

# Christmas in Tucson stocking

## Terms:

SSK: A left leaning decrease, slip one stitch, then slip the next. Insert left needle through the front of both stitches and knit.

**Gauge:** 7 stitches / 11 rows = 1 inch.

## Materials:

- Knit Picks' Palette: One ball each of Green, Lilac, Black, White, Twig, Ash, Fog, Apricot, Yellow, Fawn and Orange.

- Two balls each of Sky and Red.

- One set of four US #2 double pointed needles.

- One yard of fabric for lining.

- Stitch markers

- A small crochet hook to make the loop.

## Pattern notes:

To make this Christmas stocking you will need 12 colors of fingering-weight yarn. I used Knit Picks' Palette yarn. I got a gauge of 7 stitches per inch on US 2s. You will need small

amounts of yarn for the chart colors and about 350 yards each of light blue and red (for the body of the stocking).

I lined the inside of my stocking with fabric so I wouldn't have to weave in approximately 300 gazillion ends. I would highly recommend this step. I also crocheted a little loop to hang my stocking from and sewed it in with the lining.

This pattern is for moderately advanced knitters — HOWEVER — if the colorwork scares you I would consider knitting the stocking without the chart or choosing one motif from the chart to knit (like the Saguaro). You could also knit the chart into something else, like a pillow.

## Cuff:

Using RED, cast on 141 stitches and divide evenly over 4 DPNs.

Place marker at beginning of round and join, being careful not to twist the stitches.



Begin working in seed stitch: Row 1 = K1, P1. Row 2 = P1, K1. Repeat rounds 1 and 2 for 3 inches, then knit in stockinette stitch (knit every row) for 1½ inches.

## Body:

Continue in BLUE for 2½ inches.

With BLUE, knit across 48 stitches, then begin working chart. (Hint: It helps if you move all the chart stitches to one DPN.)

NOTE: You will be knitting the body of the stocking in BLUE, then using intarsia to knit the colorwork chart. There will be many, many ends — do not panic. You will be lining the stocking so you don't have to test your mental state by weaving in 300 billion ends.

The chart is 45 stitches wide, by 90 rows tall. Work the chart from left to right. After you have finished working the chart, knit to beginning of round marker then K2tog. Continue in BLUE and knit in stock-

inette for three more rounds.

## Heel flap:

Using RED and starting at beginning of round, knit 70 stitches. Put these stitches on two needles, they will be your heel flap. Turn.

Row 1: Sl1, purl across the row.

Row 2: \*Sl1, k1 across. Repeat these two rows 35 times (there will be 70 rows and 35 chain selvedge stitches.)

## Turn the heel:

Knit across 47 heel stitches, ssk, turn.

WS: Sl1, purl across 24 stitches, P2tog, turn.

RS: Sl1, knit across 25 stitches, ssk, turn.

Continue decreasing on either side of gaps until all heel stitches have been worked. You will have 26 stitches left.

Knit 13 stitches with RED. With BLUE and a new needle, knit the final 13 stitches of the heel then pick up and knit 35 stitches along heel

flap. This is Needle 1.

Knit across half of instep stitches with another needle (Needle 2) and the other half with a third needle (Needle 3). Using Needle 4, pick up and knit 35 stitches along the other side of the heel flap. Then, using the same needle, knit 13 stitches from the remaining heel stitches.

Knit one round even.

On the next round, work a decrease round as follows: Needle 1: Knit to last three stitches, K2tog, K1.

Needle 2: Knit.

Needle 3: Knit.

Needle 4: K1, ssk, knit to end of needle.

Alternate decrease rounds and even rounds until you have 140 stitches left.

Knit even until the foot is 8 inches long.

## Toe:

Begin decreasing for toe.

Change to RED.

Decrease round:

Needle 1: Knit to last three stitches, K2tog.

Needle 2: K1, ssk, knit to end of needle.

Needle 3: Knit to last three stitches, K2tog.

Needle 4: K1, ssk, knit to end of needle.

Knit one decrease round, then one plain round 18 times (36 total rows, there will be 68 stitches remaining).

Then, begin decreasing every row, 10 times — 28 stitches remain.

Put 14 stitches on one needle and 14 on another. With WS facing use Kitchener stitch to graft the toe together.

## Finishing:

Block your stocking — the colorwork needs to be blocked and you don't want to do it after you finish lining it.

Line your stocking, add a loop (I crocheted one, you could knit an I-cord or make one from fabric — whatever suits you.)

Hang your fabulous Christmas in Tucson Stocking from a mantle, sit back and breathe a sigh of relief because you only have to knit one.

Happy Holidays.

