

is between needles #1 and #3.

As you work the foot, the pattern of Black and Light Grey sts alternates every row. If you have a Black st on one row, work it Light Grey on the next row.

Round 1: Work in alternating Black and Light Grey pattern to 2 sts from the end of needle #1, k2 tog with Light Grey. Work across instep sts in established pattern. SSK with Light Grey at the beginning of needle #3. Work to end of round in established pattern.

Round 2: Work even in established pattern.

Always keep the last st on needle #1 and the first st on needle #3 in Light Grey.

Repeat these last 2 rounds until you have 16 sts on needle #1, 31 sts on needle #2, and 15 sts on needle #3. Work even in established pattern until foot length measures 3 inches less than desired finished length ending with row 5 or 11 of graph B on instep sts.

#### SHAPE TOE

Round 1: Knit to 2 sts away from the end of needle #1; k2 tog with Light Grey. K1 with Black at beginning of needle #2; then SSK the next 2 sts together with Light Grey. Work alternating k1 Black, k1 Light Grey across needle #2 to last 3 sts; k2 tog with Light Grey, k1 Black. SSK first 2 sts on needle #3 with Light Grey. Knit to end of round.

Round 2: Work one round even in established patterns.

Repeat these last 2 rounds until you have 11 sts on needle #1, 21 sts on needle #2, and 10 sts on needle #3. On the next decrease round, work even in patt without decreases on needles #1 and #3, and work 2 decreases on needle #2 same as before. When this round is finished there are 11 sts on needle #1, 19 sts on needle #2, and 10 sts on needle #3. Now work Round 1 (decrease round) on every round until you have 5 sts on needle #1, 7 sts on needle #2, and 4 sts on needle #3. Work across the sts on needle #1 in pattern with needle #3, and knit the last 2 sts tog with Light Grey. Break yarn leaving a 10-inch tail. Thread a blunt-point needle. Draw it through the remaining sts. Tighten up to finish the toe.

Weave in ends. Block socks under a damp towel or on sock blockers.

## MAMLUKE SOCKS

The inspiration for these decorative socks comes from the collection of the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. The socks are very typical of Islamic footwear of its period, which is the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries. The band of repeated Cufic style Arabic letters above the heel and before the toe shaping spells “Allah”. The heel shaping is similar to a Round Heel, however it is made with a series of short rows in their most simple form. The toe is starlike. It decreases in eight sets of two blue stitches. These are then paired and a natural-colored knit stitch is placed between the pairs. These socks are sized for a woman.

**Materials:** Berroco’s Wendy Guernsey 5-ply (100% wool, 100g/approx. 245 yards) #674 Smoke Blue, 1 skein; #500 Natural, 1 skein.

Set of five #2 double-point needles or size to give gauge.

**Gauge:** 16 sts and 16 rounds = 2 inches over pattern worked in the round.

#### LEG

CO 70 sts with Smoke Blue, using the English method. Divide the sts evenly onto 4 needles. Join into a round being careful not to twist sts. This join marks the “seam line” and beginning of the round.

K1, P1 Ribbing

Round 1: \*K1, p1. Repeat from \* to end of round.

Work Round 1 for 3 rounds total.

Begin leg pattern according to graph A. On last round of graph A (Smoke Blue round), inc 1 st in first st and 1 st in last st. 72 sts total. Adjust sts on needle so you have 18 on each needle and the “seam line” is between needles #1 and #4. Work graph B to completion.

#### DIVIDE FOR HEEL

The heel is worked on needles #1 and #4. It is created by working a series of short rows without any decreases. There are 18 sts each on heel needles #1 and #4, and 18 sts each on needles #2 and #3 to be held for instep. Begin at “seam line” and work the heel as follows: