Baby Mandy & Max Socks

By Gina House

Baby's feet chilly? Knit up a quick and adorable pair of socks to go with the Baby Amanda Hat and your baby will be cozy and warm in no time!

Difficulty: Intermediate

Photography: Gina House

What You'll Need:

Needle: US **6** (4 mm), 32"- 40" (81.3 - 101.6 cm) circular for Magic Loop or set of 5 dpns

Yarn: 48 -80 yards/.80-1.4 oz (43.6 - 72.7 m/24-40 gms) of a wool blend, single ply, light worsted weight yarn per pair of socks. *(For the photographs, I used Knit Picks Chroma Worsted, 70% wool/30% nylon, 198 yards/100g, colorway "Guppy")* You can also use Cascade 220 Superwash yarn if you'd like socks that are machine washable.

Notions: stitch markers *(optional)*, scissors, tapestry needle, measuring tape

Sizes: Baby (0-3 months) {3-6 months} [1 year]/(3.5){4}[5]" foot from heel to toe

Gauge: **5.5** sts and **6** rows = 1 inch (2.5 cm) in stockinette

*(socks shown above: **3-6 month** size)*

Directions: (make 2)

<u>NOTE</u> - These baby socks are meant to resemble the **Amanda Hat/Baby Amanda Hat** pattern. You may add/change **2** design elements that aren't shown in the photographs - use *seed stitch* for the cuff to resemble my **Armando Hat** design and/or *add a couple garter ridges* on the leg before starting the heel flap. Adding the additional garter ridges will require additional yarn. If using a self striping yarn like the **Knit Picks Chroma** and you would like your socks to match, begin each sock at the beginning of the *same color change* in the yarn. Only **one skein** of this yarn makes **2 Baby Amanda Hats** and **a pair of socks**! *(or 2 pairs of socks and a hat)* You can download my Amanda Hat, Armando Hat or Baby Amanda Hat pattern on <u>my website</u>**,** <u>*Ravelry or my SleepyEyes app*</u> **-** see last page for more details. :D

1. <u>Cuff:</u> *[all sizes]*

Loosely cast on (**24**){**28**}[**32**] sts. Join in the round, being careful not to twist the stitches. Divide the sts as evenly as you can among the number of needles you have. Add a beginning of round marker, if you wish.   Begin with 4 rounds of garter stitch by following the directions below.

Round 1: purl

Round 2: knit

Round 3: purl

Round 4: k2tog, knit the rest of the sts of the round

2. <u>Leg:</u> *[all sizes]*

Follow the **Lace Background** pattern for **4 full repeats** - **16** rounds total. The leg section (without cuff) should measure **2.5"**/6.4 cm tall.

Rearrange sts as follows: keep (**12**){**14**}[**16**] **sts** on one *(or more)* needle(s) for **HEEL** and move the rest of the sts - (**11**){**13**}[**15**] **sts** to the other needle(s) for the **INSTEP**.

You will now be working back and forth on **ONLY** the **heel flap** sts until beginning the gusset section.

3. <u>Heel Flap:</u> *[all sizes]*

Row 1 *(RS)* - *Sl1, k1*; repeat *...* across row

Row 2 *(WS)* - Sl1, purl to end

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 for **6 repeats** *(12 rows)* or until heel flap measures approximately **1.5 "**/3.8 cm.

4. Heel Turn:

Sl1, k(**6**){**7**}[**8**], k2tog, k1. *Turn.*

Sl1, p(**3**){**3**}[**3**], p2tog, p1. *Turn.*

Sl1, k(**4**){**4**}[**4**], k2tog, k1. *Turn.*

Sl1, p(**5**){**5**}[**5**], p2tog, p1. *Turn.*

{med size only} Sl1, k**6**, k2tog. *Turn.*

Sl1, p**6**, p2tog. *Turn.*

[large size only] Sl1, k**6**, k2tog, k1. *Turn.*

Sl1, p**6**, p2tog, p1. *Turn.*

You should have (**8**){**8**}[**10**] **sts** left on the heel needle.

5. Heel Gusset:

With heel needle(s) - Sl1, k(**7**){**7**}[**9**], pick up and knit (**7**){**7**}[**7**] **sts** along the heel flap, plus **1 st** in the corner. **With instep needle(s)** - knit across all (**11**){**13**}[**15**] **sts**.

With heel needle(s) again - pick up and knit **1 st** in the corner plus (**7**){**7**}[**7**] **sts** along other side of the heel flap. Knit along heel sts and the picked up & knit sts along heel flap. **Instep needle(s) -** knit across all sts.   At the end of this section, **add a stitch marker** to denote the new beginning of round *(optional)*.

Round 1`:   **Heel needle(s) -** ssk, knit to 2 sts before end of heel section, k2tog

Instep needle(s) - knit across

Round 2:   **All needle(s) -** knit around

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until the **heel** section has (**11**){**13**}[**15**] **sts**.   *(You will only be completing a decrease <u>on the right side of the heel section</u> on the last decrease round. This allows the **instep** lace section and the **heel** section to have the same number of sts before beginning the foot section.)*

6. Foot: *[all sizes]*

Continue by knitting every round on both the **HEEL** section and on the **INSTEP** section of the sock until the foot part measures approximately **1"**/3.8 cm **less** than the desired foot length for 0-3 months size and **2"**/5.1cm less for other sizes. (Measure from the back of the heel to your needles.) **Also, it's very possible that you'll go right from finishing the gusset to the toe decreases**.

Guideline for foot length: *(Please keep in mind that all babies are different and you should accurately measure the baby's foot that you are knitting for. These measurements are approximate.)*

0-3 months: 3.5", *3-6 months:* 4", *6 months-1 year:* 5"

7. Toe Decreases: *[all sizes]*

Round 1:

      Heel side - ssk, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog

      Instep side - ssk, knit to the last 2 sts, k2tog

Round 2:

      Heel side - knit around

      Instep side - knit around

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until you have **6 sts total** on all needles.

Cut yarn, leaving a **10"**/25.4 cm tail. Thread tail through a tapestry needle and pull through all remaining sts and tighten. Pull tail to the inside of the sock and secure.

Weave in all ends. Block gently and lay flat in a warm, dry place. **You're done! :D**

To Personalize Your Sock:

1. To make the leg *(or foot)* UNDERLINE, you can easily cast on **more** stitches between *at the start of the cuff*. Using the suggested gauge above, you can cast on an additional approx. 5 stitches to add an **extra 1"**/2.5 cm of width. With this option, **REMEMBER** to decrease by 1 stitch on the last knit round of the garter stitch before starting the **Lace Background** pattern if the number your cast on number is **even**. *You must have an odd number of sts before beginning the Lace Background pattern in this pattern.*

2. To make the leg *(or foot)* LONGER, it's very simple to add more rows. Each **Lace Backround** pattern repeat of 4 rounds adds **.625"**/1.6 cm of length for the leg. For the foot, continue with stockinette until foot measures approximately **1.5"**/3.8 cm **less** than the desired foot length for 0-3 months size and **2"**/5.1cm less for other sizes before starting toe decreases.

Lace Background Chart

Pattern Repeat Outlined in blue

Key:

D	Drop D (RS) drop the yarn over off the needle (WS) drop the yarn over off the needle
☐	Knit k (RS) Knit (WS) Purl
⊕	Sl1 K1 Yo Psso2 skyopsso2 (RS) Slip 1 st, knit 1 st, yo, pass the slipped st over both the knit st AND yo (WS) Knit
■	No Stitch x (RS) No Stitch (WS) No Stitch
O	Yarn Over yo (RS) Yarn Over (WS) Yarn Over

Written Directions for Lace Background Chart: (over an odd # of sts)

Round 1: k1, *yo, (sl1, k1, yo, psso over 2 sts)*; repeat *...* around

Round 2: k1, *drop yo, k2*; repeat *...* around

Round 3: k2, *yo, (sl1, k1, yo, psso over 2 sts)*; repeat *...* around to last st, k1

Round 4: k2, *drop yo, k2*; repeat *...* around to last st, k1

Repeat **Rounds 1-4** for pattern.

For more information, check out the links below. Happy Knitting!

Website: http://www.ginahouse.net

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/sleepyeyesknits

Twitter: *@SleepyEyes*

Ravelry Groups: *Sleepyheads*

Ravelry: *Sleepyeyes*

Ravelry Designs: http://www.ravelry.com/designers/gina-house

Etsy Shop: http://sleepyeyes.etsy.com


Check out my FREE "Sleepyeyes" iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad app!
*Includes **15 free patterns** to download, **5 purchase patterns plus my Dreamscape Book**...and soon **Wonderlace Book** pdf. Photographs from both books, yarn gauge chart, pattern search, Amanda Hat tutorial, and links to all of my social media, including my blog and podcast. All purchase patterns are on sale NOW! (99 cents to 4.99!)*

http://www.yogagardennh.com/Gina_House/App.html
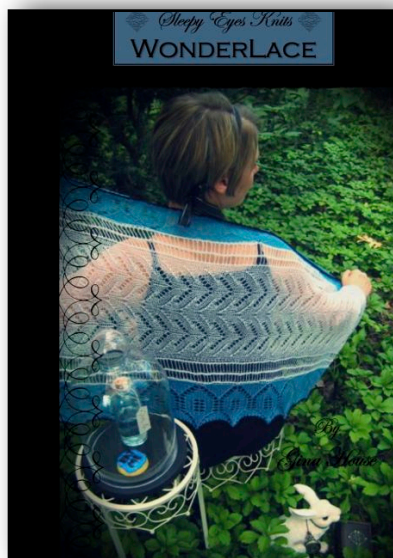
*Don't forget to check out my NEW book to be published in Late Summer 2012 - "**Sleepy Eyes Knits: Wonderlace**"**

*Includes **13 brand new** lace patterns, in all levels of difficulty and yarn weight.   All patterns include full color, beautiful pictures, **lace charts AND written instructions**, as well as a bonus Knitter's Tarot Spread by acclaimed Tarot Expert, **Barbara Moore**.*

Click on the link below for more details and photographs:

http://www.yogagardennh.com/Gina_House/Wonderlace.html