

Grafting From the Purl Side

I knit a wrapped or sue-i-cide toe (aka magic wrap) but end the increases the same way on either method. To do as I do, finish knitting the increases by lowering the last needle at the 3 o'clock half mark and wrap the yarn behind it. At the same time lower the last needle at the 9 o'clock half mark, and only then knit the last reverse turn of the crank counterclockwise toward the back half to the 1 o'clock position behind the raised needles. Cut the working yarn and bring the yarn carrier forward to 9 o'clock. Insert the waste yarn, knit to 6 o'clock, and lower all the raised needles on the back half of the cylinder. Then knit 10-15 rounds of waste yarn.

You need 4 coil-less safety pins or knitting stitch markers that look like plastic safety pins. These help to find the stitches at the beginning and end and keep them from disappearing. Turn your sock inside out to begin. This sock was knit in white, waste yarn is blue.



1. Place 2 stitch markers in the end stitches at the right side.



2. And then on the end stitches on the left.



3. Thread a darning needle on the tail coming from the front stitch on the right. Then insert it into the "new" stitch with the pin on the other side.



4. Next, insert the needle out of the "old" stitch. It is the bump that is like a noose around the neck of the stitch with the pin in it in the front.



5. Then go into the "new" stitch on the front (the one with the pin in it). New stitches are ones you go into the first time.



6. Then go out of the "old" stitch on the other side. It has the pin in it and you have already gone into it before.

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Your mantra is “into the new, out of the old”. “Into” means the point of the darning needle goes toward the other side, over the gap of waste yarn. “Out of” means the point of the needle is going away from the other side over the sock stitches. At this point you can snug up your first few grafting stitches. And shift the sock around so it looks like a closed mouth with the waste yarn peeking up. You may need to flatten and squeeze the curl of the waste yarn inside the sock toe. (see next photo). Don’t pull too hard, just a nice east tension. The waste yarn helps you not to pull too tight. You want this row of stitches you are creating to match the stitch size on the rest of the toe.



7. Follow the purl bump of the waste yarn to the next “new” stitch to graft and insert the needle into the “new” on the top of the “mouth”. (See the arrow over the blue bump that connects the stitches?)



8. Go out of the “old” stitch on the bottom of the mouth (it has the pin in it).



9. Follow the purl bump of waste yarn to the new stitch to graft on the bottom of the mouth. Go into the new and out of the old on the other side at the same time.



10. Follow the waste yarn to the new stitch on the top. Go into the new and out of the old (on the bottom).



11. Continue across the sock toe, “into the new out of the old”. Be careful not to go into the stitch on the row below.



12. Keep going, following the waste yarn purl bumps to the next new stitch. Sometimes that stitch likes to hide down in the knitting and you skip it

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13. Nearing the end, you may need to pull on the pins to retrieve the last two stitches from a hiding place down in the corner.



14. If you haven't skipped one, as you end you will go into last new stitch on the top (with the pin) and go out of the second last on the bottom.



15. Then into the new stitch with the pin on the bottom of the mouth and out of the last old stitch with the pin on the top.



16. To finish, go around the last stitch on the top and out of the last old stitch on the bottom. Don't take out the pins just yet.



17. Turn your sock right side out and check inside the waste yarn. If you have knit a stitch or some stitches into the wrong row, you will see it here.



18. Turn it back inside out, remove the pins. Then unravel the waste yarn from the sock and weave in your tail and trim it to about ¼ inch



19. Your toe is complete and you deserve congratulations! Now go graft the other one and put them on.