

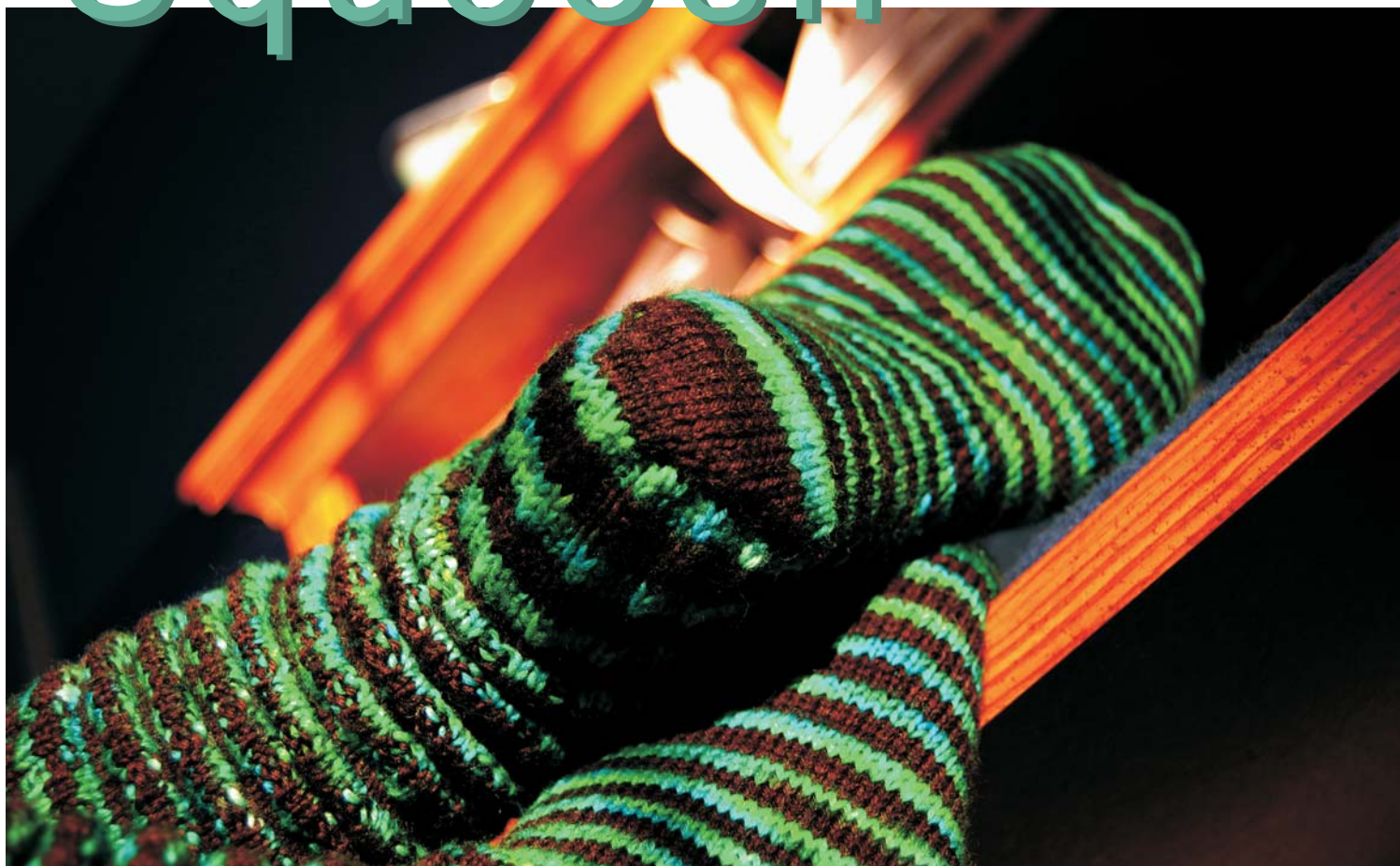
Before knitting this pair of socks, I had never worked with self-stripping yarn before. I wanted to design a pattern that showed off the stripes without wasting time knitting a bunch of fancy stitches that would be lost in this particular colorway. This was a little bit of a change of pace, since I normally find myself longing to knit fussy stitch patterns in fingering weight yarn.

I came up with Squoosh, which may just possibly be one of the easiest socks known to knit-kind. You may be able to knit it in your sleep (if so, I want to hear about it!). Squoosh features a chunky, corrugated heel, stealth ninja sole-gusset shaping, but most of all, infinitely fun squooshability. It's like wearing a soft, knitted Slinky around your legs!

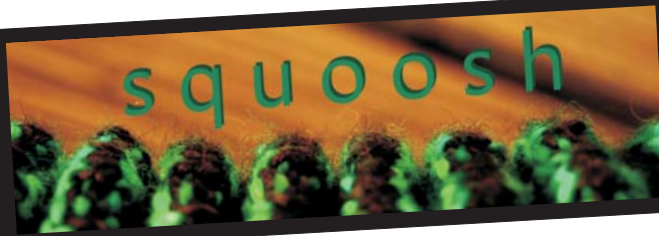
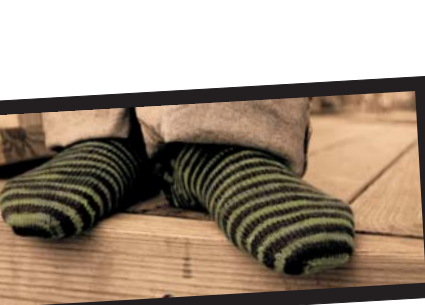
The yarn used in this pattern was dyed with love by Amy Schimel of Electric Sheep Fiber Arts. As soon as I saw this colorway ("Poison") I knew that it must be mine, at all costs. You're free to substitute whichever yarn you wish to use for this pattern - most fingering weight yarns should work well, I think - but I highly recommend that you check out yarns being dyed by indie dyers. There's nothing quite like working with yarn that you know was dyed with care by an actual person who loves fiber as much (if not more!) than yourself.

Go forth and knit yourself some Squoosh!

Squoosh



By Jacquelynn Vance-Kuss



1 size fits average women's foot

Yarn: 1 skein Electric Sheep Fiber Arts 400 yards Sock Yarn, colorway "Poison." 75% Superwash Merino Wool / 25% Nylon. You can find Electric Sheep Fiber Arts Yarn at Etsy:
http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user_id=29878

Needles: I like knitting socks on 12" Addi Turbo circular needles, which is what I used for this pair (except for the heel and toe, where I used DPNs). You can use DPNs, two circular needles, whatever floats your boat - this pattern is really easy, so it should be a piece of cake to adapt it to your standard sock knitting method.

The needle size I used was Addi sized 1, which is 2.5 mm in metric. Of course, use whatever size gets you proper gauge.

Other materials used: row counter, stitch markers (3), tapestry needle

Gauge: 9 sts/inch; 11 ½ rows/inch in stockinette stitch

These socks are knit from the cuff down.

Abbreviations:

CO...Cast on

DPNs...Double pointed needles

K...Knit

K2TOG...Knit 2 stitches together

P...Purl

P2TOG...Purl 2 stitches together

PM...Place stitch marker

Sl...Slip stitch purlwise, with yarn in back of work

SSK...Slip, slip, knit. Slip 2 stitches knitwise onto right needle, and then knit through the front of the two stitches together with the left needle.

Sts...Stitches

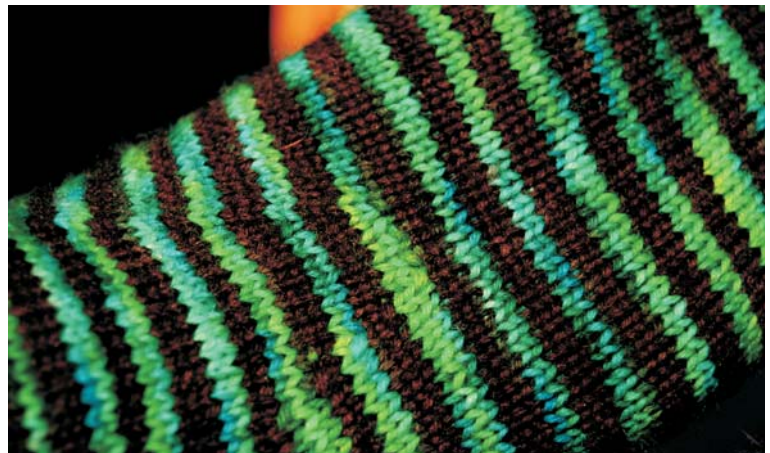


Instructions

1. Loosely CO 68 sts and join together in a round, placing stitch marker where round begins.
2. Knit 10 rounds in a *K2, P2* repeat for cuff ribbing.
3. Knit the following 10 rounds 8 times for a total of 80 rounds (or however long you desire the leg portion of the sock to be):
 - 1-6. Knit all stitches.
 - 7-10. *K2, P2* entire round.
4. After the leg portion has reached the desired length, knit the first stitch of the next round.
5. Now you'll begin the heel section. Repeat the following 2 rows 17 times for a total of 34 rows:
 1. Sl1, *K2, Sl2* x 8, K1, turn. (34 sts)
 2. Sl1, Purl to end, turn.
6. Next, you'll turn the heel. Knit the following 4 rounds:
 1. Sl1, K19, SSK, K1, turn.
 2. Sl1, P7, P2TOG, P1, turn.
 3. Sl1, Knit to within 1 st of gap, SSK, K1, turn.
 4. Sl1, Purl to within 1 st of gap, P2TOG, P1, turn.
7. Repeat rows 3 and 4 until all sts on the heel needle have been worked. The last two rows will end in the decreases (SSK and P2TOG). You should have 20 sts remaining on the heel needle.
8. Sl1, K19 on heel needle.
9. Pick up and knit 18 sts on each side of the heel flap, knitting in stockinette stitch (knitting every stitch) across the instep. From this point on, the remainder of the sock is knit in stockinette.
10. At this point, you should be at the beginning of the heel needle, and there should be 90 stitches in total on your needles. Knit 10 stitches from the heel needle and place a marker to denote the beginning of the round.
11. This next round will be the gusset set-up round. K16, PM, K every stitch until 16 stitches remain in round, PM, K to end.
12. The gusset decrease will be worked as follows. Repeat the next three rounds 14 times for a total of 42 rounds (62 sts will remain when the gusset decrease has finished):
 1. Knit to 2 sts before first gusset marker, K2TOG, slip marker, K to second gusset marker, slip marker, SSK, K to end (decrease of 2 sts per round).
 2. Knit all sts.
 3. Knit all sts.

To make your life easier, these are the rounds where you'll be working the decreases:

1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, 40.





13. When the gusset has been worked, you can remove your gusset stitchmarkers. Knit the foot of the sock in stockinette until the foot measures 2 ¼" shorter than your desired length.
14. Divide up your stitches onto 3 DPNs with 15 stitches on Needle 1, 31 sts on Needle 2, and 16 sts on Needle 3.
15. Repeat the next three rounds 5 times for a total of 15 rounds:
 1. Needle 1 - Knit to last three sts on needle, K2TOG, K1.
Needle 2 - K1, SSK, K to last 3 sts on needle, K2TOG, K1.
Needle 3 - K1, SSK, K to end.
 2. Knit all stitches.
 3. Knit all stitches.
16. Knit rounds 1 and 2 twice for a total of 4 rounds.
17. Knit round 1 until 22 sts remain on the needles. Knit across Needle 1. Break yarn, leaving a 20" tail, and Kitchener the two sets of sts together.
18. Knit matching sock!

Don't be afraid to adapt and adjust this pattern (or any pattern, really) to suit your yarn. The socks shown above in the upper right picture were knit using a combination of handspun merino/bamboo yarn and merino/tencel yarn (both dyed by Yarn Love). I was concerned about running out of yarn before I finished the pair of socks. In addition, my gauge was off. I made a few adjustments and the socks turned out just fine. Specifically, I shortened the leg a little bit, and instead of decreasing 2 stitches per every 3 rounds at the gusset, I decreased 2 stitches every two rounds. So feel free to make the toe shorter, the leg longer, use a different heel, etc. The important thing is that they wind up fitting and that you love them!

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