

# Socks, circa 2008

designed by Cailyn Meyer  
dailyskein.wordpress.com

- **Finished Size:** Women's Size 8 1/2-9, foot length 9 1/2"
- **Needles:** 2 size 0 (2mm) circulars (or DPNs), 2 size 2 (2.75mm) circulars (or DPNs)
- **Yarn:** Louet Gems Fingering, MC: Caribou(2 skeins), CC1: Champagne (1 skein), CC2: Ginger (1 skein), CC3: Neptune (1 skein)
- **Extras:** Tapestry needle
- **Gauge:** 9 sts x 12 rows = 1" in stockinette, 9.5 sts x 11 rows = 1" in Egyptian Chart



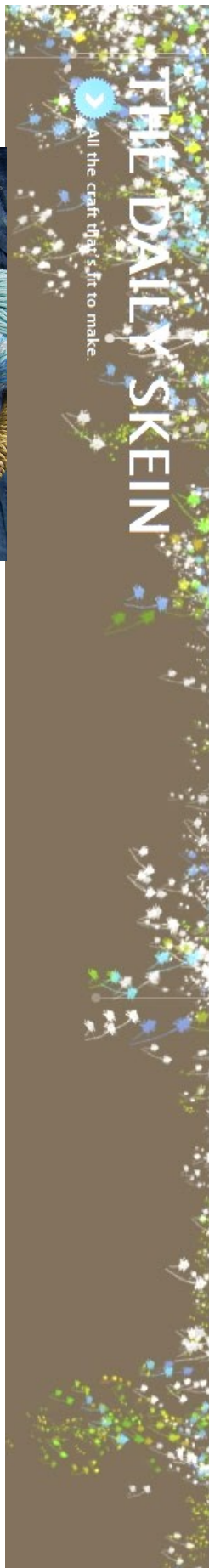
I am fascinated by the history of knitting. Did you know that knitting (as we know it) probably started in *Egypt*? Somewhere between 1200 and 1500 AD. Most of the early pieces that have been found there have been cotton, knitted with at least two colors. And the gauge! Most of the old knitting has a gauge of 20 or 30 stitches to the inch! Insane, I say, insane! No wonder it's all so beautiful, though. They could fit some really detailed designs on that many stitches. The color work chart on these socks is taken from one of the earliest pieces of knitting found. I added the extra colors, though. Most of the ancient knitting I've read about used a single color for each motif but would have multiple motifs. The "clocks" (a design that runs down the leg and splits at the heel) are also traditional but from later in the chronology. If you look at Nancy Bush's books *Folk Socks* and *Folk Knitting in Estonia* you'll see socks much like these, with color work at the top and clocks down the sides.

I couldn't think of a name for these socks that really fit, so I gave them a bit of that historical flair. By that I mean I was looking through the *History of Handknitting*, hoping that the place the fragment was found or something else would be a good sock name. When that failed, I just decided that naming them as if they were found in an archaeological dig somewhere was the easy way to go. The color work chart only repeats twice and only has 3 colors. The clocks on these socks are a simple twisted stitch motif that doesn't require a cable needle.



**Edited 4-9-09:** Fixed various errors that a knitter was kind enough to keep track of. The heel instructions now make mathematical sense and I hope I've clarified some of the other instructions. Errata are in purple.

**Edited 9-4-11:** Lots of small changes! Renumbered the rows in Charts A and B and added stitch numbers to all the charts. Changed the Egyptian Chart to a combined symbol and color chart which should work as a color chart or printed in gray scale. Also added the original cables to the instructions- knitters now have a choice of the classic twisted stitch cable shown in the photos or the braided cable that was actually written in the instructions. Be aware that there are two different sets of instructions for the different cables!



## Special Stitches

**Knit tbl:** Knit through the back loop. On WS rows, purl through the back loop.

**Right Twist:** Slip next two stitches purlwise. From the back, insert the left needle into the back of the first slipped stitch. Pull the right needle from both stitches and reinsert right needle into the loose stitch from the front. Slip this stitch back to the left needle, then k2 tbl. **On WS rows:** Slip next two stitches purlwise. From the back, insert the left needle into the back of the first slipped stitch. Pull the right needle from both stitches and reinsert right needle into the loose stitch from the front. Slip this stitch back to the left needle, then p2 tbl.

**Left Twist:** Insert the right needle into the back of the *second* stitch on the left needle. Pull left needle out of the first two stitches and reinsert the left needle into the loose stitch from the front. Return stitch on right needle to left needle, then k2tbl. **On WS rows:** Insert the right needle into the back of the *second* stitch on the left needle. Pull left needle out of the first two stitches and reinsert the left needle into the loose stitch from the front. Replace stitch on right needle to left needle, then p2 tbl.

**Right Purl Twist:** Perform a Right Twist, but at the end, k1tbl, p1. **On WS rows:** Perform a WS Right Twist, but at the end p1 tbl, k1.

**Left Purl Twist:** Perform a Left Twist, but at the end, p1, k1tbl. **On WS rows:** Perform a WS Left Twist, but at the end k1, p1 tbl.

## Cuff

CO 68 sts **with smaller needles**. Join in the round, being careful not to twist.

Work k1, p1 rib for 1".

## Leg

**Round 1:** K8, \*m1, k17\* 3 times, m1, k9. 4 sts increased. 72 sts

**Round 2 and 3:** Knit

**Switch to size 2 needles.**

**Round 4-18:** Work Egyptian Chart twice.

**Switch to size 0 needles.**

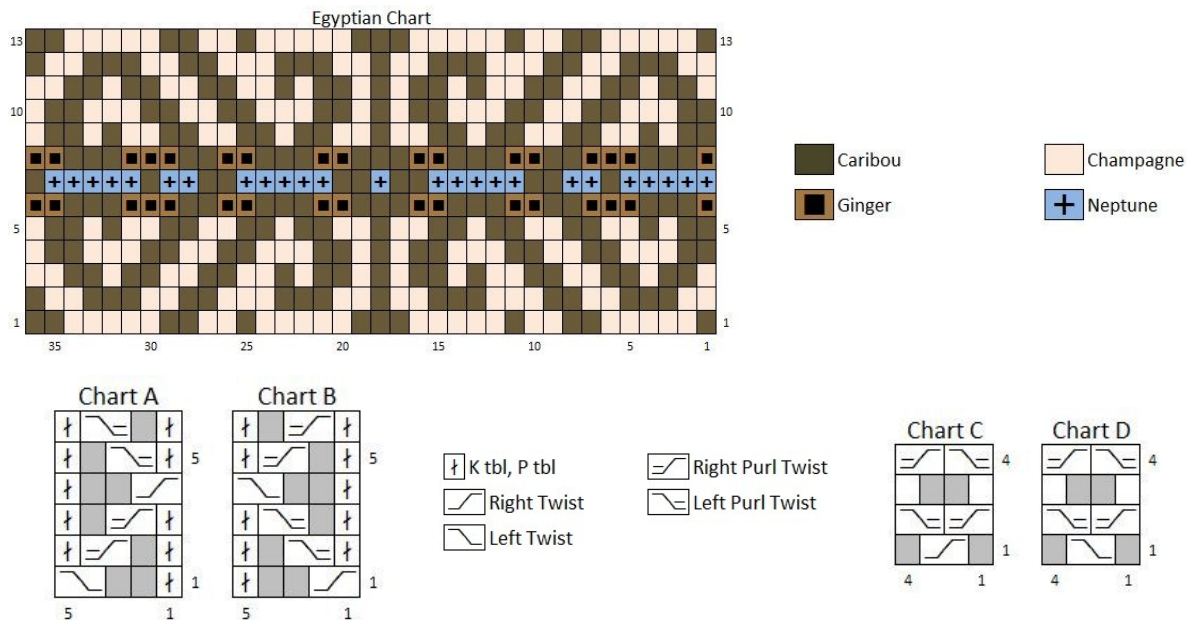
**Round 19 and 20:** Knit.

**Round 21:** \*K34, k2tog\* twice. 2 sts decreased. 70 sts

**For Braid Cable Only Round 22:** Work Chart A, p1, k23, p1, Chart A, p1, Chart B, p1, k21, p1, Chart B, p1.

**For Classic Cable Only Round 22:** Work Chart C, p1, k25, p1, Chart C, p1, Chart D, p1, k23, p1, Chart D, p1.

Repeat **Round 22** until leg is desired length.



## Heel

At the end of any round, turn. Make a note of which cable row you stopped on for the instep. *The heel will be worked back and forth over the next 35 sts. Put remaining the remaining 35 sts on a stitch holder or scrap yarn.*

**Row 1 for Braid Cable Only (WS):** Sl 1, work Chart B, k1, p21, k1, Chart B, k1, turn. *35 heel sts on heel flap.*

**Row 2 for Braid Cable Only (RS):** Sl 1, work Chart B, p1, \*k1, sl 1,\* 10 times, k1, p1, Chart B, p1, turn.

**Row 1 for Classic Cable Only (WS):** Sl 1, work Chart D, k1, p23, k1, Chart D, k1, turn. *35 heel sts on heel flap.*

**Row 2 for Classic Cable Only (RS):** Sl 1, work Chart D, p1, \*k1, sl 1,\* 11 times, k1, p1, Chart D, p1, turn.

Repeat **Row 1 and 2** until heel measures 2" (approximately 30 rows) ending after a WS row.

**Turning Row 1:** Sl 1, k2tog, k17, ssk, k1, turn. *2 sts decreased. 33 sts on heel flap.*

**Turning Row 2:** Sl 1, p5, p2tog, p1, turn. *1 st decreased.*

**Turning Row 3:** Sl 1, k6, ssk, k1, turn. *1 st decreased.*

Repeat **Turning Rows 2 and 3**, working 1 more st each row, until all sts have been worked, ending after a RS row.

**Next Row:** Sl 1, knit across. *20 sts remain.*

## Gusset

### For Braid Cable Only:

Pick up and knit 1 st in each slip stitch along the heel flap. Pick up and *purl* 1 st in the gap between heel and instep. Instep: work Chart A, p1, k23, p1, Chart A. Pick up and *purl* 1 st in the gap between instep and heel. Pick up and knit 1 st in each slip stitch along the heel flap. *Knit 10. Mark this as the beginning of the round.*

**Round 1:** Knit to 3 sts before the first purl st, k2tog, k1, p1, work Chart A, p1, k23, p1, Chart A, p1, k1, ssk, knit to the end of the round. *2 sts decreased.*

**Round 2:** Knit to first purl st, p1, work Chart A, p1, k23, p1, Chart A, p1, knit to the end of the round.

### For Classic Cable Only:

Pick up and knit 1 st in each slip stitch along the heel flap. Pick up and *purl* 1 st in the gap between heel and instep. Instep: work Chart C, p1, k25, p1, Chart C. Pick up and *purl* 1 st in the gap between instep and heel. Pick up and knit 1 st in each slip stitch along the heel flap. *Knit 10. Mark this as the beginning of the round.*

**Round 1:** Knit to 3 sts before the first purl st, k2tog, k1, p1, work Chart C, p1, k25, p1, Chart C, p1, k1, ssk, knit to the end of the round. *2 sts decreased.*

**Round 2:** Knit to first purl st, p1, work Chart C, p1, k25, p1, Chart C, p1, knit to the end of the round.

Repeat **Rounds 1 and 2** until there are 71 sts remaining.

**Next Round For Braid Cable Only:** K2tog, knit to first purl st, p1, work Chart A, p1, k23, p1, Chart A, p1, knit to the end of the round. *1 st decreased. 70 sts*

**Next Round For Classic Cable Only:** K2tog, knit to first purl st, p1, work Chart C, p1, k25, p1, Chart C, p1, knit to the end of the round. *1 st decreased. 70 sts*

*Arrange stitches so that there are 33 knit sts on the sole needle(s.) The other 37 sts, including the purls and cables, should be on the instep needle(s.)*

## Foot

**For Braid Cable Only:** Knit to first purl st, p1, work Chart A, p1, k23, p1, Chart A, p1, knit to the end of the round.

*Please Note:* I post my patterns as soon as I've completed them because I'm excited to share them with you. They have not been fully tested. But they are free. I've made every effort to make sure that the instructions are clear and error-free. There may be typos or pattern mistakes and if you find them or have any questions, **please** let me know by posting a comment at [dailyskein.wordpress.com](http://dailyskein.wordpress.com) or email me, [dailyskein@gmail.com](mailto:dailyskein@gmail.com).



This work by Cailyn Meyer is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License. October 2008.

**For Classic Cable Only:** Knit to first purl st, p1, work Chart C, p1, k25, p1, Chart C, p1, knit to the end of the round.

Repeat until foot reaches 2" shorter than desired length.

## Toe

Move the first and last purl stitches from the instep needle to the adjacent sole needle(s.) There should be 35 sts on the sole and 35 sts on the instep.

**Round 1:** Knit to 3 stitches before instep, k2tog, k2, ssk, knit to 3 sts before the end of the instep, k2tog, k2, ssk, knit to the end of the round. *4 sts decreased.*

**Round 2:** Knit.

Repeat **Round 1 and 2** until 18 sts remain (9 instep sts, 9 sole sts).

Knit to the end of the sole. Move stitches so that all sole stitches are on one needle and all instep stitches are on a second needle. Graft remaining sts together. Weave in ends and steam block lightly.



This work by Cailyn Meyer is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License. October 2008.