

# ARAGORN

End 2009, the members of the Yahoo-group “Sokken Breien” (knitting socks) walked their sock path. A mystery sock, with instructions in four separate parts that eventually formed the complete pattern. These adventurers didn't know at the start where the path would lead them...

One of the travelers chose the name “Aragorn” for this sock, Aragorn being one of the nine members of the Fellowship in the book ‘Lord of the Rings’

He completes his ordeal with drive and determination, Modest inspite the grandeur of his true being. The quiet and simple traveller, an almost invisible being who accomplishes a hard and testing path in a very special way.

Inspiring, full of hope and inner light

Aragorn is a sock with unexpected elements. You leave the common path, follow the trail and trust the clues. Eventually you will arrive at your destination: you knitted a unique sock.



## *needed skills and properties*

- Be familiar with knitting socks
- Be familiar with reading charts
- Be curious and adventurous
- Link and combine clues

## Learning new techniques?

Have a look at these video's!

- ML & MR: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYOYMJBGxrw>
- Magic loop: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtBSmxGomPk>
- Cables without a cable needle:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fokn\\_CJp4EY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fokn_CJp4EY)
- How to read charts:  
<http://www.knitfoundry.com/tutorial/HowToReadCharts.pdf>

## Requirements

- a skein of sock yarn (100 gram / 420 meters) like [MoonWise](#) Gems.
- a circular needle 80 cm or 5 dpn size 2,5 mm
- a marker and pencil
- stitch markers and cable needle if preferred

The pattern works best with a (hand dyed) yarn with a little bit of contrast in colours like a solid, semi-solid or a muted-multi yarn. A light color really lets the twisted stitches pattern pop out.

## Gauge & Size

Get gauge with 32 stitches and 40 rows in stockinette on 10 cm, knitted in the round with needle size 2,5 mm

The pattern is designed for 3 sizes; small, medium and large. It is knitted over 60/66/72 stitches on a circular needle using magic loop. The instructions for the sizes medium and large are marked between ( ), divided by a /

Keep in mind that the traveling stitches make a snug-fit sock. Calculate about 10% extra stitches compared to a plain stockinette stitch sock..

## Stitches

**K** – Knit

**K1tbl** – Knit through back of loop

**P** – Purl

**RS** – right side of work

**WS** – wrong side of work

**M:** Make one by picking the strand inbetween stitches and knit trough back of loop

**ML:** For a left-slanting increase, knit one stitch, then knit/purl into the left leg of the same stitch of two rows below it. Choose knit or purl depending on how the stitch needs to be worked in the next round.

**MR:** For a right-slanting increase, knit/purl into the right leg of the stitch of the row below the next stitch to be knit. Choose knit or purl depending on how the stitch needs to be worked in the next round.

**Right twist:** With right needle, insert tip into the second knit stitch. Pull the left needle out of these 2 stitches. The first knit stitch falls free behind your work. Pick this stitch up with the tip of your left needle. Place knit stitch back on the left needle. Knit both stitches through back of loop.

**Left twist:** With right needle, insert tip into the second knit st at the back side of your work. Pull the left needle out of these 2 stitches. The first knit stitch falls free on the front side of your work. Pick it up with the tip of your left needle. Place knit stitch back on the left needle. Knit both stitches through back of loop.

**Right twist, purl bg:** With right needle, insert tip into the knit st. Pull the left needle out of these 2 stitches. The purl stitch falls free behind your work. Pick this stitch up with the tip of your left needle. Place knit st back on the left needle. Knit this stitch through the back loop. Purl the next stitch.

**Left twist, purl bg:** With right needle, insert tip into the purl stitch at the back side of your work. Pull the left needle out of these 2 stitches. The knit stitch falls free on front of your work. Pick this stitch up with the tip of your left needle. Place purl stitch back on the left needle. Purl this stitch and knit the next stitch through back of loop.

## Points of Attention:

Please pay attention to the following:

The pattern is described for circular needles; needle 1 carries the stitches for the upper leg/foot, needle 2 carries the stitches for the back leg/sole of the foot

- A round: literally knitting all stitches on both needles
- A row: to knit across a needle, like a heel
- A needle: the tool that holds the stitches

For knitters using dpn's :

- Needle 1 and needle 2 form one round.
- Needle 1 are the stitches on the 1st and 2nd needle
- Needle 2 are the stitches on the 3rd and 4th needle

## On your way .

The first part of the route might appear a bit of a romp. Once you find the rhythm you will find it not as difficult as it seems. Enjoy the journey and make sure you enjoy the views in between!

## Cast On

This sock will get the very stretchy cast on, known as the "*tubular cast on*". For this cast on you need a strand of cotton scrap yarn, which is about the same thickness as your sock yarn. As the cotton yarn is used for a provisional cast on, it is easy to remove and leaves hardly any lint,

For a cuff of 60 (66/72) stitches, cast on 30 (33/36) stitches using the cotton yarn and a long tail cast on. Divide the stitches evenly on your needles and knit two rounds. Continue working with your sock yarn.

### Rnd 1:

\*k1, 1 yo\*

### Rnd 2:

\*slip 1 stitch knitwise with yarn in back, purl the yarn over\*

### Rnd 3:

\*k1, slip 1 stitch purlwise with yarn in front\*

### Rnd 4:

\*slip the knit stitch purlwise with yarn in back, haal de rechte steek averecht af met draad achter het werk, purl the yarn over \*

### Rnd 5:

Knit all stitches

\* repeat \* on all available stitches

## Cuff

Reposition your stitches on your needles if needed:

Needle 1: front of the leg - 30 **(36/36)** stitches

Needle 2: back of the leg - 30 **(30/36)** stitches

Please mind: the pattern is different for the front and back of the cuff.

Chart 1 shows the stitches of needle; the front of the leg. The stitches for the small size are framed in the chart. For sizes medium and large you will knit 3 stitches extra on both sides. In the chart these are coloured in lavender.

Needle 1: (front of leg)

Medium and large: 1 p, 2 ktbl.

All sizes: [1 p, 1 ktbl , 2 p, 1 ktbl , 1 p, 2 ktbl ] repeat 3 times

1 p, 1 ktbl , 2 p, 1 ktbl , 1 p,

Medium and large: 2 ktbl, 1 p

Needle 2: (back of leg)

[1 ktbl., 1 p, 1 ktbl.] repeat this 3 stitch pattern on all stitches on needle 2.

Work cuff in accordingly the above for at least a total of 10 rounds.

You can remove the cotton yarn after knitting about 3 rounds in the cuff pattern.

## Lêg

Needle 1: (front of leg)

Knit the stitches forming the front of leg following chart 2

Needle 2: (back of leg)

Knit the stiches following the pattern of the cuff.

[1 ktbl., 1 p, 1 ktbl.] repeat this 3 stitch pattern on all stitches on needle 2.

Repeat chart 2 at least 5 times, ending with row 10.

Measure the length of the leg just above the ankle bone.



## Gusset & Heel:

We now leave the familiar path. Do you trust de clues and your own knowledge? Can you bring the seperate instructions together to make sense? At this stage of the route some puzzling is required. Continue your adventure by starting on the gusset and heel and ask your fellow travelers for help if needed.

## EXTRA INFORMATION

You will keep knitting in the round.  
Needle 1 carries the stitches for the front leg and gusset.  
Needle 2 carries the stitches for the heel.

The stitches for the small size are framed in the chart. For sizes medium and large you will knit 3 stitches extra on both sides. In the chart these are coloured in lavender.

To make your journey a little easier for you; use the worksheet to keep track of your progress. Read all instructions careful before continuing.

## GUSSET

The gusset of this sock will be placed on top of the leg instead of the sides  
Chart 3 shows you the position with a green line between stitch 18 and 19.

The gusset will be knitted in a twisted rib pattern; \* 1 ktbl, 1 p \* Every 2nd or 3rd you will increase a stitch using the ML and MR method, as described earlier in this pattern. Please note that the increased stitches must be alternating worked purl or knit trough back of loop.

Start increasing for the gusset working Chart 4

- Chart 4 will form a gusset suitable for feet with a normal to slender instep. Increases will be made every 2<sup>nd</sup> row
- Chart 4b will form a gusset suitable for feet with a high instep. Increases will be made every 3<sup>rd</sup> row.

Proceed increasing the stitches according chart 4 until a total of 29 (31 /33) stitches are made.

Please note:

The purl stitches, marked with a grey background in chart 4 are a reference

only. They are the as the (light green marked) stitches 17 -20 in chart 3. You only knit them once!.

Stitchmarkers are very useful to mark and separate the stitches of the gusset from the stitches of the front leg.

## FRONT OF LEG

While you work the increases on both sides of the gusset you will knit the stitches according chart 3. Please mind the cables on the outside of leg are knitted with a left twist, the cables on the inside, next the gusset are knit with a right twist.

Continue working the 5 rounds of chart 3 until you have completed the gusset. Knit a final round in pattern, only with the stitches on the needle of the front of leg.

## FAUX HEEL

At the same time, the heel, a faux heel will be knitted with a 3 stitch heelstitch pattern.

Rnd 1:

[Slip 1 stitch purlwise with the yarn in back, purl 1, Slip 1 stitch purlwise with the yarn in back] repeat for all stitches on needle 2.

Rnd 2:

[1 ktbl, 1 p, 1 ktbl] repeat for all stitches on needle 2.

The purlwise slipped stitches will make the fabric of the heel a slightly thicker, it forms a nice padding, which makes it more durable. The slipped stitches/ ktbl stitches will align with the stitches ktbl of the leg.

Repeat round 1 & 2 as much as necessary to complete the gusset.



This being the biggest and toughest part of the journey, you have now conquered the way to the top. You have warmed up, might even have worked up a sweat. This time you will only walk a small part of the path, We will start to descend. As every walker knows, descending might be treatorous, so keep focused and read your instructions carefully. The path

will get narrower. Just a little further and you can complete your journey

## Heel turn

Needle 2 (the back of leg) has 30 (30 / 36) stitches.  
Turn the hiel working 26 (30 /34) stitches. If knitting the size Small & Large you need to replace 4 or 2 stitches evenly divided to needle 1 (front of leg/gusset)

If preferred use a separate needle to work the heel turn and use stitchmarkers to mark the stitches of the gusset, top of feet and heel. .

**Row 1:** (RS) K24 (K28 / K32) stitches, wrap and turn.  
On your left hand needle there are two stitches; one stitch unworked and one stitch wrapped

**Row 2:** (WS) P22 (P26 / P30) stitches, wrap and turn.  
Now there are also two stitches on your left hand needle; one stitch unworked and one stitch wrapped

**Row 3:** K21 (K25 / K29) stitches, wrap and turn..

**Row4:** P20 (P24 / P28) stitches, wrap and turn.

Continue until there are 8 (10 /12 ) stitches left unworked in the middle.  
On both size you have 9 (10 / 11) stitches, of which 8 (9 / 10) are wrapped stitches.

**RS:** Slip 1 purl wise. Knit across stitches of the heel, continue with picking up the wraps and knit them together with the stitch. Knit the last stitch through back of loop together with the first gusset stitch.

**WS:** Slip 1 purl wise. Purl across to the last stitch, and, at the same time, pick up wraps and purl tog with stitch. Purl the last stitch together with the next stitch from gusset. Turn.

## Tip:

A beautiful way to knit the wrap almost invisible together with the stitch is "conceal and wrap" method Cat Bordhi shows on these video's:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVikAvPuE4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFrVqx-iN7k>

## Heel

The heel is worked back and forth. The stitches on both sides of the gusset will be decreased. For the sizes small, medium en large the number of decreased stitches are 17(15+2), 18 and 19(18+1) stitches. Replace the side stitches to the needle with the heel stitches, if preferred divided by a stitch marker. From now on all these stitches will be named the gusset.

Work the 26 (30 / 34) heel stitches as followed:

**Row 1:** (RS): Slip 1 purl wise, knit all other stitches to last stitch. Knit last stitch together with next gusset stitch. Turn the work.

**Row 2:** (WS) Slip 1 purl wise, purl to last stitch. Purl last stitch together with next gusset stitch. Turn the work.

Repeat these two rows until on both side only **one** stitch of the gusset must be knit together with the heel

You have

Small: 26 (sole) + 29 (gusset)+ 2 (unworked) = 57 stitches left.

Medium: 30 (sole) + 31 (gusset)+ 2 (unworked) = 63 stitches left.

Large: 34 (sole) + 33 (gusset)+ 2 (unworked) = 69 stitches left.

A more experienced traveller in the world of knitting socks might recognise the instructions for a toe-up sock heeltorn in these instructions here.

The last part of the journey ...

Are you looking forward to the end yet? Or maybe it wasn't about the finish but how you got to the destination? Are you walking at a steady pace or are you marching all the way through? Are you in the leading group or are you a quiet follower? Did you notice special things on the way or did you get side tracked? Whatever way you walked, the last part of the route has its own rhythm. The route has learnt itself to daydreaming, as well as a finishing sprint.

## Foot

Continue working in the round.

Needle 1 / Instep: Continue working a twisted rib pattern;\* 1 ktbl, 1 p\*

Needle 2 / Sole: Knit all stitches

On the start and end of needle 2 there are two heel stitches left. These stitches will be knit together through back of loop with the following stitch.

Slip the 1st stitch purlwise, knit the stitches to the last stitch. Knit the last stitch together through back of loop with the last heel stitch.

Work the stitches on needle 1/the instep in the twisted rib pattern.

At the start of needle 2 one heel stitch is left, knit it through the back of loop with the next stitch. , brei deze verdraaid recht samen met de opvolgende steek.

Work the stitches of needle 2/the sole until the last stitch. Knit the last stitch of the sole together through back of loop with the first stitch of the instep. Place the stitch on needle 2.

Replace the last stitch of needle 1 to needle 2.

You have: 54 (60 / 66) stitches left, evenly divided on both needles 27 (30 / 33) stitches for the instep and sole

Continue working in rounds until foot measures about 18 – 22 cm from base of heel, depending on your size. The length of the toe in this pattern measures about 5 cm.



Knit all stitches for the toe.  
Start with decreasing on the upperfoot.

**Rnd 1:**

Knit one stitch, slip one stitch knitwise, slip one stitch purlwise, place them both back on the left needle and knit them together through the back of loop. Work the needle to the last 3 stitches, knit two stitches together, knit one stitch. Repeat this for the stitches on the other needle (sole). 50 (56 / 62) stitches left.

**Rnd 2 -4:**

Knit all stitches.

**Rnd 5:** Work following rnd 1, 46 (52 / 58) stitches left.

**Rnd 6 & 7:** Knit all stitches.

**Rnd 8:** Work following rnd 1, 42 (48 / 54) stitches left.

**Rnd 9 & 10:** Knit all stitches.

**Rnd 11:** Work following rnd 1, 38 (44 / 50) stitches left .

**Rnd 12:** Knit all stitches.

**Rnd 13:** Work following rnd 1, 34 (40 / 46) stitches left.

**Rnd 14:** Knit all stitches.

**Rnd 15:** Work following rnd 1, 30 (36 / 42) stitches left.

**Rnd 16:** Knit all stitches.

**Rnd 17:** Work following rnd 1, 26 (32 / 38) stitches left.

Small:

Repeat rnd 17 2 times, 18 stitches left.. (9 st / nld)

Medium:

Repeat rnd 17 times, 20 stitches left.. (10 st / nld)

Large:

Repeat rnd 17 4 times, 22 stitches left.. (11 st / nld)

## Finishing

Use Kitchener stitch to graft the last stitches together and weave in all ends.  
Give your socks with a gentle soak and block them nicely.

# Thank you!

All members of the Dutch group “Sokken breien” for their enthusiasm, compliments, support and trust.

Lies for the name Aragorn.

Testknitters Hilona, Puk, Deetje, Jannetta, Christa and Titia. They give worthwhile feedback at the pattern and shows me the atypical and unlogic bits and pieces on the road.

Hetty for translating bits and pieces of the pattern in English.

Cat Bordhi, who inspired me with her special sock architectures en showed me lots of new paths to travel.

# Copyright

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# Feedback

If you have found any mistakes in this pattern, please let me know!  
You can e-mail me at [janneke.maat@gmail.com](mailto:janneke.maat@gmail.com)

Weblog Helygen Celli: <http://www.helyg.com>

Webshop MoonWise: <http://www.moonwise.nl>

# Ravelry

You will find me on Ravelry as Serena:

<http://www.ravelry.com/people/Serena>

<http://www.ravelry.com/designers/janneke-maat>

<http://www.ravelry.com/yarns/brands/moonwise>

Have a look at the finished Aragorn socks in the ravelry project gallery  
I would love to see your Aragorn there too!