

Tips & Techniques!

Tips & Techniques #15

Christmas Stockings by Susan Guagliumi



It's never too soon to start thinking about Christmas gifts and decorations. Because machine knitted stockings require so little time to knit in festive stripes, fairisle patterns, tucked textures, cables, or intarsia, you can probably produce enough for everyone on your list and a few extras for the Knits for Kids

program as well! Machine knitters all have their favorite methods for doing things, and stockings are no exception, so we've included directions for three different knitting methods, two of which include the quarter scale pattern for the KR-10 knit contour. If your contour is half scale, simply enlarge the pattern with the dimensional change scale. To knit without a contour, you will need to use stitch and row gauges to fill in the blanks in the directions. This isn't difficult to do, and it enables you to use the same pattern for any yarn on any gauge machine. When the pattern calls for stitches, multiply the width by your stitch gauge. When rows are indicated, multiply the length measurement by your row gauge.

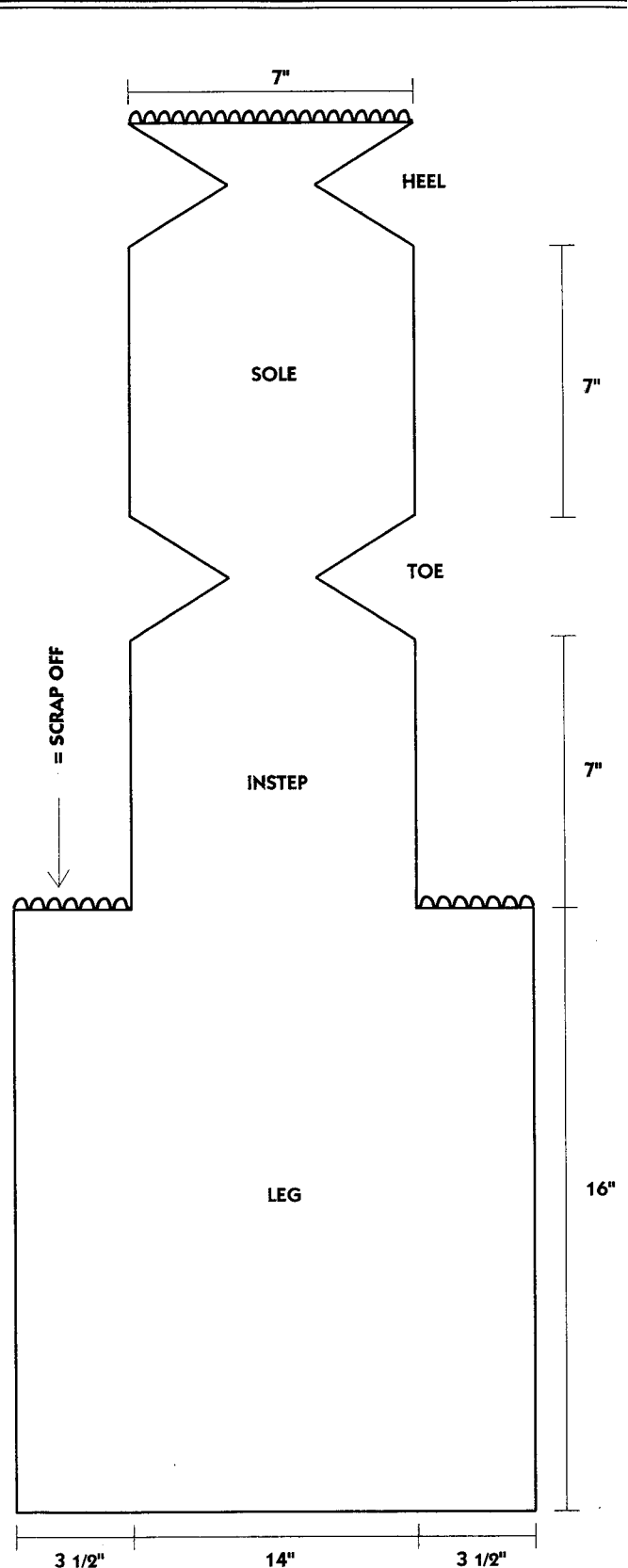
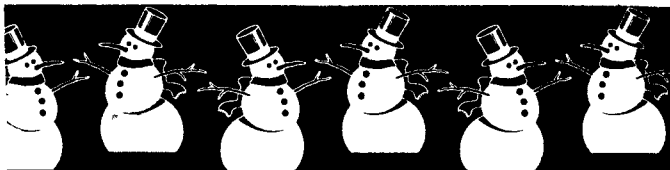
The first two methods are for knitting a stocking flat and seaming it up the center back or the inside of the leg (with two or one foot seams, respectively), while the third method knits circular with no seam. For stripes especially, the circular method is faster and requires less finishing, but remember that you can't knit fairisle and circular at the same time! If you decide to knit circular on the 5mm machines, both carriages should be set to the same stitch size. For the 4.5mm machines, you will need to set the ribber carriage about two full numbers higher, but do gauge swatches to be sure. Any of the stockings can be knitted with ribbed or mock rib cuffs, picot hems, crochet, or fancy DL-1000 sandwich bands. Our directions simply refer to knitting the cuff and assume that you will decide which method to use.

If you want to make larger or smaller versions of the flat stocking, just remember that you can make the leg as long and as wide as you want to and that the foot portion is always knitted on half as many stitches as the leg. Additionally, the toe and the heel are each shaped by partial knitting (short rows) until only one-third of the foot stitches remain working. These proportions always work!

METHOD #1

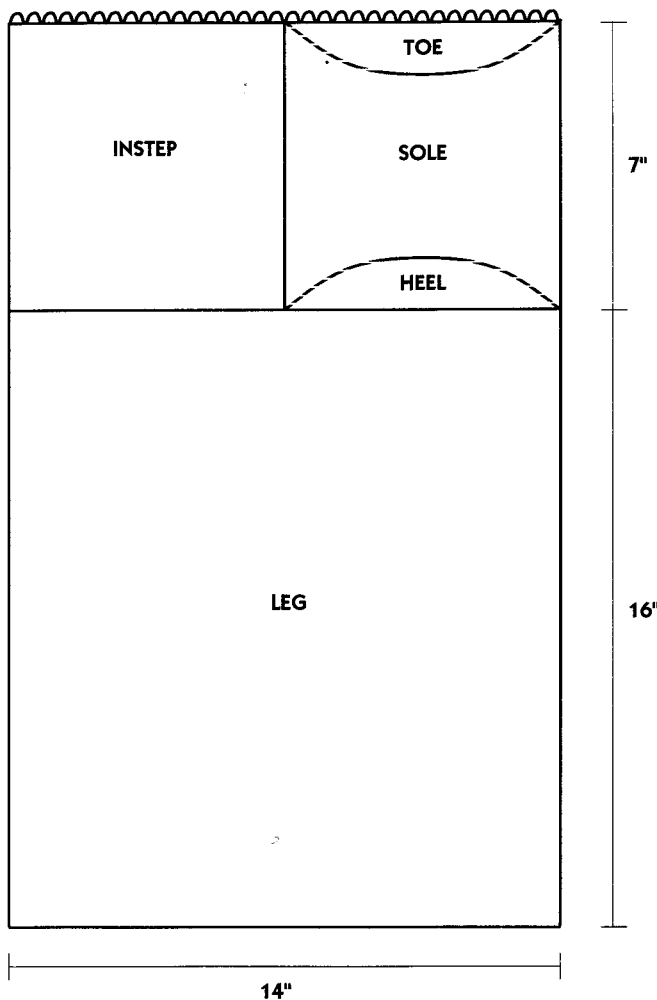
STOCKING KNITTED FLAT WITH CENTER BACK LEG SEAM

- 1) Cast on over ____ needles (14" wide) for cuff of your choice and knit to desired depth.
- 2) Continue knitting in stockinette or pattern for next ____ rows (16" long).
- 3) Set carriage to hold. Scrap off ____ stitches (3.5") at right and left edges. Center ____ needles (7") remain working, which is half the number originally cast on.
- 4) Knit in-step, plain or patterned, for next ____ rows (7").
- 5) Short row toe by holding one needle per row, on the side opposite the carriage, until only one-third of the needles remain working. Wrap to prevent holes. Then, return 1 needle per row on the carriage side to working position until all needles are working again.
- 6) Knit sole for next ____ rows (7").
- 7) Short row heel same as toe. Scrap off all stitches.
- 8) Assembly: Steam the scrap knitting and fold back. Graft the heel stitches to the stitches that were scrapped off in step #3. Sew the side seams of the foot and the back seam of the leg. Crochet a hanging loop at the top.



Flat Method With Center Back Seam

Flat Stocking With Inner Leg Seam



METHOD #2 STOCKING KNITTED FLAT WITH INNER LEG SEAM

- 1) Cast on over ____ needles (14" wide) for cuff of your choice and knit to desired depth.
- 2) Continue knitting in stockinette or pattern for next ____ rows (16" long).
- 3) With carriage on the right, hold all needles to the left of center zero. Shape heel on needles to the right of zero by short rows as described in step #5 for method #1.
- 4) When heel is complete, return all needles to working position and continue straight for ____ rows (7") knitting instep and sole at the same time.

- 5) Shape the toe by holding all needles to left of center zero and knitting short rows the same as for the heel. When toe is complete, return all needles to working position and scrap off all stitches.
- 6) Assembly: Steam scrap knitting. Fold the knitting in half and graft the open stitches of the toe to the open stitches of the instep. Sew continuous seam in side of foot and leg. Crochet a hanging loop at the top.

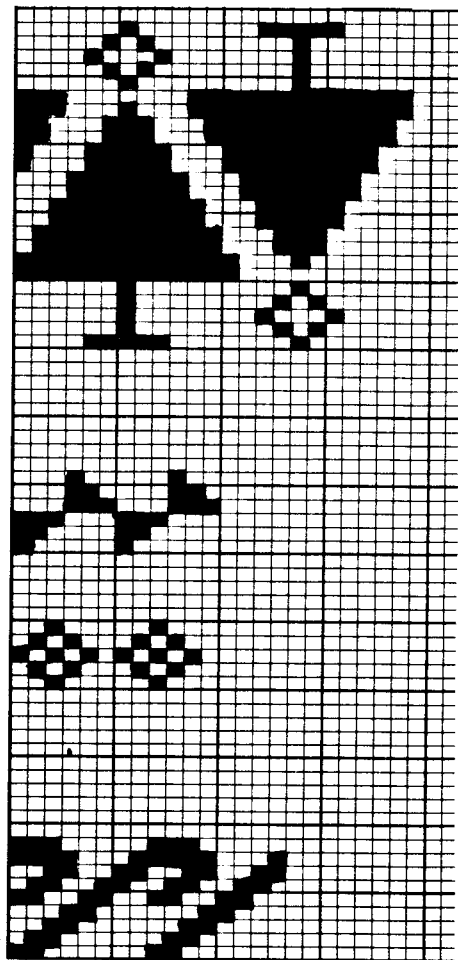
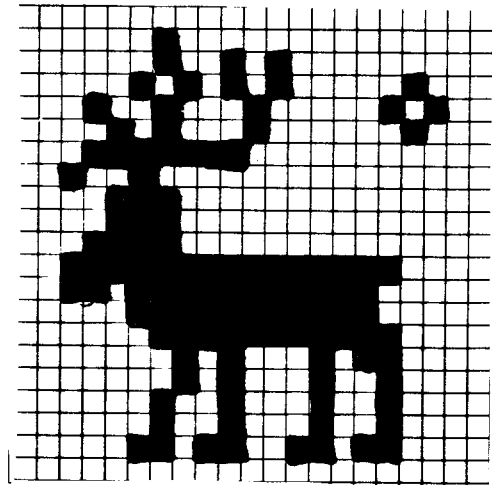
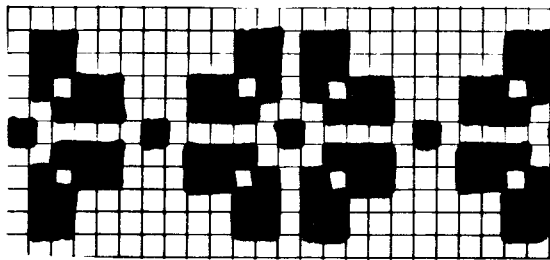
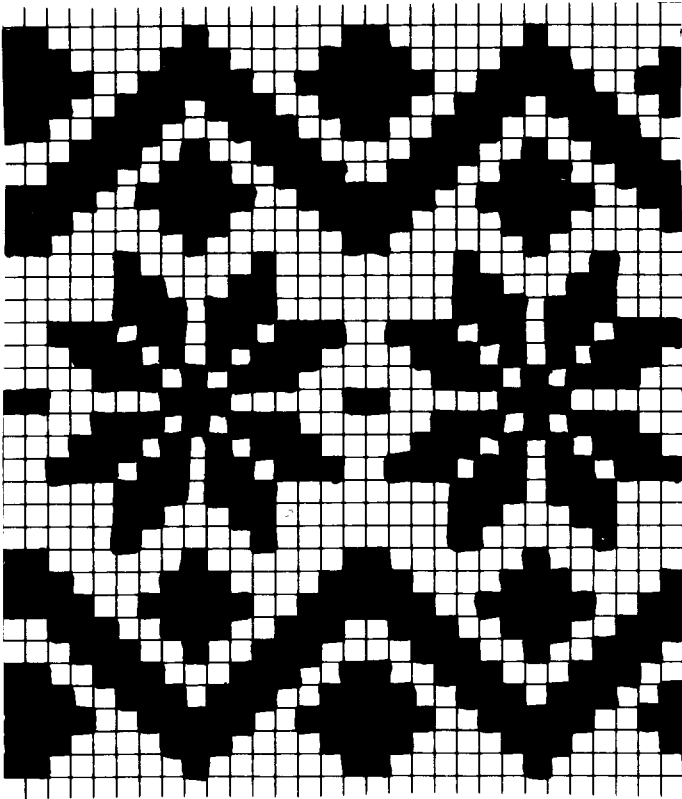
PATTERNING NOTES: Both the leg and instep sections can be patterned, but knit heels and toes solid. For fairisle patterns, remember to feed your punchcard or electronic design card into the machine upside down because you are knitting the stocking from the top down. If pattern floats are excessively long, bind them to the back of the fabric with a separate strand of yarn or by catching them on the needle hooks to prevent them catching on Christmas goodies!

METHOD #3 CIRCULAR

- 1) Cast on over a width of ____ needles (14") and knit rib or cuff of your choice for desired depth. Remove on stitch holders or scrap knitting. Remove comb and weights. Fold knitting in half and re-insert comb through both thicknesses.
- 2) Rehang half of the stitches on the front bed, the other half on the back bed. Set carriages for circular knitting and knit to row ____ (16" X 2 to account for circular).
- 3) Set front carriage to slip all needles. Shape heel on the back bed using all needles and shaping by short rows as described for other two methods.
- 4) Knit foot (circular) for next ____ rows (7" x 2).
- 5) Shape toe by decreasing (full fash-

ioned) 1 stitch, each side on both beds, every other round (that is, every four rows). Scrap off when 4 stitches remain on each bed.

- 6) Assembly: Graft the open toe stitches. Sew seam in ribbing or cuff. Crochet loop for hanging.



Intarsia Santa

