

# TADPOLES

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For the last few holidays, I've tried to focus on giving handmade gifts. But, one of my biggest problems with holiday knitting is that sometimes you have to give a gift still on the needles. I like patterns that are easily memorized, but hold my attention span. I designed these socks so they have an intriguing lace repeat, and are quick to knit.

I like to think that I know my friends and family well enough to give them gifts they will enjoy, but I know that sometimes I miss the mark. Not so with these socks! My friends and family love the undulating pattern. One friend commented that they reminded her of tadpoles swimming through the water. All at once, I was picturing myself knitting by the side cool pond on a hot summer day. Not a bad daydream for the middle of winter.

## **PATTERN:**

### **SIZE**

Women's medium

### **FINISHED MEASUREMENTS**

Calf: # 8 inches unstretched

Foot length: variable

*Note: you can easily customize the fit by removing or adding stitches to the stockinette portion of the sock. You may have to rework the numbers for the heel if you choose this option.*

### **MATERIALS**

Blue Moon Fiber Arts Socks that Rock  
Mediumweight [100% superwash merino;  
380yds/347m per 155g skein]; color: Lucky; 1  
skeins



1 set US #2/ 2.75mm double-point needles (Or size needed to obtain gauge)

stitch marker  
tapestry needle

### **GAUGE**

28 stitches/40 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

### **PATTERN NOTES**

**Lace Pattern** (worked over 32 stitches)

*Rnd 1:* p1, k9, k2tog, k3, yo, p2, yo, k3, ssk, k9, p1  
*Rnd 2:* p1, k8, k2tog, k3, yo, ktbl, p2, k1, yo, k3, ssk, k8, p1  
*Rnd 3:* p1, k7, k2tog, k3, yo, k2, p2, k2, yo, k3, ssk, k7, p1  
*Rnd 4:* p1, k6, k2tog, k3, yo, k3, p2, k3, yo, k3, ssk, k6, p1  
*Rnd 5:* p1, k5, k2tog, k3, yo, k4, p2, k4, yo, k3, ssk, k5, p1  
*Rnd 6:* p1, k4, k2tog, k3, yo, k5, p2, k5, yo, k3, ssk, k4, p1  
*Rnd 7:* p1, k3, k2tog, k3, yo, k6, p2, k6, yo, k3, ssk, k3, p1  
*Rnd 8:* p1, k2, k2tog, k3, yo, k7, p2, k7, yo, k3, ssk, k2, p1  
*Rnd 9:* p1, k1, k2tog, k3, yo, k8, p2, k8, yo, k3, ssk, k1, p1  
*Rnd 10:* p1, k2tog, k3, yo, k9, p2, k9, yo, k3, ssk, p1





*Row 5 [RS]:* Sl1, k6, ssk, k1, turn work.  
*Row 6 [WS]:* Sl1, p7, p2tog, p1, turn work.  
*Row 7 [RS]:* Sl1, k8, ssk, k1, turn work.  
*Row 8 [WS]:* Sl1, p9, p2tog, p1, turn work.  
*Row 9 [RS]:* Sl1, k10, ssk, k1, turn work.  
*Row 10 [WS]:* Sl1, p11, p2tog, p1, turn work.  
*Row 11 [RS]:* Sl1, k12, ssk, k1, turn work.

*Row 12 [WS]:* Sl1, p13, p2tog, p1, turn work.  
*Row 13 [RS]:* Sl1, k14, ssk, k1, turn work.  
*Row 14 [WS]:* Sl1, p15, p2tog, p1, turn work.

18 stitches remain.

### **Gusset**

Rearrange stitches as follows:

K 9 stitches onto a new needle.

Knit remaining 9 stitches. (This is now needle 1.) You are now ready to pick up stitches to form the gusset.

Using needle 1, pick up and knit 16 stitches.

Work chart row 1 over needles 2 and 3.

Using needle 4, pick up and knit 16 stitches, then knit the remaining 9 stitches from the heel.

*Rnd 1:* K to last 3 stitches of needle 1, k2tog, k1; work next round of chart pattern over needles 2 and 3, k1, ssk, K to end of needle 2.

*Rnd 2:* K to end of needle one, work next round of chart pattern over needles 2 and 3, K to end of needle 2.

Repeat *Rounds 1 and 2* seven times more.

K to last 3 stitches of needle 1, k2tog, k1; work next round of chart pattern over needles 2 and 3, k1, ssk, K to end of needle 2.

64 stitches; 16 stitches on each needle.

### **Foot**

Continue in pattern as set (needle 1- knit, needles 2 and 3- chart pattern, needle 4- knit) until the foot is 1.5 inches less than desired length.

## **Toe**

*Rnd 1:* K 1 round.

*Rnd 2:* K to last 3 stitches on needle 1, k2tog, k1; k1, ssk, k to end of needle 2; k to last 3 stitches on needle 3, k2tog, k1; k1, ssk, k to end of needle 4.

Repeat these 2 rounds 8 times more. 28 stitches remain.

Using needle 4, k to end of needle 1. Slip stitches from needle 2 to needle 3. Graft stitches on needle 3 to stitches on needle 4.



## **FINISHING**

Weave in ends. Block if desired. Celebrate another gift completed (even if it is a gift for yourself)!

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