

# The Turku Stockings



The Turku stockings, knit with fine silk yarn, date back to c. 1650. The stockings are part of the collection of The Turku Cathedral Museum, Finland.

The leg of the long stocking is decorated with a diamond-patterned back seam running from the cuff to the tip of the heel. The first part of the seam pattern (Chart A) is knitted at the beginning of the round, the second part (Chart B) at the end of the round. The decreases and increases next to the back seam follow the shape of the leg closely, giving the stocking a perfect fit.

The most striking decorative feature of the stocking is the clock, large decorative pattern on both sides of the ankle. Half-diamond patterned decorations run along the edges of the heel flap and the instep. Gusset decreases continue all the way through the foot, and shaping of the foot is done by increases on the sole, forming a widening wedge towards the toes.

Please note that in addition to this pattern there is also a two-part table with stitch and row counts to help the knitter to understand the structure of the stocking, providing practical help when knitting.

## Materials and notions

150 g fine yarn, e. g. Vuorelma kampalanka (1650 m /100 g) or reeled silk floss with little or no twist  
Double pointed needles 0,7 mm or 1,0 mm, a crochet hook in similar size and stitch markers (optional)

**Gauge:** 8 sts and 12 rnds = 1 cm in stockinette (80 sts and 120 rnds = 10 cm in stockinette)

## Size

One size, middle back length of the stocking 61 cm from the cast-on edge to the tip of the heel, ankle circumference 24 cm and foot circumference 38 cm. Footlength 24 cm.

## Abbreviations and key to the charts

k – knit

k2tog – knit 2 stitches together

p – purl

p2tog – purl 2 stitches together

RLI – right-leaning lifted increase = pick up and knit the right leg of the stitch directly below the first stitch on your left needle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHzZ8JXjwr4>

RS – right side




st(s) – stitch, stitches

skpo – slip one stitch knitwise, knit on the next stitch, pick the slipped stitch and pass it over the knitted stitch

WS – wrong side

\* \* - repeat

### Key to the charts

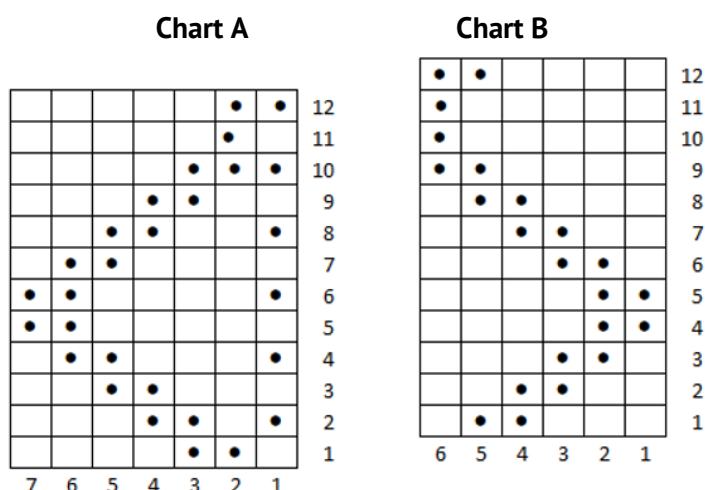
	RS: knit WS:purl
	RS: purl WS: knit
	knit through back loop

### Cuff and leg

Cast on 288 sts. A cast-on edge similar to the original stocking can be created with the cast-on technique explained at the end of this pattern; you may also use other methods. Divide stitches evenly on four needles (or two, if using magic-loop) and join for working in the round. The beginning of round is at the back of the leg.

Work \*k8, p8 \* ribbing for 8 rounds. Purl 1 round.

Begin the diamond pattern on the back of the leg following Charts A and B: work Chart A, knit until 6 sts remain before the end of the round, work Chart B. Both charts are repeated only once per round. Please note that Chart A is worked over 7 stitches, Chart B over 6 stitches.



After knitting rounds 1–10, begin the thigh-decreases: work row 11 of Chart A, k2tog, knit until you have 8 sts before the end of the round, k2tog, work row 11 Chart B. You now have 286 sts.

Continue repeating Charts A and B (rows 1–12), and at the same time repeat the decreases as described above on every 10th row. Continue as established until you have repeated the decreases 29

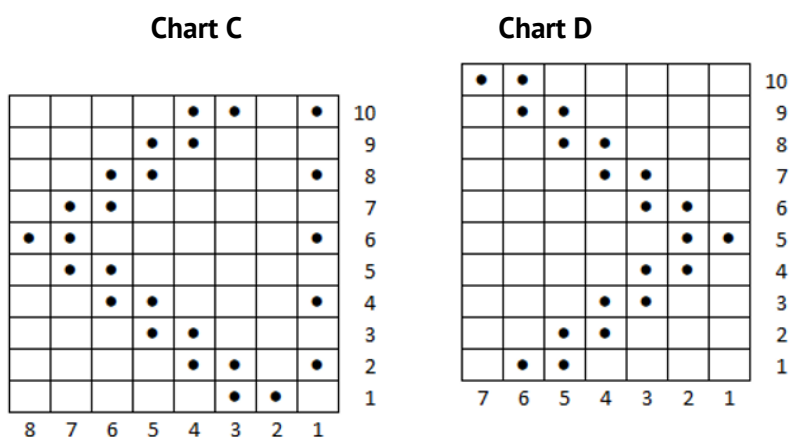
times. The stocking now has 230 sts, and you have last worked row 3 of the Charts A and B. Work the remaining rounds until you've finished the charts. You now have 25 repeats of the diamond pattern.

The stocking should now reach well below the knee, and you can begin the leg increases. The increases are worked as follows: work row 1 of Chart A, increase 1 s, knit until 6 sts remain before the end of the round, increase 1 s, work row 1 of Chart B. You now have 232 sts. Continue repeating Charts A and B, and at the same time work the increases as described above every 6th row. Work the increases total 6 times. You now have 242 sts.

Work 46 rounds with no increases, repeating the charts. After the straight section of the leg you have last finished row 5 of the Charts on the 32th repeat of the diamond pattern.

Continue working charts A and B and work the first set of leg decreases: work row 6 of Chart A, k2tog, knit until 8 sts remains, k2tog, work row 6 of Chart B. Work rows 7-12 of the charts. Charts A and B are worked 32 times total. You now have 240 sts.

The diamond pattern of the leg continues, but at this point the charts change slightly. Chart C replaces Chart A, Chart D replaces Chart B.



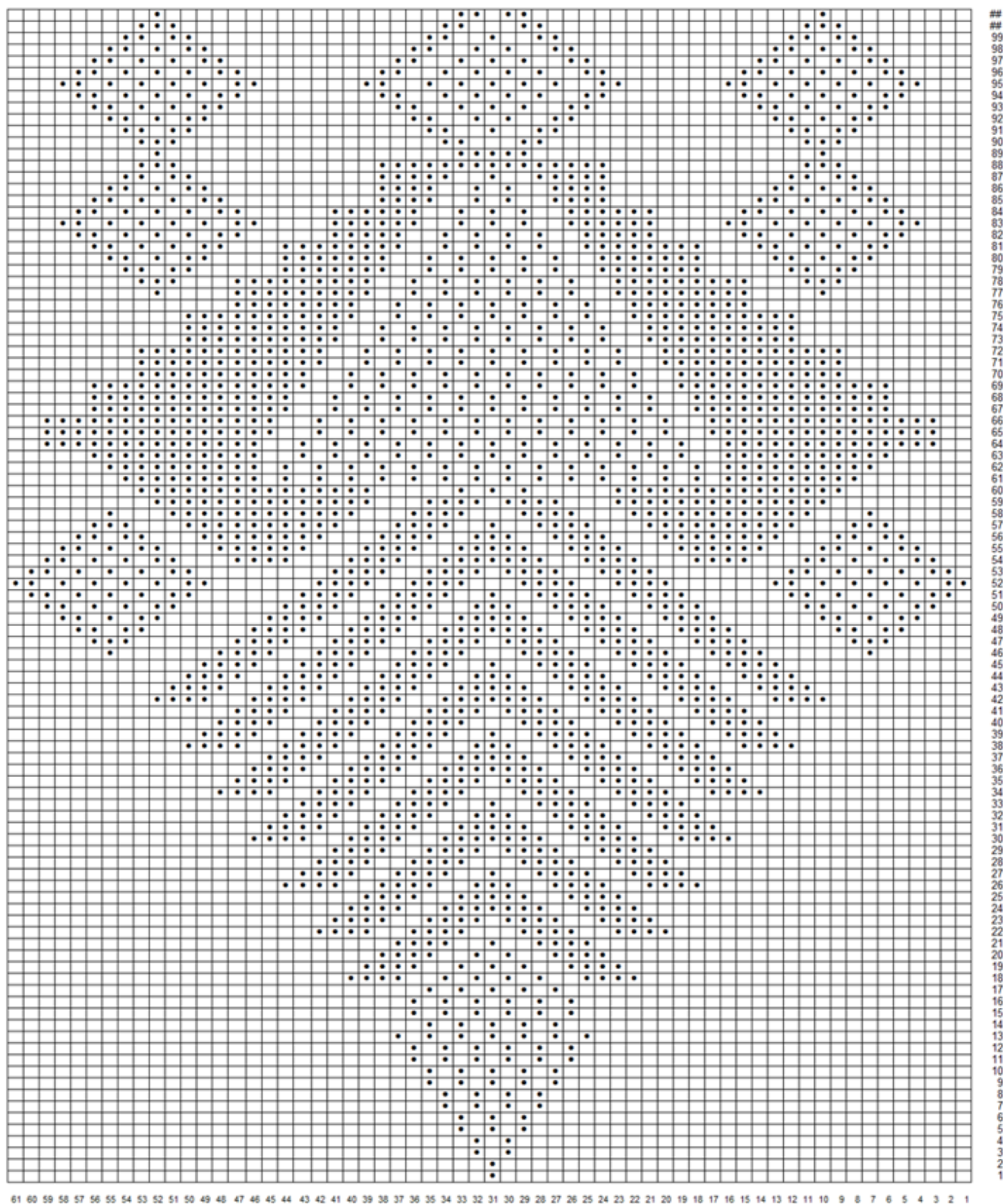
Repeat the leg decreases every 8th round, starting from row 2 of Charts C and D. Work the decrease round as follows: work Chart C, k2tog, knit until 9 sts remains before the end of the round, k2tog, work Chart D. Work the decreases every 8th row 11 times total. You now have 220 sts. The last round worked is row 8 of the charts.

### The clock

On the next round (row 463 of the stocking) begin the clock pattern: knit row 9 of the Chart C, k23, work row 1 of Chart E (sts 1-61), k37, work row 1 of Chart E (sts 1-61), k23, work row 9 of Chart D. Continue as established until you've worked rows 1-101 of Chart E. At the same time continue the leg decreases every 10th round (rounds 10, 20, 30 etc. of Chart E). The leg decreases are worked 21 times total.

On the last row of the ankle (row 563 of the stocking, row 9 of the 50th repeat of the diamond pattern) knit until 51 sts remain before the end of the row. The 97 sts last knitted will now wait until the heel is finished, and you can transfer them onto waste yarn.

Chart E





## Heel

The heel flap is worked back and forth on both sides of the center back (beginning of the round): the first 52 sts and the last 51 sts of the round. The heel flap has 103 sts.

The heel flap is decorated with an edging of half-diamond pattern and twisted stitches (Charts F and G). The diamond pattern of the back seam continues up to the tip of the heel.

Before starting the heel, work to the end of the row. Work row 10 of Chart C, knit 44 sts.

Turn. Start the heel with a WS row with the 103 sts last worked. The edging of the heel flap is worked according to Charts G and F.

Chart G

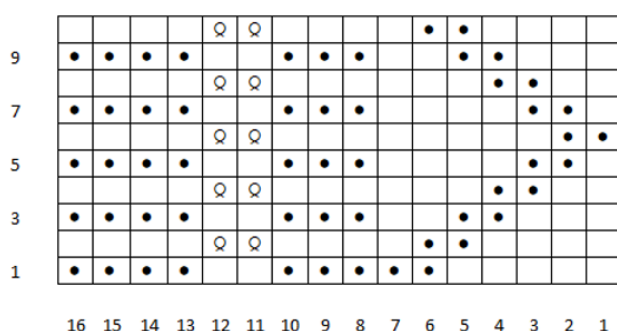
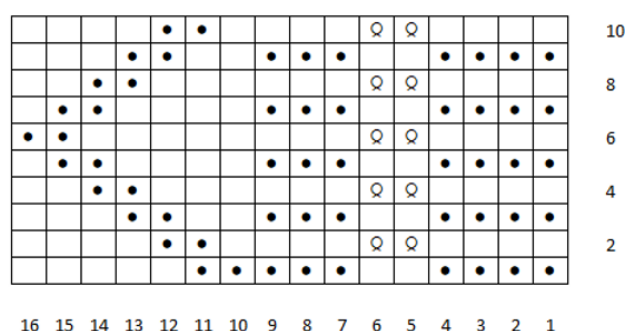


Chart F



On the WS rows the order of the charts is G, C, D, and F from left to right: work Chart G, purl until 7 sts remain before the center back (beginning of round), work charts C and D, purl until 16 sts remain, work Chart F. On the RS rows work Chart F, knit until 6 sts remain before the center back, work charts D and C, knit until 16 sts remain, work Chart G.

On row 8 of charts F and G, begin the decreases on both sides of the back seam pattern (Charts C and D). On a decrease row, work Chart F, knit until 2 sts remain before Chart D, k2tog, work Charts D and D, skpo, knit until 16 sts remain, work chart G.

Work the heel flap decreases every 10<sup>th</sup> row 15 times total.

On the heel lap the charts C, D, F and G are repeated 15 times total, after that rows 1-6 of the charts are knitted once. The diamond patterns end here.

## Heel decreases

Work the heel decreases as follows:

1. row (RS): knit sts 1–9 of Chart F, knit until 9 sts remain before the center st of the heel flap, k2tog, k7, p1, k7, skpo, knit until 9 sts remain, knit sts 8–16 of Chart G, turn.
  2. row (WS): work sts 8–16 of Chart G, purl until 9 sts remain before the center st, p2tog, p15, p2tog, purl until 9 sts remain, work sts 1–9 of Chart F, turn.
- Repeat rows 1 and 2 until 65 sts remain.

On the next row, work until the center stitch but do not decrease. Fold the heel flap in two RS facing out. Use three-needle bind off (or similar technique) to knit the remaining heel flap stitches (65 sts) together starting from the center. After the bind off you should have 1 st on the needle. Do not cut the yarn.

## Foot



The foot is knitted in the round. The shaping is different from a typical modern sock, and is achieved by both decreasing (gusset decreases) and increasing (sole increases) at the same time.

If you wish, you can use stitch markers to separate the 97 instep stitches from the gusset stitches. Alternatively, you can arrange the stitches so that instep sts are on their own needle(s), the stitches picked up from the edges of the heel flap each side on their own needle. The instep has a decorative band with half diamond pattern on the other side (Charts H and I). The beginning of the round is the center of the sole. The first stitch of the round is the stitch you have left after the 3-needle bind-off.

The gusset decreases are worked all the way through the foot, in the beginning on every round, later on every second round. In the original stockings the gusset decreases are symmetrical in the beginning: k2tog on the right side, skpo on the left, but later on decreases on both sides are worked k2tog.

The sole of the stocking is shaped by a widening panel edged by 1-stitch wide decorative bands (knitted and purled stitches on alternate rows). The increases used on the sole are right-leaning lifted increases (RLI).

Towards the toe the instep decorative patterns continue as plain bands with decreases on both sides. The last stitches are grafted together.

## Gusset and gusset decreases

After the 3-needle bind-off of the heel flap you have 1 st left on your needle. Pick up the yarn loop between the left edge of the heel flap and the following stitch from the wrong side. There are similar loops on every second row of the heel flap, pick up all 80 loops on the wrong side of left edge.

Slip the live stitch left from the bind off and knit the picked up loops as follows:

1. Knit 3 loops so that the edge st of the heel flap is on the RS.
  2. Pick up one more loop between the stitch you've just knitted and the next loop, knit that loop.
- Repeat 1 and 2 all the through the heel flap. After the last extra loop there are only two loops to be knitted.

Now you have 106 sts knitted on the side of the heel.

Work the instep stitches as follows: p3, k2, p3, knit until 8 instep sts remain, p3, k2, p3.

Pick up and knit the loops from the right edge of the heel flap using the same method as you did on the left edge.

You now have 310 sts.

Work the set-up row for the gusset decreases: k3, p1 (this purl stitch is from now on called 'the decorative stitch'), knit until 2 sts picked up from the edge of the heel remain, k2tog, work row S of Chart H, knit until 17 sts of the instep remain, work row S of Chart I, skpo, knit until 3 sts remain, p1 (second decorative stitch), k2.

After the set-up row work **the gusset decreases**:

Gusset decrease round 1: knit until the decorative stitch, knit the decorative stitch, knit until 1 st remains before the gusset decrease, k2tog, work Chart H (row 1), knit until 17 instep sts remain, work Chart I, skpo, knit until the decorative stitch, knit the decorative stitch, knit until the end of the round.

Gusset decrease round 2: knit until the decorative stitch, purl the decorative stitch, knit until 1 st remains before the before the gusset decrease, k2tog, work Chart H, knit until 17 instep sts remain, work Chart I (row 1), skpo, knit until the decorative stitch, purl the decorative stitch, knit until the end of the round.



Chart I

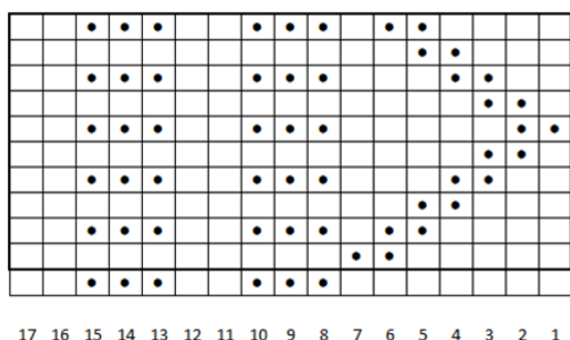
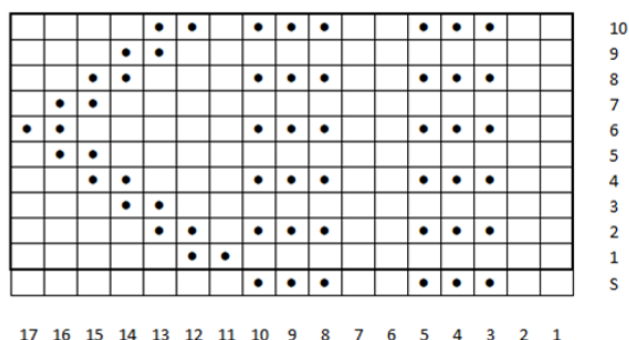


Chart H



Repeat gusset decrease rows 1 and 2 for 12 more times. Work gusset decrease row 1 once more. You now have 258 sts, the gusset decreases have been worked 26 times total.

From now on work the sole increases (while at the same time continuing the gusset decreases) to shape the foot.

Work the first **sole increase round**: knit until 1 st remains before the decorative stitch, RLI, k1, between the decorative bands continue as established, k1, RLI, knit the remaining sole sts.

Work the sole increase round once after 8 rounds, 6 times every 6<sup>th</sup> round, 6 times every 5<sup>th</sup> round, 5 times every 4<sup>th</sup> round, once after 3 rounds and once after 2 rounds. The sole increases are worked 21 times total.

When decreasing and increasing at the same time, it very easily happens that you forget some of the increases. Don't be too harsh on yourself: if you miss the increases on one round, just work them on the

next one. This causes some unevenness in the placement of the increases or decreases, but this seems to have happened to the knitter of the 17th century originals as well. Just make sure the right number of sole increases is worked before the repeats of the instep patterns are finished.

While working the increases on the sole, continue repeating the gusset decrease rows 1 and 2 until you have a total of 64 repeats. From now on, work the gusset decrease row 1 on every second row, alternating with rows with no decreases, knitting the previous decrease stitch.

Continue gusset decreases and sole increases until you have worked the gusset decreases 95 times on each side, and there are 7 stitches between the decorative stitch and the gusset decrease stitch on each side.

At the same time work rounds 1–10 of Charts H and I total 5 times on the instep. From now on the instep is shaped by decreases on every second repeat of Charts H and I (6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> repeat). The decreases can be made either on the first or the third row of the chart: Knit together the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> stitch of Chart H and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> stitch of Chart I. Continue the half-diamond pattern as per charts.

On the instep work rows 1–10 of charts H and I 12 times total. Knit rounds 1–6 once. The work has now 89 instep sts and 65 sole sts. The sole stitches consist of the 47 sts increased and on both sides the decorative stitch, the gusset decrease stitch and the 7 sts between them. The foot has 154 sts total. The different number of stitches of the sole and the instep will be evened out during the toe decreases.

### Toe decreases

While working the toe decreases continue working the pattern on the instep (sts 1–10 of Chart H and sts 8–17 of Chart I).



Work the toes decreases as follows:

Round 1: knit until 2 sts remain before st 1 of Chart H, k2tog, work stitches 1–10 of Chart H, k2tog, knit until 2 sts remain before st 8 of Chart I, k2tog, work sts 8–17 of Chart I, k2 tog, knit until end of the row.

Round 2: work as established until the instep pattern, work the instep pattern as per Chart H, knit until the second instep pattern, work as per Chart I, continue as established, purling the decorative st.

Alternate rounds 1 and 2 total 8 times (16 rounds).

Work a special decrease round: knit until 2 sts remain before the instep pattern, repeat \*k2tog\* 3 times, repeat \*k1, k2tog\* 2 times, knit until 2 sts remain before the instep pattern, repeat \*k2tog\* 2 times, repeat \*k1, k2tog\* 2 times, repeat \*k2tog\* 2 times, knit to the end of the round. From now on knit 6 sts instead of the instep patterns ('6-stitch band').

Knit one round.

Continue the toe increases alternating two rounds:



Round 1: knit until 2 sts remain before the 6-stitch band, k2tog, k6, k2tog, knit until 2 sts remain before the next 6-stitch band, k2tog, k6, k2tog, knit to the end of the round

Round 2: knit all stitches

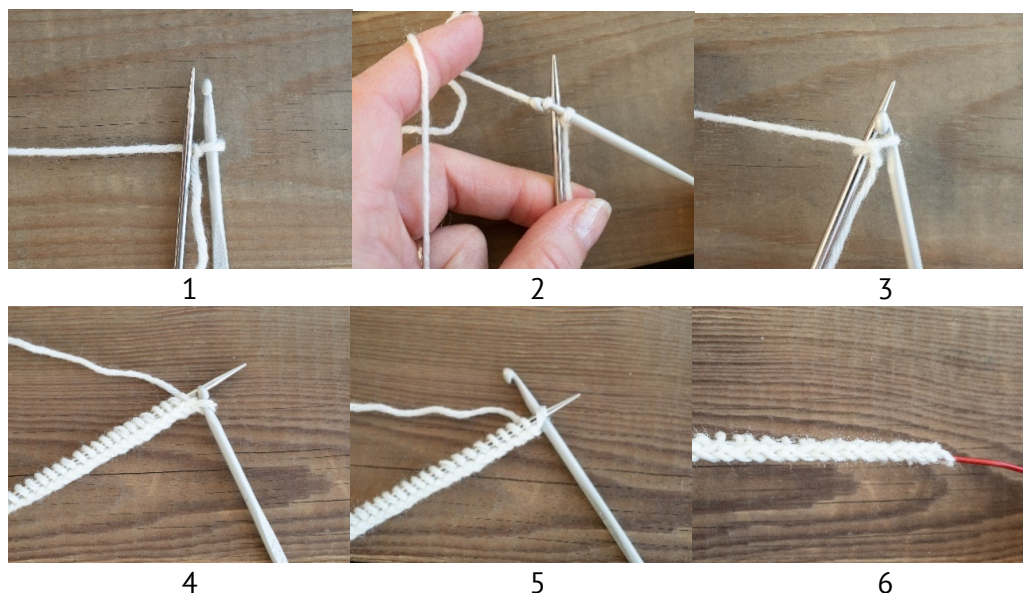
Repeat these two rounds until 50 sts remain. Finish the decreases as follows: knit until the center of the 6-stitch band, k2tog, k1, k2tog, knit until 2 sts remain before the next 6-stitch band, k2tog, k1, k2tog, knit until the end of the round. You now have 46 sts. Knit 12 sts.

Cut the yarn leaving a tail of c. 35 cm. Graft the sole stitches and instep stitches together.

## Cast-on

This cast-on technique is easier if using a crochet hook, but can be done with two knitting needles as well. The illustration shows the technique with a crochet hook, just use a knitting needle in its place if you wish.

1. Make a starting stitch, bring your knitting needle next to it. (You can also cast the stitches on two needles held together for a more elastic cast-on edge.)
2. Bring the yarn behind the needle and use the crochet hook/working needle to bring it to the front.
3. Pull the yarn through the loop on the hook/working needle.
4. Repeat 2 and 3, until you have one stitch less than the desired stitch count.
5. Bring yarn behind the knitting needle, transfer the loop on the hook/working needle onto the knitting needle.
6. The resulting cast-on edge is neat and even.



**Pattern and translation** Liisa Kylmänen, Anna Mäkilä, Virpi Tarvo, Riina Vuokko.

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