



## Toe-up Bolts

I came up with the idea for this sock pattern while knitting socks with left-over sock yarn. I loved the stripes and putting two colors together, but hated weaving in the ends. Then I thought, why not some type of “stranded” knitting where I don’t have to weave in the ends or twist any floats?? Is that possible? It is! I give you Bolts.

**Materials:** Left-over sock yarn (fingering weight). You can use one variegated and one solid, or any combination you like. You probably should have at least 150 yards of each color, but a little more or a little less is fine. Remember, these are toe-ups so you can stop the leg at any time.

**Needles:** My **Gauge** is 8 stitches to 1” in stockinette, using size 2 dpns. Use whatever size gives you this gauge. You can make these socks using dpns, Magic Loop or the Two Circulars method, whatever works for you.

### Key:

KFB (increase)  
PFB (increase)  
SSK (decrease)

K2Tog (decrease)  
SL1  
P2Tog (decrease)

Knit one through the front and back of the stitch.  
Purl one through the front and back of the stitch.  
Slip two stitches as if to knit, insert left needle into the front of the two stitches and knit them together.  
Knit the next two stitches together.  
Slip the next stitch as if to purl.  
Purl the next two stitches together.

Starting with variegated yarn (V), cast on 20 stitches using the Turkish, Nancy’s Magic, Figure 8, or whatever method works for you. This will make the toe a little pointy, which I like. You may not. If that’s the case, cast on more, just make sure you increase by 4, such as 24 or 28 stitches. You will have 5 stitches on each needle (dnp) or 10 stitches in front and 10 stitches in back (circular). Knit two rounds and mark the beginning of the round with a stitch marker.

**(1) Increase Round:** (front stitches) K1, KFB, knit to the second to last stitch, KFB, K1 (back stitches) K1, KFB, knit to the second last stitch, KFB, K1. You’ve increased 4.

**(2)** Knit the next round.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 56 stitches (14 on each dpn or 28 in front and 28 in back).

Next round (front stitches) knit; (back stitches) K1, KFB, knit to the second to last stitch, KFB, K1. You've increased the back stitches by two and you now have 58 stitches total (28 in front and 30 in back). You will need these extra stitches in the back (sole, heel and back of leg area) to make up for any tightness that comes from doing the stranded knitting on the front stitches.

### **Bolt Stranded Pattern:**

**(Beginning Round)** Next round K10 V and then leave it hang there, switch to solid yarn (S) and knit to the end of the round.

Next round K3 S, K10 V (pick up the V strand and move it to where it needs to be to start knitting – loosely), switch to S (pick up the S strand and move it to where it needs to be to start knitting – loosely) and knit to the end of the round. See #1 and #2



#1



#2

Next round K6 S, K10 V (pick up the V strand and move it to where it needs to be to start knitting – loosely), switch to S (pick up the S strand and move it to where it needs to be to start knitting – loosely) and knit to the end of the round.

Continue in this manner until you've traveled across the front 28 stitches, ending with the last three stitches being V. Remember, only the front stitches have the bolt pattern. The back stitches are plain. See #3.



#3

Don't worry about weaving the floats. Because you are doing a "backward" stranded knitting you are actually weaving around the floats as you go.

Next round K15 S (note you will still have three S stitches before the V starts), switch to V and knit those 3 and 7 more to end up with 10 V, switch to S and knit to the end of the round. See #4



#4

Next round (front stitches) K12 S, K10 V, K6 S, (back stitches) KS to the end of the round.

Next round: K9 S, K10V, KS to the end of the round.

Continue in this manner until you have 10 V stitches at the beginning of the front stitches.

Next Round: Start with **Beginning Round** again.

Continue with the Bolt Pattern until you are 3 ½ inches short of where you want your heel to be. I used a modified gusset and a slip-stitch heel that is wider and longer than most heels. It fits my medium-sized heel very well. Hopefully you will like this heel as well. See #5.



**Gusset:** The gusset is worked on the back stitches, but you will also still be knitting on the front stitches with the bolt pattern as well while knitting the gusset.

**(1) Increase Round:** (front stitches) K28 in bolt pattern, (back stitches) K1, KFB, knit to the second last stitch, KFB, K1. You've increased 2 on the back stitches.

**(2)** Knit the next round.

Repeat these two rounds until you have 56 back stitches. You will still have 28 front stitches.

At this point you will want to decide whether you want a variegated heel or a solid heel. If you choose a variegated heel you will have to cut the yarn strands a few times because the floats will be too long to strand them. This is not as bad as it sounds because you can use those (I believe there are 4 strands) to close up any holes you may end up having at the sides of the gussets. Your decision can also depend on how much variegated and how much solid yarn you have. For variegated heel and flap, while knitting the heel if you come to a part where you need to use your variegated or solid yarn and it is on the other side, cut it and start using it again where you need it.

**Turn the Heel:** The heel is worked on the back stitches. You will not be knitting the front stitches as you turn the heel. Also, you may choose to wrap and turn your short rows. I did not wrap mine and I feel the heel turns out fine. Do what suits you.

Row 1 (RS) K37, KFB, K1, turn  
Row 2 (WS) P22, PFB, P1, turn  
Row 3 K20, KFB, K1, turn  
Row 4 P18, PFB, P1, turn  
Row 5 K16, KFB, K1, turn  
Row 6 P14, PFB, P1, turn  
Row 7 K12, KFB, K1, turn  
Row 8 P10, PFB, P1, turn

You now have 64 back stitches.

After your "turn" in Row 8, knit across the remaining back stitches to the end of the round.

Knit across the front stitches in the bolt pattern.

**Slip-Stitch Heel Flap:** You will again be working on only the back stitches to create the slip-stitch heel flap.

Row 1 (RS) K45, SSK, turn



Row 2 (WS) SL1, P27, P2Tog, turn  
Row 3 [SL1, K1] 14 times, SSK, turn

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 until all but one of the back stitches have been worked, and you once again have 30 back stitches. One back stitch will not be worked on one end so that you will end up with 30 back stitches.

**Leg:** Start knitting in the round again, using the bolt pattern on the front stitches, until you are ready to make your cuff. I like to end the leg when I have the bolt pattern at one end or the other so I don't have to cut the yarn and can strand my variegated to where I need it to start the cuff, but you can end it wherever you like.

**Cuff:** Using V, K1P1 ribbing for 1 ½ inches or as long as you like it.



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