

THE NUTCRACKER

Susan H. Esser

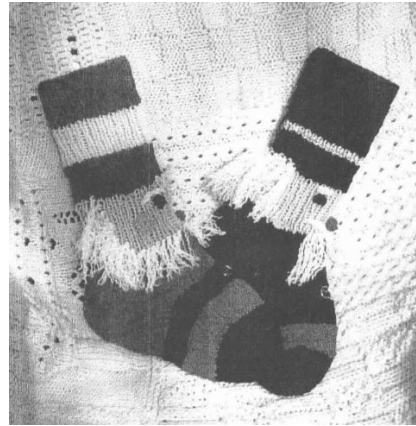
Materials:

1 ball each of sport weight black, royal blue, red, tan (face color), small amounts of white (for hair & beard); metallic yarn for hat trim & buckle

Gauge: 5 sts = 1 inch

Needles:

Size 6 (or size you need for gauge) 12" circular, plus double point needles



Hint for changing color in ribbing: For the first row of a new color, knit every stitch. Then go back to ribbing on the second row. This makes a neat color break.

Instructions:

-With black, cast on 48 stitches and join. Rib (k1, p1) for 22 rounds. Then continue to rib with 2 strands of metallic yarn; work 3 rounds. Go back to black and rib 10 more rounds. The hat is finished. Now change to tan or flesh colored yarn and rib 2 inches for the face.

-Using the royal blue yarn, refer to the Generic Sock Directions and begin the Back of the Heel. Continue with the blue yarn until the gusset section is finished.

-Pick up the black yarn and purl 1 round. Knit 5 more rounds with black, then purl 1 round. This is his belt, where you can sew on a metal buckle, or crochet one with the same metallic thread used in the hat.

-Knit 5 rounds of blue, then 5 rounds of red. If by this time you are not ready for the toe, try it on and allow about 1 1/2 inches for the toe section). Just add more red for his suit.

-The toe can be either blue, or black (your choice.) Refer to the enclosed directions for the toe and the kitchener stitch grafting.

Finishing:

Make a red bobble for his nose (Cast on 1 stitch red, turn and k1, p1, k1, p1, all in this one stitch. Turn, and slip the 1st stitch, then knit the 3 stitches. Turn, slip the first stitch, purl the other 3. Last row, knit the first 2 stitches together, knit the last 2 stitches together. Bind off. Leave long enough ends to thread through the face and tie on the inside.

Embroider 2 black eyes; make long stitches under the red nose with white yarn for a mustache, and long stitches over each eye for eyebrows. Cut pieces of white 4 to 5 inches long and unravel the yarn (untwist it). Using a crochet hook, attach strands under his mustache for a beard, and along base of hat from ear to ear. Do this just as you would make fringe.

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SANTA SOCKS

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Materials:

Sport weight yarn: 2 balls red, 1 ball white, 1 ball black, and 1 ball tan (face color).

Small amount of pink for cheeks (optional).

A small buckle or metallic yarn to make a buckle.

Gauge: 5 sts = 1 inch

Needles: Size 6 (or size you need for gauge) 12" circular, plus double point needles

Hint for changing color in ribbing: For the first row of a new color, knit every stitch. Then go back to ribbing on the second row. This makes a neat color break.

Instructions:

- With red, cast on 48 stitches and join. Rib (k1, p1) for 2 inches. Break off red, attach white, and continue to rib for another 2 inches. Now go back to red and rib 2 inches. Change to the flesh colored yarn for the face and rib for 2 1/2 to 3 inches.

-Using the red yarn, refer to the Generic Sock Directions and begin the heel flap. Continue with red until you are finished with the gussets and have worked another inch or so on the foot (now in stockinette stitch).

-Using black yarn, knit for at least an inch for Santa's belt.

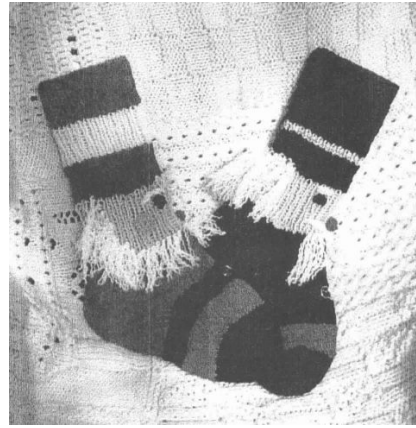
-Change to red and knit until the sock is 1 1/2 inches less than your desired length. Try it on your foot -- that's the best way. Even if it is for a gift, you'll know whether that person has a longer or shorter foot than yours.

-Now again refer to the Generic Sock Directions to finish the toe and the kitchener stitch.

Finishing:

Make a red bobble for his nose (Cast on 1 stitch red, turn and k1, p1, k1, p1, all in this one stitch. Turn, and slip the 1st stitch, then knit the 3 stitches. Turn, slip the first stitch, purl the other 3. Last row, knit the first 2 stitches together, knit the last 2 stitches together. Bind off. Leave long enough ends to thread through the face and tie on the inside.

Embroider 2 black eyes; make long stitches under the red nose with white yarn for a mustache, and long stitches over each eye for eyebrows. Cut pieces of white 4 to 5 inches long and unravel the yarn (untwist it). Using a crochet hook, attach strands beginning at the hat (above where his ear should be) down to his chin, over and up to the hat again (above the other ear.) This fringe can be any length you wish; attach it as you would fringe to an afghan. I crocheted a small circle of pink for each cheek; this is optional. Enjoy wearing your Santa Socks!



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