

“Bice” Socks by Giulia Facchini

I designed these socks inspired by the “sky sock architecture” described by Cat Bordhi. This is an innovative sock construction without a classic heel flap and without a classic short row heel. The increases necessary to fit the curve of your foot are placed in the front of leg, starting from the center and they develop creating a decorative panel that runs over all instep. In memory of Cat Bordhi and of her genius, I want to share this pattern with you. Good knitting!

Sizes: 35/36 (37/38, 39/40, 41/42) European sizes, foot length 21.5 (22.5, 24, 25) cm, foot circumference 18 (19, 20.5, 22) cm.

Yarn: 100g of Bice by Borgo de' Pazzi (100g = 420m) colour 308.

Needles and material: 2.25mm circular needle 80cm long (or size required to match gauge), needle to weave in ends and to sew the toe, 4 stitch markers (optional). The pattern suggests the use of a long circular needle and the magic loop technique, but you can use two circulars or double pointed needles, if you prefer.

Gauge: 10 cm = 30 stitches and 40 rounds worked in stockinette stitch.

Instructions

1. Leg

Cast on 56 (60, 64, 68) stitches and work a set up row, without joining in the round.

Set up row: (k1tbl, p1) repeat to the end of row.

Now divide the stitches on needle tips: 29 (31, 33, 35) stitches for the front of leg and 27 (29, 31, 33) stitches for the back of leg. Join for working in the round: the round starts with front stitches.

Rounds 1-14: (k1tbl, p1) repeat to the end of round.

Round 15 and following rounds: for the front of leg k3(4,5,6), work *chart A* over next 23 stitches, k3(4,5,6); for the back of leg k to the end of round.

After round 7 of *chart A*, restart from round 2. Continue as set, ending after 6 complete repetitions of rounds 2-7 of *chart A*.

2. Section with increases

Now you'll start making increases in the center of front leg. Increases will form a decorative panel that will run over all instep.

Next round and following rounds: for the front of leg k3(4,5,6), work *chart B* over next 10 stitches, work *chart C* over next 3 stitches (these 3 stitches will increase according to chart), work *chart D* over next 10 stitches, k3(4,5,6); for the back of leg k to the end of round. You can place 4 stitch markers to identify the beginning/end of chart B, C and D.

After round 6 of *chart B and D*, restart from round 1. Repeat rounds 1-6 of *chart B and D* until you complete *chart C*. Each size ends *chart C* with a different round. In the last round of *chart C* stop at the end of front stitches, do not work the back.

At the end of *chart C* there will be 85 (91, 97, 103) total stitches: 58 (62, 66, 70) stitches for the front of leg and 27 (29, 31, 33) stitches for the back of leg.

3. Heel

The heel is worked in short rows only on the stitches of the back of leg.

Row 1: k25(27,29,31), turn.

Row 2: make a double stitch, p22(24,26,28), turn.

Row 3: make a double stitch, k until there is only one stitch before the double stitch made in previous row, turn.

Row 4: make a double stitch, p until there is only one stitch before the double stitch made in previous row, turn.

Rows 5-10: repeat rows 3 and 4 three more times.

Now, before going on, you have to redistribute stitches on needle, moving 13 (14, 15, 16) stitches from the front of leg/instep to the back/heel, both on the right and on the left. Instep stitches are placed on cable, while heel stitches are on needle tips and the cable form two lateral loops. Slide 13 (14, 15, 16) stitches from cable to needle tips both at right and at left, changing the position of the two loops. Only the 32 (34, 36, 38) stitches obtained at the end of *chart C* remain on instep. Go on following instructions. You must be on the right side.

Row 11: make a double stitch, k15(17,19,21), skP, turn. When you come to a double stitch knit the double stitch together as it were a single stitch.

Row 12: sl1-yarn front, p25(27,29,31), p2tog, turn. When you come to a double stitch purl the double stitch together as it were a single stitch.

Row 13: sl1-yarn back, k25(27,29,31), skP, turn.

Repeat rows 12 and 13 ten (eleven, twelve, thirteen) more times, repeat row 12 once more. At the end heel stitches should be 29 (31, 33, 35).

Final Row: sl1-yarn back, k25(27,29,31), skP1. Do not turn but start working again in rounds on all the stitches.

4. Foot

Round 1: work round 1 of *chart D* (chose correct size!) over the 32(34,36,38) stitches of instep; for the sole k2tog, then k to the end of round. Stitch count now will remain constant till toe: there are 32 (34, 36, 38) instep stitches and 27 (29, 31, 33) sole stitches.

Round 2 and following rounds: for instep work *chart D* over 32(34,36,38) instep stitches; for sole k to the end of round.

Work 44 (46, 50, 52) more rounds as established, or until the foot is 4cm less than desired length.

5. Toe

Round 1: k to the end of round decreasing 5 stitches across instep (to make a decrease k2tog). At the end of round you should have 27(29, 31,33) stitches both for instep and sole.

Round 2: for instep k1, SkP, k to last 3 instep stitches, k2tog, k1, for sole k1, SkP, k to last 3 sole stitches, k2tog, k1.

Round 3: k to the end of round.

Rounds 4-13: repeat rounds 2 and 3 five more times.

Rounds 14-16: repeat round 2 three more times. 18 (22, 26, 30) stitches remain: half for instep and half for sole.

Cut yarn leaving a tail of nearly 40cm and put it through a tapestry needle. Slip stitches to needle tips, place tips side by side with yarn tail on your right and joined to the back tip.

1. On the front tip, insert needle knitwise into the first stitch and drop the stitch off the needle, then insert the needle purlwise into the next stitch, pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.
2. On the back tip, insert needle purlwise into the first stitch and drop the stitch off the needle, then insert the needle knitwise into the next stitch, pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

Repeats these two movements until there is only one stitch left on each tip. Insert needle knitwise into the last stitch on front tip and drop it off the needle, then insert the needle purlwise into the last stitch on back tip and drop it off the needle. Weave in ends on the wrong side.

Make the second sock in the same way.

Abbreviations and stitch explanations

p = purl.

ktbl = knit through back loop.

double stitch = slip first stitch purlwise with yarn in front, pull yarn over needle and to the back as if you were making a yarn over. If next stitch is a purl one, bring yarn back to the front passing under the needle.

k2tog = knit 2 stitches together.

p2tog = purl 2 stitches together.

SkP = slip 1 stitch as if to knit, knit 1 stitch, pass slipped stitch over the knitted one.

p inc = purl increase (with left needle lift up the horizontal strand between the last stitch and the next stitch from back to front and purl it).

Sl1-yarn front = slip 1 stitch with yarn in front.

Sl1-yarn back = slip 1 stitch with yarn in back.

C2R(kk) = 2 stitches k/k right-twisting cable (slip 1 stitch onto cable needle and hold in back, k1tbl, k1tbl from cable needle).

C2R(kp) = 2 stitches k/p right-twisting cable (slip 1 stitch onto cable needle and hold in back, k1tbl, p1 from cable needle).

C2L(kk) = 2 stitches k/k left-twisting cable (slip 1 stitch onto cable needle and hold in front, k1tbl, k1tbl from cable needle).

C2L(pk) = 2 stitches p/k left-twisting cable (slip 1 stitch onto cable needle and hold in front, p1, k1tbl from cable needle).

Chart A

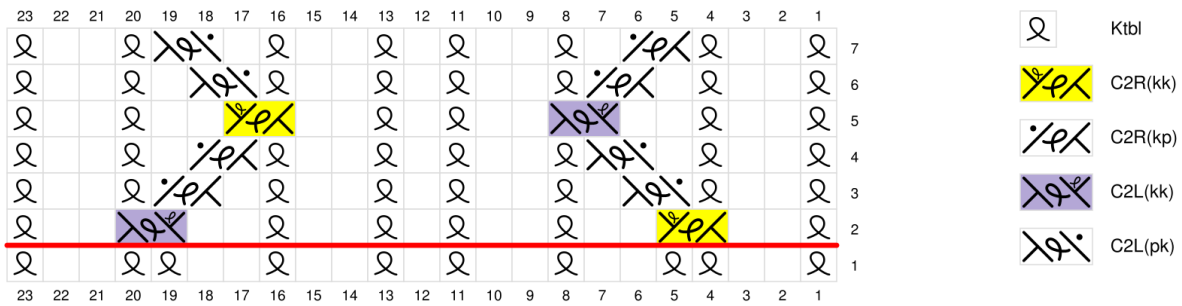
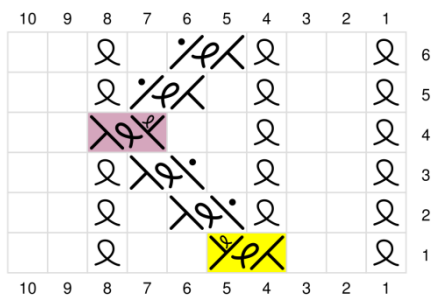


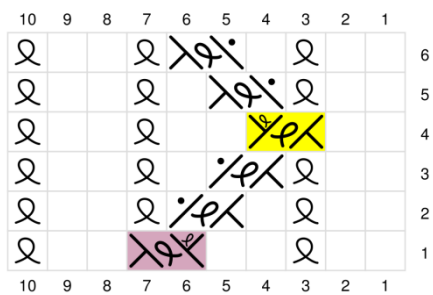
Chart must be read starting from the bottom and from right to left. Round 1 must be worked only once. After round 7, restart from round 2 and go on repeating rounds 2-7. I decided to represent purl stitches with white squares, that are usually associated to knit stitches, because they form the background and a white background makes the motif created by twisted stitches more evident.

Chart B



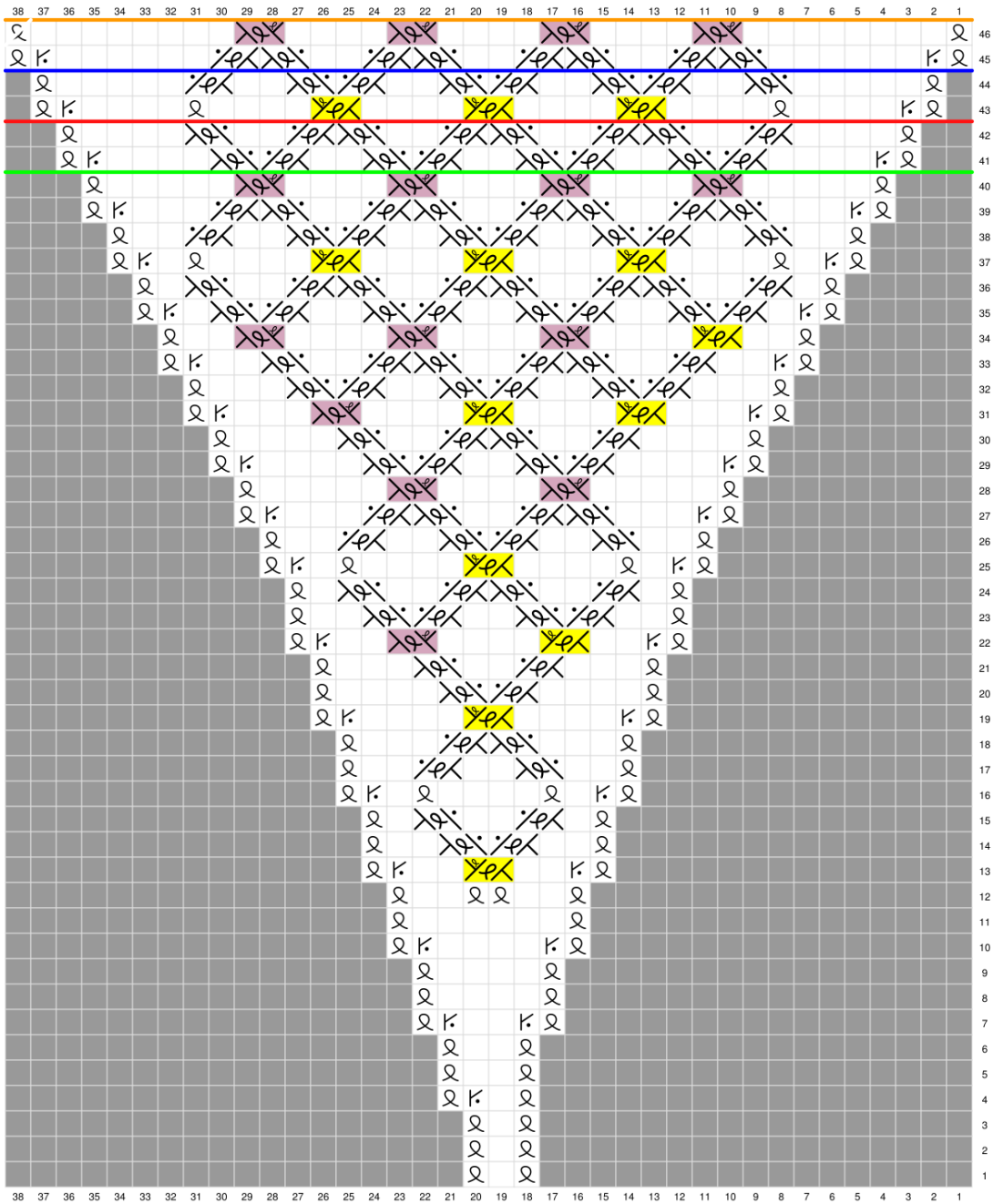
This chart is the progress of the pattern just established on the first ten stitches of *chart A*, see legend of *chart A*.

Chart D



This chart is the progress of the pattern just established on the last ten stitches of *chart A*, see legend of *chart A*.

Chart C



- p
- No stitch
- |· p inc
- Q ktbl
- /e\ C2R(kk)
- \e/ C2R(kp)
- /e\ C2L(kk)
- \e/ C2L(pk)
- end of chart size 35/36
- end of chart size 37/38
- end of chart size 39/40
- end of chart size 41/42

This chart develops from the 3 central stitches of *chart A*. It must be read starting from the bottom and from right to left. Gray squares do not represent any stitch, they have only a graphic function. Pay attention: each size ends with a different round. Size 35/36 ends with round 40, size 37/38 ends with round 42, size 39/40 ends with round 44 and size 41/42 ends with round 46.

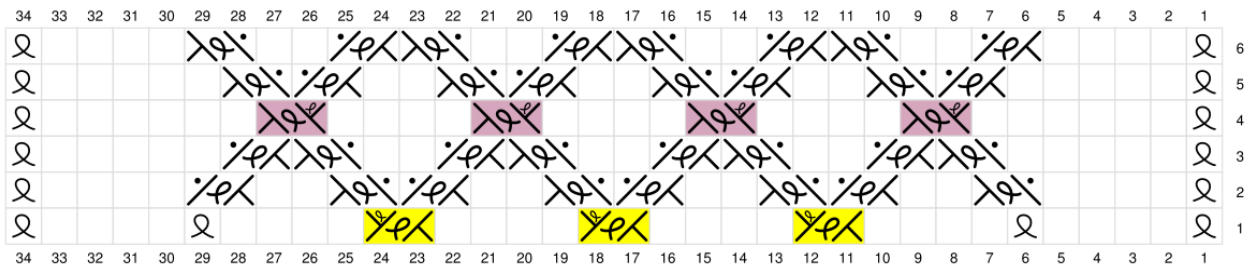
Chart D

Chose the right chart based on your foot size. The legend is the same of *chart A*. After round 6, restart from round 1 and go on repeating rounds 1-6.

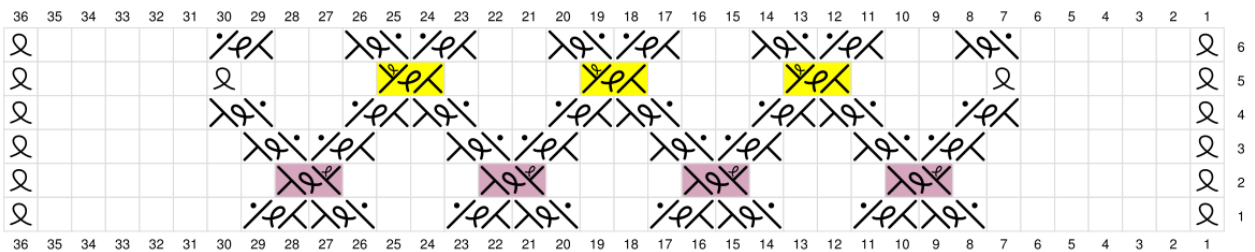
Size 35/36



Size 37/38



Size 39/40



Size 41/42

