Aalto Pattern Socks

Aalto Pattern Socks are knit from the toe up using a circular needle. The pattern is a bit more challenging than that of Aalto Logo Socks: the colourwork is more complex and the pattern uses a couple of uncommon techniques. There are good instructional videos on the internet to learn these techniques.

The pattern is designed for yarn weight of approx. 400–420 m / 100 g. In addition to wool, sock yarn should also include, for example, polyamide to make the socks more durable. Some good options include Novita Venla, Filcolana Arwetta and Opal 4 ply. Use the required needle size to obtain the correct gauge. A suitable needle size is usually between 2 and 3 mm.

Choose the size of the socks according to your foot circumference. You can easily adjust the foot length by knitting a required number of extra rows before knitting the hourglass heel. The socks are designed to fit tight so that they can be easily worn with shoes.

Gauge in colourwork: 36 sts x 40 rows = 10 x 10 cm
Sizes S (L): Foot circumference approx. 20 cm (25 cm)
Yardage:
Main colour 50–100 g, depending on the foot size
Contrast colour 25–75 g, depending on the foot size

About the colourwork

Select white as the main colour and black as the contrast colour or vice versa. You can also use a school colour as the main colour. In this case, white is used as a contrast colour. You can also use your own favourite colours. However, it is a good idea to select colours that contrast well with each other – this way the colourwork will be more distinguished. The logo A! has been placed in the chart so that it is knit approximately in the middle of the leg in the sock size 36. If you wish, you can change the order of the rows of the chart to knit the logos where you like them best.

The colourwork creates long floats, which should be trapped on the wrong side of the work, so that the work does not become too tight and to prevent your toes from catching on the floats. Trap floats of four stitches or wider, for example, by bringing the working yarn under the non-working yarn. To avoid the trapped floats from being visible on the right side of the work, do not trap the floats at the same stitch on consecutive rows. Pay
particular attention to the tension of the colourwork on the leg and the heel to ensure that it does not become too tight for your foot. If possible, try the socks on while knitting them to ensure a proper fit.

**Toe**

*Cast on 24 stitches by using the Turkish cast-on method: Place the circular needles parallel to each other with tips pointing to the same direction. Make a slip knot or other knot that is easy to open and place the knot on the bottom needle (needle 2). Wrap the yarn 12 times around both needles counterclockwise. Pull the bottom needle so that the stitches slide on the cable and you can turn the needle to knitting position. Knit the stitches on the upper needle (needle 1), remove the knot and knit the stitches on the bottom needle. There are now 12 stitches on both needles.*

(If you want to knit both socks at the same time, place the stitches, for example, to a scrap yarn and cast on the stitches for the other sock using another skein of yarn. Then place the stitches of both socks to the circular needle and start increasing stitches at the toe.)

Continue knitting in the round and start increasing at the toe:

- **Row 1**: *k1, M1R, knit until 1 st remains on the needle 1, M1L, k1.*
- **Row 2**: knit all sts

Repeat the rows 1 and 2 until both needles have 32(38) sts, a total of 64(76) sts.

**Foot**

Knit the chart A(B) starting from the first stitch of the first row. Continue knitting until foot measures approx. 4.5 cm shorter than desired measurement from tip of toe to end of heel.

**Hourglass heel**

The heel is knit using the main colour. In order to knit different motifs on the right and left sock foot, knit the heel of the left sock with the needle 1 and the heel of the right sock with the needle 2. When you knit the midpoint rows of the heel, continue knitting the colourwork with the instep stitches. On these rows, pay special attention to the tension to make sure that the colourwork is not too tight.

**Left sock, 1st half of the heel:** Set the contrast colour aside, but don’t cut the yarn. Knit all the sts on the needle 1 using the main colour. Turn the work. Make a ds, purl all the sts on the needle 1. Turn the work.

- **Row 1**: Make a ds, knit until the next ds. Turn the work.
- **Row 2**: Make a ds, purl until the next ds. Turn the work.

Repeat the rows 1 and 2 until 11 normal sts remain in the middle of the needle. Make a ds, knit 10 and then knit the double stitches on the right side of the needle as normal single stitches. With the needle 2, knit the chart A(B) starting from the row on which you remained before knitting the heel. The contrast colour remained at the wrong end of the needle, so only knit the main colour sts and slip the contrast colour sts. Turn the work and purl the contrast colour sts onto the needle 2 and slip the main colour sts that you just knitted. Turn the work and slip all the sts onto the right needle.

(If you are knitting both socks at the same time, now knit the first half of the heel of the right sock.)

**Left sock, midpoint row of the heel:** Using the main colour, knit normally the double stitches on the right side of the needle 1 and continue knitting the rest of the sts on the needle 1. Continue the colourwork on the needle 2 from the next row of the chart. Now the contrast colour is at the right end of the
needle, so you can knit the main and contrast colours normally on the right side of the work.

(If you are knitting both socks at the same time, now knit the midpoint row of the heel of the right sock.)

Left sock, 2nd half of the heel: Set the contrast colour aside and knit until 10(13) sts remain on the needle 1. Turn the work. Make a ds and purl until 10(13) sts remain on the needle. Turn the work.

Row 1: Make a ds and knit until the next ds. Knit the ds and knit 1 more. Turn the work.
Row 2: Make a ds and purl until the next ds. Purl the ds and purl 1 more. Turn the work.

Repeat the rows 1 and 2 until no sts remain on the sides of the needle. Make a ds and knit the sts on the needle 1, including the remaining ds. Continue the colourwork on the needle 2. The contrast colour sts are purled again on the wrong side.

(If you are knitting both socks at the same time, now knit the second half of the heel of the right sock.)

Left sock, the last row of the heel: Using the main colour, knit the sts on the needle 1, including the ds at the beginning of the needle. Continue the colourwork on the needle 2.

(If you are knitting both socks at the same time, now knit the last row of the heel of the right sock.)

Right sock, 1st half of the heel: Continue the colourwork with the sts on the needle 1. Set the contrast colour aside and knit the sts on the needle 2 using the main colour. Turn the work. Make a ds, purl all the sts on the needle 2. Turn the work.

Row 1: Make a ds, knit until the next ds. Turn the work.
Row 2: Make a ds, purl until the next ds. Turn the work.

Repeat the rows 1 and 2 until 11 normal sts remain in the middle of the needle. Make a ds, knit 10 and then knit the double stitches on the left side of the needle as normal single stitches.

(If you are knitting both socks at the same time, now knit the midpoint row of the heel of the left sock.)

Right sock, midpoint row of the heel: With the needle 1, knit the chart A(B) starting from the row on which you remained before knitting the heel. The contrast colour remained at the wrong end of the needle, so only knit the main colour sts and slip the contrast colour sts. Turn the work and purl the contrast colour sts on the needle 1 and slip the main colour sts that you just knitted. Turn the work and slip all the sts onto the right needle. Using the main colour, knit normally the double stitches on the right side of the needle 2 and continue knitting the rest of the stitches on the needle 2.

(If you are knitting both socks at the same time, now knit the second half of the heel of the left sock.)

Right sock, 2nd half of the heel: Continue the colourwork on the needle 1, on the next row of the chart. Now the contrast colour is at the right end of the needle, so you can knit the main and contrast colours normally on the right side of the work. Set the contrast colour aside and knit until 10(13) sts remain on the needle 2. Turn the work. Make a ds and purl until 10(13) sts remain on the needle. Turn the work.

Row 1: Make a ds and knit until the next ds. Knit the ds and knit 1 more. Turn the work.
Row 2: Make a ds and purl until the next ds. Purl the ds and purl 1 more. Turn the work.

Repeat the rows 1 and 2 until no sts remain on the sides of the needle. Make a ds and
knit all sts on the needle 2, including the remaining ds.

(If you are knitting both socks at the same time, now knit the last row of the heel of the left sock.)

Right sock, the last row of the heel: Continue the colourwork on the needle 1. The contrast colour sts are purled again on the wrong side. Using the main colour, knit the sts on the needle 2, including the ds at the beginning of the needle.

**Leg**

Continue the colourwork on both needles by knitting the chart A(B). On the heel side, two rows are skipped (the midpoint rows of the heels). Continue the colourwork until you reach the desired length. After you have knit all the 100 rows of the chart, you can continue the colourwork on the row 3. When the leg is long enough and you have finished the last row of motifs, break the contrast colour and continue knitting two more rows using the main colour.

**Cuff**

Work 3 cm in rib (k1, p1) or desired length. Bind off all sts in established rib pattern or by using the *tubular bind off method*: Break the yarn leaving a tail of approx. 70 cm. Thread tail onto a tapestry needle.

1. Insert the tapestry needle purwise into the first stitch (a knit stitch). Keep the stitch on the knitting needle and pull the yarn through.
2. Hold the tapestry needle behind the work and bring it through between the second and third stitch. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the second stitch (a purl stitch) and pull the yarn through keeping the stitch on the knitting needle.
3. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch (a knit stitch), pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off the knitting needle. Insert the tapestry needle purwise into the second knit stitch on the knitting needle. Keep the stitch on the needle and pull the yarn through.
4. Repeat the steps 3 and 4 until 2 stitches remain on the needle. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch (a knit stitch), pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off the knitting needle. Insert the tapestry needle purwise into the first purl stitch, pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off the knitting needle.

Repeat the steps 3 and 4 until 2 stitches remain on the needle. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch (a knit stitch), pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off the knitting needle. Insert the tapestry needle purwise into the first stitch of the row. Insert the tapestry needle purwise into the last purl stitch, pull the yarn through and slip the stitch off the knitting needle.

**Finishing**

Weave in the tail ends on the wrong side of the work. Put the socks in lukewarm water for approximately 15 minutes and rub them gently to even out the colourwork. Wrap the socks in a towel and squeeze excess water out. Then lay the socks on a flat surface or on sock blockers to dry.

**Abbreviations**

ds = double stitch: Slip the stitch purwise, pull the yarn over the knitting needle and tighten the yarn so that a double stitch is created on the needle. On the next row, the double stitch is worked as a single stitch.  
st(s) = stitch(es)  
k = knit  
p = purl  
M1R = right-leaning increase, make one right: Using the left needle, pick up the
strand of yarn between two stitches from the back and knit the strand.
M1L = left-leaning increase, make one left:
Using the left needle, pick up the strand of yarn between the stitches from the front and knit the strand through the back loop.
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Chart B