, p1, w&t

(RS) Row 7: k12 (16), m1, k1, w&t

(WS) Row 8: p10 (14), m1p, p1, w&t

(RS) Row 9: k8 (12), m1, k1, w&t

(WS) Row 10: p6 (10), m1p, p1, w&t

This should result in a total of 64 (70) sole stitches. For all sizes, turn and knit back across the sole stitches. Wherever a wrapped stitch is encountered, lift the wrap over the stitch and knit both the stitch and wrap together.

Work the instep stitches as for the foot, continuing with the appropriate row of the chart. The heel flap will then be completed over the sole stitches. Be sure to knit the wrap and stitch together for the wrapped stitches you will encounter in row 1. Do this by lifting the

wrap over the stitch, slipping the stitch knitwise and returning it to the left needle before knitting the wrap and stitch together as you would for an ssk.

(RS) Row 1: k47 (52), ssk, turn

(WS) Row 2: sl1, p30 (34), p2tog, turn

At this point, you should have 15 (16) unworked stitches on either side of the centre 32 (36) heel stitches.

(RS) Row 3: [sl1, k1] to 2 sts before gap, sl1, ssk, turn

(WS) Row 4: sl1, p to 1 st before gap, p2tog, turn

Repeat Rows 3 & 4 until all stitches on either side of the centre heel have been worked. At the end of the final WS row, I recommend pulling up a loop from back of the stitch beneath the final instep stitch to work it together with the p2tog at the end of Row 4. This will help prevent a hole from forming at the junction of the instep/heel.

(RS) sl1, k to 1 stitch before end, pull up a loop from the back of the stitch beneath the first instep stitch and ssk it together with the final heel stitch.

Leg:

You should now have 64 (72) stitches, divided evenly on the needles as follows:

Magic Loop:

Needle 1: Front of leg (32 (36) sts)

Needle 2: Back of leg (32 (36) sts)

DPNs:

Needles 1 & 2: Front of leg (16 (18) sts each)

Needles 3 & 4: Back of leg (16 (18) sts each)

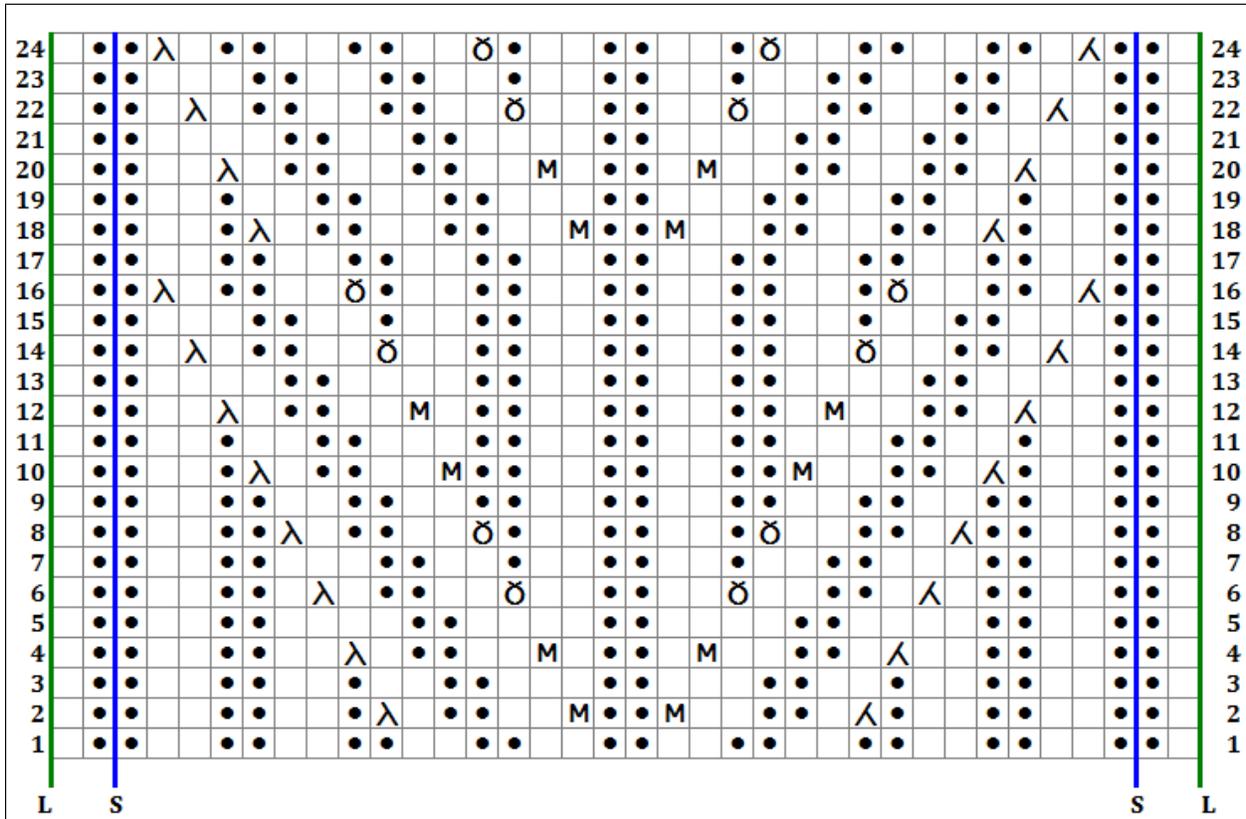
Continue working chart 1 (**now repeating each row for both the front and back of the leg**) until the leg reaches your desired length. End after a row 17 before proceeding to the cuff.



Cuff:

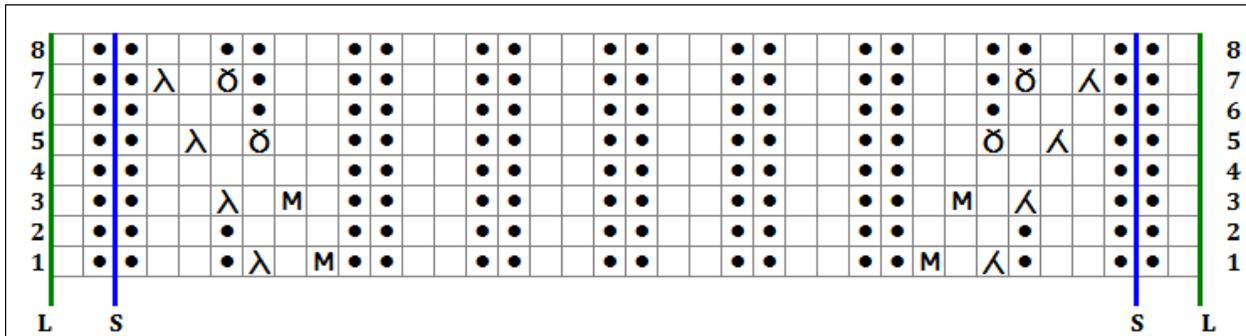
Work through chart 2 once (twice per round, as for the leg). When you reach row 8, continue on in 2x2 ribbing for 10 rounds or until the cuff reaches your desired length. Bind off using your favourite stretchy method. Make a second sock and enjoy the fiery warmth!

Chart 1:



Small = between blue lines, Large = between green lines

Chart 2:



Legend:

	k
	p
	k2tog
	ssk
	make 1
	make 1 purl

This knitting pattern, including all instructions, charts and photographs are © 2012 by Kimberly Pieper. This pattern may not be copied or offered for sale without the permission of the designer. Please contact me as purrlescent on Ravelry or at kimberlypieper@gmail.com with any questions or problems you may encounter with the pattern. Many thanks to my lovely group of testers: chickencrazygirl, feistymuse, goingunder, goodnurse, houghmary, jdaisy, kreativia, manda-b, and mangomilch!