

Argyle notes

Firstly, it helps if you have the 90 degree and the 45 degree quadrants marked on your CSM. So in other words, the 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock and 12 o'clock positions, and in another colour the positions in the middle of those (half 1, half 4, half 7, half 10). I've used blue nail varnish for the o'clocks and pink for the intermediate.

Divide your cylinder into 4 - for my 72 cylinder, that's 18 x 4. If you have a cylinder that doesn't divide into 4 evenly (eg 54) you'll have to work one diamond over 13 and one diamond over 14 needles. It's worth practising this with some waste yarn so you get the general principle - you can also experiment with how you wrap the yarn. You can work more diamonds, of course - but more diamonds means more work!

I developed this method so as to create as few yarn ends as possible. However, if you prefer, break the yarn after every triangle / diamond and weave the tail in later. You might find this basic recipe is a bit "gappy" between diamonds, depending on the yarn. If this is a problem, try wrapping the yarn behind the nearest held needle on each pass.

I also found that the diamonds and triangles were liable to leap off if not properly weighted, especially when only working on a few needles, and as the centre of gravity is changing rapidly the heel fork might be a bit fiddly to keep repositioning. I found that a fork from the kitchen was just the thing if pressed down from the inside of the sock. Now of course I'm looking for a smaller fork with tines that match the gauge of my sock yarn! One of the CSMers from the Bristol event had fashioned a "pushing down" device from a dog brush (which had rubber tines in a grid pattern) - sorry, I forget who - so that is also an option if your yarn is delicate.

Abbreviations:

Hold: Needle fully up and out of work
WP: Needle in working position

CCW: Counterclockwise
CW: Clockwise

N: Needle(s)
rnd: round

1. Get your sock started in whatever way you usually do, eg a hem or ribbing, so that it is evenly weighted. Knit at least one plain round (I like two), stopping at the 6 o'clock position - start putting all needles from 3 o'clock CCW into hold. Crank to 3 o'clock, put remaining Ns into hold and change your yarn here if you are going to, by tying it onto the live end and pulling it through into the centre of the cylinder - all Ns are in hold.
2. **BASE TRIANGLES (^)**: Return all the Ns from 3 o'clock to 12 o'clock (ccw) to WP, ensuring latches are open. Put your heel spring into work. Pull new yarn through the gap at 3 o'clock (if using new yarn). Crank one round CCW
3. Pull the next N to be knitted in the CW direction up into hold. Crank one rnd CW
4. Pull the next N to be knitted in the CCW direction up into hold. Crank one rnd CCW.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until the next pass would mean only 2 Ns left in work - hint, if you've done it correctly, there should be one needle either side of the half o'clock mark). Before cranking, put the next quadrant working Ns CCW into work (ie all Ns CCW **from the Ns left standing** to 9 o'clock). Crank one round CCW

6. Put all Ns 12 o'clock - 3 o'clock CW up into hold (ie now only working on 9-12 quadrant).
7. Repeat steps 3 - 6 until all four triangles have been completed. On last pass, instead of returning next batch of needles to WP, just knit the 2 remaining needles, and put them into hold. Tie on new yarn, crank around to 6 o'clock (all Ns in hold).
8. **DIAMONDS ♦**: Put 2 Ns into WP, one either side of the 3 o'clock position. Pull new yarn through gap south of first N. Crank one rnd CCW.
9. Put next N working CCW into WP. Holding the latch open, crank one rnd CW
10. Put next N working CW into WP. Holding the latch open, crank one rnd CCW
11. Repeat steps 9 and 10 until all Ns between your 45 degree quadrant marks (ie half one and half four) are in work.
12. Put the next N to be knitted in the CW direction up into hold. Crank one rnd CW
13. Put the next N to be knitted in the CCW direction up into hold. Crank one rnd CCW.
14. Repeat steps 11 and 12 until the next pass would mean only 2 Ns left in work. Before cranking, put the next quadrant working CCW into work (ie all Ns CCW to 12 o'clock), plus one N past 12 o'clock. Crank one rnd CCW.
15. Put all Ns up into hold, except the ones either side of 12 o'clock (2N in work). Crank one rnd CW
16. Repeat steps 9 -14 until all four diamonds have been completed. On last pass, just knit remaining 2 Ns then put into hold. Tie on new yarn.
17. **SUCCESSIVE DIAMONDS ♦**: These are worked in exactly the same way as in steps 8-16, except that you start by working on the 2 needles either side of the half 1 quadrant mark, ie the shortest points of the previous rounds of diamonds. Repeat until 4 diamonds have been knitted.
18. Repeat knitting diamonds until desired length has been reached, ie work 4 diamonds over the o'clock positions, and then 4 diamonds over the half o'clock positions
19. **FINAL TRIANGLES (v)**: Put 2 Ns into WP, with 1 N either side of the gap between previous two diamonds. Pull new yarn through gap as before. Crank one rnd CCW.
20. Put next N working CCW into WP. Holding the latch open, crank one rnd CW
21. Put next N working CW into WP. Holding the latch open, crank one rnd CCW
22. Repeat steps 20 and 21 until all Ns between your current quadrant marks (ie a quarter of your Ns) are in work. On last pass, put the next batch of Ns into work, plus one past the next gap between diamonds.
23. Next pass, put all Nds into work except the two nearest the cam.
24. Repeat steps 20-23 until all 4 triangles have been knitted. On last pass, put all needles into WP and continue with your sock as normal, taking the heel spring off and setting the row counter.

Happy knitting!

With thanks to Roxana Baechle for her argyle basics pattern, and Eric Wolff for his diced hose notes - I used them as inspiration and will investigate them further when I get a round tuit. :)