

It's 'The Balm' Sock

by Julie Tarsha

Great last minute gifts you can hang on the tree! So quick and easy, you can stitch up several in an evening using leftover scraps of colorful sock yarn. Perfectly sized for lip balms, chewing gum, coins or other small treasures.

Materials:

3.25mm double pointed needles
fingering weight yarn
Size E Crochet Hook
Darning Needle

Instructions:

CO 18, leaving a 6 - 8" length of yarn to make into stocking hanger, and join to knit in the round, being careful not to twist stitches. Arrange stitches with 6 stitches on each of 3 needles.

(K1, P1) around x 3 rows

Knit around until sock measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from top of cuff

On next row, K 14, then knit next 8 stitches onto a length of waste yarn in a different color than project. Return these 8 stitches back to the left needle and knit around with working yarn until sock measures $\frac{3}{4}$ " from line of waste yarn.

Arrange stitches so the 8 stitches above the waste yarn + one more stitch are on one needle and the remaining 9 stitches are on another needle.

Decrease Toe:

Round 1: K 1, K2tog, K to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1 on each needle

Round 2: Knit

Repeat these two rounds until 10 stitches remain



Knit 1 round, then break yarn and using a darning needle, thread yarn through remaining stitches and fasten off.

Afterthought Heel:

Pick up the 8 stitches below waste yarn by picking up the right leg of each stitch on an empty needle. Turn sock 180 degrees and pick up the 8 stitches on the other side of the waste yarn in the same manner.

Pick out waste yarn

K 8 on one needle, then pick up 1 stitch along side between needles. Repeat for other side (18 stitches)

Decrease heel:

Round 1: Knit around

Round 2: K1, K2tog, K to last 3 stitches, K2tog, K1, repeat on next needle to complete one decrease round.

Repeat the last 2 rounds (10 stitches left on needles)



Break yarn and using a darning needle, thread yarn through remaining stitches and fasten off.

At top back of sock, insert crochet hook into stitch below free end of yarn and pull up a loop. Chain 10. Insert hook into next stitch from inside of sock, and join chain to sock with a slip stitch. Pull free end of yarn through and fasten off.

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