

Argyle Christmas Stocking

by Katherine Misegades



*The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

[C. C. MOORE]

Yarn

3 BALLS: Brown Sheep sport-weight Nature Spun,
(1 white, 1 red, and 1 green)

1 SKEIN: Borocco Lumina (metallic gold)

Supplies

U. S. Size 2 (2.75 mm) sock needles, yarn needle
with eye, scissors, markers, jingle bells.

Gauge & Measurement

15 sts/2" (5 cm), 18 rows/2" (5 cm)

17" (44 cm) top to toe, 9" (23 cm) heel to toe

Pattern Features

- Circular invisible cast on
- Intarsia color knitting
- Charted color pattern
- Wrap and turn back seam (no sewn seam)
- Short row heel turn
- 3-stitch decrease toe shaping
- Duplicate stitch accent lines
- iCord hanger loop

Abbreviations

st/sts—stitches

k—knit

p—purl

yo—yarn over

ytf—yarn to front

ytb—yarn to back

sl—slip purlwise unless otherwise noted

k2tog—knit two sts together

3-st dec—slip two sts together as if to k2tog, knit
the next stitch, pass the two slipped sts over the
knit st with the center of the three sts lying on top.

Circular invisible cast on

Any cast on technique will work for this but the following method is especially pretty:

- Using waste thread, cast on 39 sts.
- Using white sock yarn, [k1, yo] x 39.
- Join to work in the round.
- [ytb, sl 1, ytf, p1] x 39
- [k1, ktf, sl, ytb] x 39
- [ytb, sl 1, ytf, p1] x 39
- [k1, ktf, sl, ytb] x 39
- Leave waste thread in place until an inch or more of fabric is worked

Ribbing

Work k1, p1 ribbing on the 78 sts for 5 rounds (or to ribbing length preferred). On last round, dec 1 st (k2tog) at end of round. Knit the stocking on 77 sts (this aligns the color pattern nicely on the front of the stocking).

Intarsia color knitting

Intarsia is a method of laying in areas of color in knitting using separate yarn sources for each color change. Argyle is classically knit using this technique. An excellent source for refining intarsia technique is *Intarsia—A Workshop for Hand & Machine Knitting* from the studio of Sealed with a Kiss (Sherry and Keely Stuever).

Charted color pattern

The pattern for the leg, heel, foot and toe of the stocking are charted and explained on the following pages.

Wrap & turn back seam

In order to knit back and forth without having a seam, a wrap and turn technique is used across the center back of the stocking as follows:

- Mark the center back of the stocking.
- The stitch on each side of the center back are involved in the wrap and turn manouever.
- WHEN FINISHING A KNIT ROW, move center back marker, ytf, sl1, ytb, slip the slipped/wrapped st back to right needle, turn and purl next row.

- WHEN FINISHING A PURL ROW, move center back marker, sl1, ytb, slip the slipped/wrapped st back to right needle, turn and knit next row.

Short-row heel turn

The heel is knitted in red across the back half of the stocking. It is shaped using short rows with a wrap & turn as shown on the chart on page 4.

3-stitch decrease toe shaping

The toe is knitted in the round using white yarn. The decreases fall at each side of the stocking, every other row as shown on the chart on page 4. Weave remaing stitches together using Kitchner stitch.

Duplicate stitch accent lines

Accent lines in argyle are traditionally knit in using the intarsia technique, but the lines on this stocking are worked in duplicate stitch after the diamonds are knit.

Duplicate stitch is a hand-sewn embroidery technique. The accent yarn is threaded into a needle with an eye and sewn by following the path of the knit stitches. The accent yarn lies on top of the knitted stitch at the places shown as gold outlined squares on the chart.

Finishing

FISH-HOOK, YARN-END TECHNIQUE:

Working in the yarn ends in a manner that doesn't distort the knitting and that doesn't come loose with use is important in intarsia knitting. The Stuever booklet explores this in detail. Especially important is the fish-hook formed by working the yarn through split plys and then turning back to do the same for a few stitches forming a fish hook with the tail.

ICORD HANGER LOOP:

Knit a 4-stitch iCord for 5 inches using the metallic yarn. Fold the iCord in half to form a loop and attach it to the top of the stocking back.

JINGLE BELLS:

Attach jingle bells to toe and heel of the stocking.



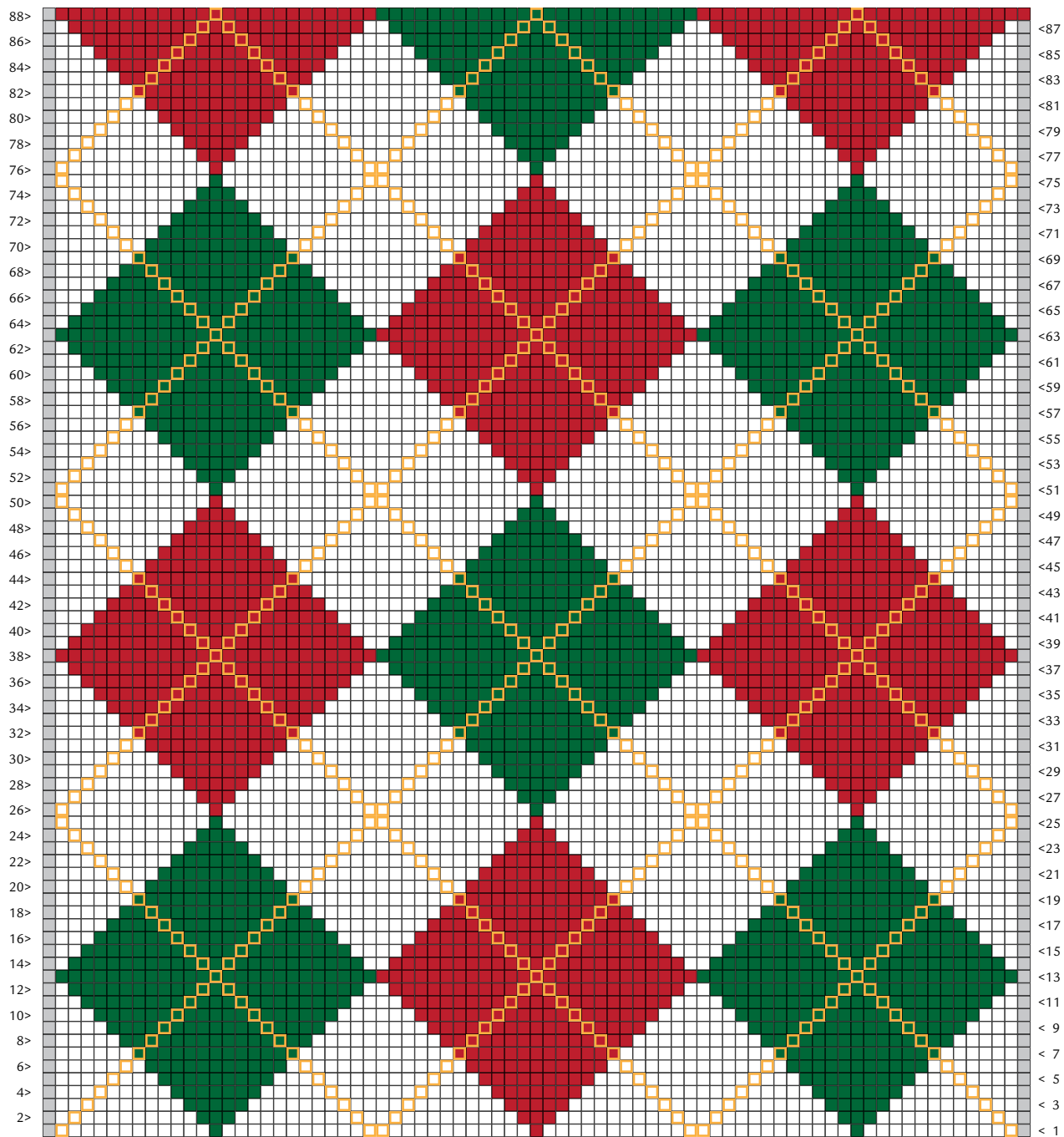
Chart—Leg

The leg instructions start with Row 1 at the bottom of the page and continue through most of Row 88. The odd numbered rows are knit and the even numbered rows are purled.

At the end of Row 88 shown on this chart (a purl row) continue on with the HEEL-TURN CHART on the next page.

Chart Key

- White yarn
- White yarn center back wrap sts
- Green yarn
- Red Yarn
- Metallic duplicate stitch over white
- Metallic duplicate stitch over green
- Metallic duplicate stitch over red



↑ center back

After working ribbing in the round, start working back and forth HERE (first stitch past the center back).

Follow the directional arrows for knit/purl rows to work intarsia in stockinette stitch.

Read back and forth, bottom to top working the color diamonds in intarsia.

At the end of each row, wrap the next stitch past the center back, and then turn.

This creates a "seam" that runs down the back of the stocking.



Chart—Heel Turn

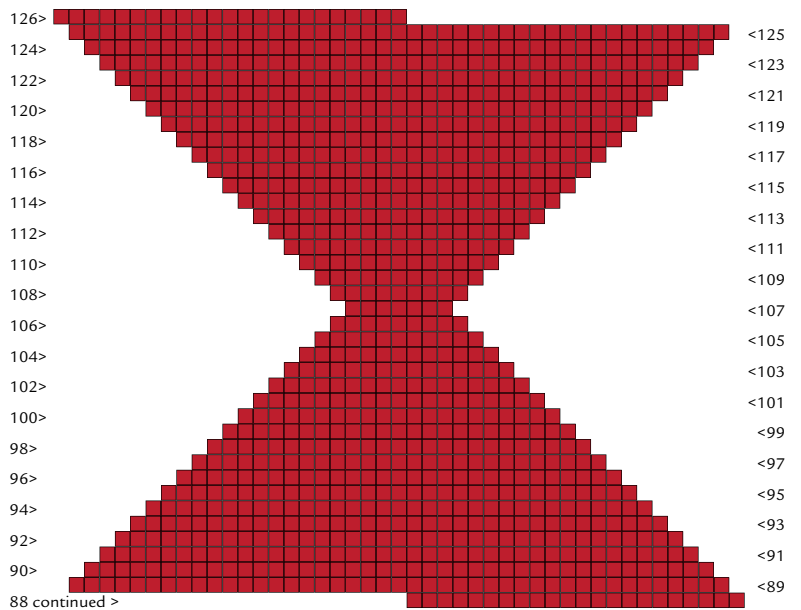
The heel is worked in short rows, back and forth using the back 44 stitches. NOTE: The sharpness of the heel turn depends upon the number of short rows involved. Adjust shaping by using more (sharper turn) or fewer (gentler turn) stitches.

AT THE END OF ROW 88: purl 22 more stitches, wrap the next stitch and turn.



Row 89: sl 1, k 43, wrap the next stitch and turn.

Row 90: sl 1, p 42, wrap the next stitch and turn.

Continue in this manner following the stitch count on the chart. Note that, at Row 108, the stitch count increases. By Row 1257, the stitch count is the same as Row 89.



Chart—Foot & Toe

- The foot is knit in the same manner as the leg with knit rows, purl rows and wraps at the center back.
- At the end of Row 163, continue knitting with just the white yarn and start working in the round.
- Work  3-st dec where indicated on the chart (each side of stocking toe).
- Work the  k2tog only at the end of the first toe round to make the stitch count an even number.

