

# Artifact Toes



Artifact Toes is a toe-up sock, and was invented for my sister for Christmas 2011, who can be a very challenging person to please with handmade knits (although she would never say so). Her taste is not too dainty, but not too plain, not too girly but not too masculine, either. After so time digging, I thought these lovely, sculpted, relief-looking cabled zig-zags could just fit the demand, but still they were just a bit too linear. I solved this by adding some careful twisted cables to frame the bold ziggy-zags, and carved them carefully all the way up the top of the foot and up to the cuff. Lastly, I thought, although she isn't too girly-girl, she's still a powerful and beautiful woman, so I thought a twinkling crown of seed beads just below the cuff would top off this gift perfectly.

My husband inadvertently came up with the name, after he said that the socks looked like “something you might dig up in Egypt”. Reflecting on this wonderful compliment, “Artifact Toes” just made sense.

I hope you enjoy knitting these socks as much as I enjoyed designing them! Please keep in mind that I created these socks using the riverbed architecture from Cat Bordhi’s wonderful book [“New Pathways for Sock Knitters, Book One”](#). This is a terrific resource to help you become your own sock designer; I recommend it to everyone who hasn’t bought it yet!

**Fits:** Women’s Medium (Midfoot: 9 in, Foot Length: 9.5 in, Ankle Circumference: 9 in)

**Yarn Used:** [Knit Picks Stroll Tonal](#), Color: Springtime (Fingering Weight), 1 hank (462 yds/100g) = 1 pair

**Gauge:** US 2 (2.75mm) DPNS: 9sts/12 rows= 1 in

Remember to check your own gauge! Every knitter’s gauge is unique; to ensure accuracy, always knit a swatch first! Size does matter, as it turns out (at least for fibercrafters...).

**Optional Beading:** Crochet hook 0.5 mm, Miyuki Seed Beads Size 6- Silver Lined Green

**Skills Needed:** Judy Becker’s Magic Cast On, knit st, purl st, increases and decreases, working in the round, short rows, wrapped stitches, concealing wraps, cabling, beading with crochet needle (optional), following written pattern, [Jeny’s Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off](#).

## Cast on!

Using Judy Becker’s Magic Cast On, CO 12 to each of the two needles. For a great YouTube video tutorial on this fantastic provisional cast on –demonstrated by Cat Bordhi- [click here!](#)

Once the 12 sts are cast on, turn the needles over so the top needle is now the bottom needle (they are in your left hand), and begin knitting into the first stitch of the now top needle (this is shown in the video tutorial, if I lost you).

\*Rnd 1: K1, M1 (left slanting inc), knit to 1 sts before end of needle, M1 (right slanting inc), K1. Turn to begin next needle. K1, M1 (left slanting inc), knit to 1 st before end, M1 (right slanting inc), K1.

\*Rnd 2: Knit all

**(Remember to place a marker to note the beginning of the round as soon as you are able)**

Repeat the last two rows until you have increased to 72 sts total. When you have enough sts as you go (and it feels stable enough), you will want to divide your sts equally among four needles. When you have completed your increases, you should have 18 sts on four needles. Stop at the marker after the last Rnd 2 repeat. You will have completed approx. 25 rows.

Each needle now holds one-half of the sole sts and one-half of the instep (top of foot) sts. So in total, there are 36 instep sts and 36 sole sts. We will begin by knitting across the top of the foot, or instep, and then knitting across the sole.

\*\* (Just as a quick side note, we are about to begin the top of the foot with a purl stitch. To prevent this right side of the sock from getting “ladders”, or looser sts between the needles, you may want to move one knit sts from the needle to the right (the second sole needle) to the instep needle. This way, as you knit in the round, you will always have a knit stitch as the first stitch you knit as you move from needle to needle, so the tension will stay the same. Just be sure to remember that the second sole needle will only have 17 sts instead of 18. This is important once we begin the heel turn later)\*\*

We begin on the right side of the instep. The design will cover all 36 sts of the top of the instep (If you brought the knit st from the sole to the right instep needle as noted above, just knit it every time). **See the bottom of the pattern for the panel instructions!**

## Midfoot

Rnd 1: Rnd 1 of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Rnd 1 of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Rnd 1 of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit across sole sts to end.

Rnd 2: Rnd 2 of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Rnd 2 of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Rnd 2 of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit across sole sts to end

Rnd 3: Rnd 3 of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Rnd 3 of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Rnd 3 of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit across sole sts to end

Continue in this manner, beginning the patterns over when completed, until the sock measures 3.5 inches total, approx. 32 more rows added to our previous 25 from the toe.

## Midfoot Increases

Now we will begin to increase the circumference of the sock. The increases will be centered on the sole, so they will not be visible when worn and will spare a nice, large space for our pattern covering the top of the foot. Essentially, you will be knitting two rounds of pattern and knitting

across the sole, then one round of patterns with two incs on the sole, and then repeating the three rounds until the stitch count is 104.

**\*\*Inc Set up Rnd:** Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Current Rnd of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit to 2 stitches before end of third needle (left needle of sole sts). K1, pm (place marker), M1 (make a right slanting inc of your choice), k1, -move onto next needle of sole sts- k1, M1 (left slanting inc of your choice), k1, pm, knit to end of rnd.

**Rnd 1:** Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Current Rnd of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit across sole sts to end.

**Rnd 2:** Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Current Rnd of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit across sole sts to end.

**Rnd 3:** Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Current Rnd of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit to 1st marker, k1, M1 (make a right slanting inc), k1, -move onto next needle of sole sts- k1, M1 (left slanting inc), k1, knit to end of rnd.

Repeat Rnds 1-3 until sts a total 104 sts.

At this point you may want to make sure that the sock is measuring about 2 inches shorter than the desired length. So, if our sock is to be 9.5 in total, we will want to begin the heel turn when it measures 7.5 in or so. If you need to add a few rows to fit your foot length better, do so before moving on to the heel turn. Just continue the patterns as you have done so far, and neglect any more sole increases.



## Heel Turn

Here is where you will need to remember if you moved a sole stitch to the beginning of the first instep needle. If you did this to prevent “ladders”, move that stitch back to the sole needle from which it came, as it will now become a part of the heel sts. Knit across the top of the sock, keeping up with the patterns, and noting for the future where you left off on all three of them to begin again after the heel. Stop knitting before beginning the first sole needle.

At this point, you should have two needles holding the instep sts, 18 sts each needle. You should also now have 15 sts (Cat Bordhi calls these “wing stitches”) on either side of the sole sts, which should number 36 in total. Going clockwise from the beginning of the round, you should have 18 sts of pattern on the first needle, 18 sts of pattern on the second needle, 33 sts on needle three and 33 sts on needle four.

Before we can begin the heel turn, we will need to slide the 15 side sts (Bordhi’s “wing sts”) to other needles so we can work exclusively on the heel, being careful not to twist the stitches. Slide the 15 side sts on the right side of the heel sts to needle two, placing a marker to designate the end of the pattern sts they will now be next to. Do the same for the 15 side sts on the left side of the heel, sliding them onto needle one, placing a marker to show where the pattern begins on this side as well. If you have done this correctly, you should have 18 sts on each sole needle -36 total divided on two needles. Once this is done, we can begin the heel turn!

Working back and forth only on the two heel needles now, just ignore the side and instep sts for now. We are going to be doing short rows.

Row 1 (Right Side): K to 2 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 2 (Wrong Side): P to 2 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 3 (RS): K to 3 sts before end of heel (the st next to the wrapped st you made before). Wrap next st, turn.

Row 4 (WS): P to 3 sts before end of heel (the st next to the wrapped st you made before). Wrap next st, turn.

Row 5 (RS): K to 4 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 6 (WS): P to 4 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 7 (RS): K to 5 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 8 (WS): P to 5 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 9 (RS): K to 6 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 10 (WS): P to 6 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 11 (RS): K to 7 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 12 (WS): P to 7 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 13 (RS): K to 8 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 14 (WS): P to 8 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 15 (RS): K to 9 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 16 (WS): P to 9 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 17 (RS): K to 10 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 18 (WS): P to 10 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 19 (RS): K to 11 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

Row 20 (WS): P to 11 sts before end of heel. Wrap next st, turn.

We now should have wrapped 10 sts on each side of the heel. We are now done turning the heel! Now, we will build up the back and the sides of the heel. Please note that we are still doing short rows.

Row 21 (RS): Knit to one stitch before the end of the heel, concealing the wraps with the stitches. SSK using the last stitch on the heel needle and the first side st on needle one. Turn.

Row 22 (WS): Purl to one stitch before the end of the heel, concealing the wraps with the stitches. P2tog using the last stitch on the heel needle and the first side st on needle two. Turn.

\*Row 23 (RS): K to 1 st before end of heel, SSK with last st of heel and next side st. Turn.

\*Row 24 (WS): P to 1 st before end of heel, P2tog with last st of heel and next side st. Turn.

Repeat rows 23 and 24 until 14 of the side sts are gobbled up on both sides of the heel. There should be one more side st on either side of the heel. You will finish the last side st on a WS row, ready to turn and begin to knit across the heel. Now, we will join the heel section to the instep sections and work in the round again to complete the ankle.

Knit across the heel to one st before the end of the heel. SSK to join the left side of the heel to the last st of the side. You are now back at the beginning of the round and ready to move across the instep once again.

## Ankle and Cuff

Rnd 1: Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Current Rnd of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Current Rnd of of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, K2tog (this will gobble the last side st and completely unify the heel and the rest of the sock), knit across sole sts to end.

\*Rnd 2: Current Rnd of **Twist Cable Left pattern**, Current Rnd of **Double Zig Zag pattern**, Current Rnd of of **Twist Cable Right pattern**, knit across sole sts to end.

Repeat Rnd 2 until cuff is 3.5 inches in length.

## Ribbing and Beads

Rnd 1: K2, P2 around.

Rnd 2: Optional Beading- Using a crochet hook, place a bead on the first knit stitch at the beginning of every k2, p2 repeat that occurs along the instep sts **only**. There will be ten beads along the top of the instep.

Continue in k2, p2 ribbing for 1 inch. BO using Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off.

Repeat the full pattern for sock number two. Block your socks and enjoy them!



## Panel Pattern

I put these three elements of the pattern on these separate pages so they could be printed and followed with ease.



**(Each part of the panel is from right to left in the image)**

### **Twist Cable Left**

Rnd: 1- p2, k4, p2

Rnd: 2- p2, k4, p2

Rnd : 3- p2, k4, p2

Rnd : 4- p2, k4, p2

Rnd: 5- p2, C2L, p2

Repeat Rounds 1-5



**Double Zig-Zag** (An edited, in-the-round version of [Double Zig-Zag on Knittingfool.com](http://www.knittingfool.com). You will need to be a paid member to view the original pattern)

Rnd: 1 –\* P3, k2, p3, k4, p3, k2, p3 repeat from \*

Rnd: 2 - \* (P2, BC) twice, (FC, p2) twice repeat from \*

Rnd: 3 - \* Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches repeat from \*

Rnd: 4 - \* P1, (BC, p2) twice, FC, p2, FC, p1 repeat from \*

Rnd: 5 –\* Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches repeat from \*

Rnd: 8 - \* (BC, p2) twice, (p2, FC) twice repeat from \*

Rnd: 9 - \* Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches repeat from \*

Rnd: 10 -\* (FC, p2) twice, (p2, BC) twice repeat from \*

Rnd: 11 - \* Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches repeat from \*

Rnd: 12 - \* P1, (FC, p2) twice, BC, p2, BC, p1 repeat from \*

Rnd: 13 - \*Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches repeat from \*

Rnd: 14 - \* (P2, FC) twice, (BC, p2) twice repeat from \* p2, k4, p2

Repeat Rounds 1 – 14

### **Twist Cable Right**

Rnd: 1- p2, k4, p2

Rnd: 2- p2, k4, p2

Rnd : 3- p2, k4, p2

Rnd : 4- p2, k4, p2

Rnd: 5- p2, C2R, p2

Repeat Rounds 1-5

### **Legend for all Patterns**

Back Cross (BC): slip 1 stitch to cable needle and hold in back; k2, then p1 from cable needle

Front Cross (FC): slip 2 stitches to cable needle and hold in front; p1, then k2 from cable needle  
Cable 2 Left (C2L): slip 2 stitches to cable needle and hold to front; k2 then 2 from cable needle  
Cable 2 Right (C2R): slip 2 stitches to cable needle and hold to back; k2 then 2 from cable needle

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