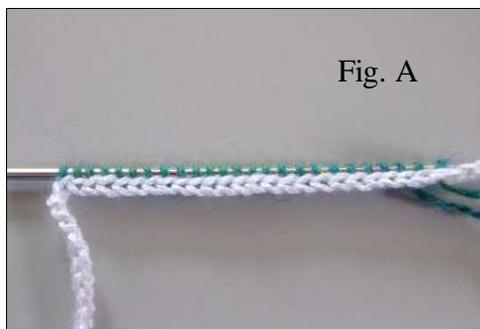
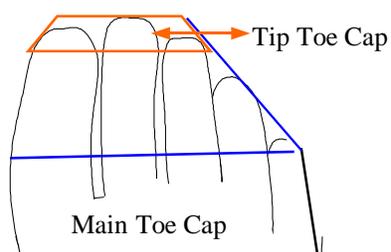
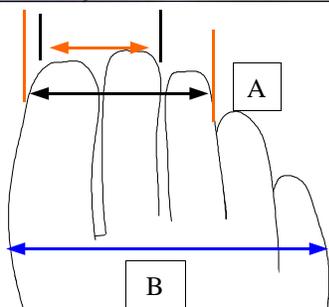


Shaping a New Toe

The standard shaping of most socks comes in two forms, either round, like a cap, or three sided, like the one in the picture below. However, I have been taking note that most socks seem to be stressed in the big toe area. Why? Because socks are not designed with a specially place for the big toe. So my first endeavor was to design one that did. It was also a challenge from my brother, who I taught to knit this past year. By the way, he's doing great!!

On the next few pages I will try to clearly define and illustrate what I do. Remember, I did say, try. Just for clarification, I use the Magic Loop Method, with a 40 inch circle needle for all my socks, so the instructions are given using this method. This, of course, would also work for the two circle needle method.

I have other shapes I will share in future posts, but for now, here is the main idea.



1. I my **right and left** socks, by establishing the stitches I would need for a TIP-TOE CAP, using the yarn and gauge I normally use for my socks. I began by measure "A" at the left. It is about a half inch down from the tips of the first three toes. This gives me the number of stitches I need to cast on to my crocheted chain.

2. I measured "B." This gave me the number of stitches to aim for with my increases on the "little" toe side.

3. I Crocheted my chain from waste yarn. The number of stitches I needed, in my case 24, plus 10 extra chain stitches. Cut the yarn about 5 inches from your last chain and pull it through. Tie a loop together with your working yarn, in the yarn you ended the chain with. This will tell you what end to start unchaining when you are through with you Tip Toe Cap.

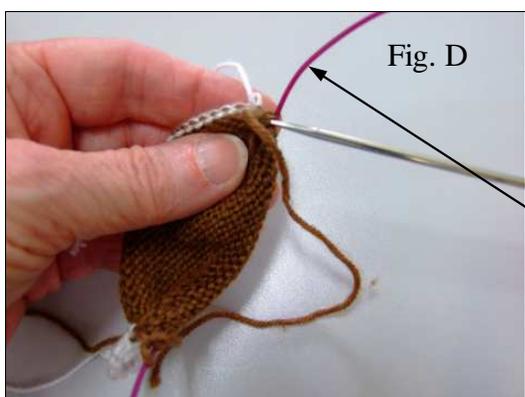
4. Turning the chain over, and using your work- ing yarn, begin picking up stitches in the back loop of the 5th chain from the last loop on the chain. See Fig.A



5. Work 3 or 4 short rows. *See Short Rows with a Tweak..” After your gaps are closed you your toe tip should look like this, Fig B. You will notice that I have ended on the left side. Now pull your needle through.



6. By folding it in half, you will see you toe tip .



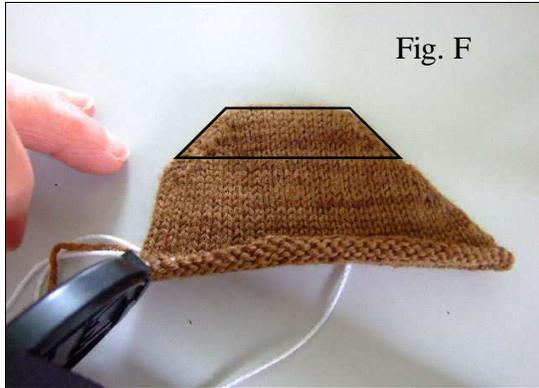
7. On the right edge, release the chain, and carefully pull it to the left until you can see the first stitch of the working yarn.

8. Grab the needle coming from the right end of your work. And insert it into the stitch held by the chain.



9. Gently pull the chain to the left releasing that stitch.

Continue across using the same procedure. Slip the needle in the stitch as shown. Gently pull crocheted chain to left releasing stitch. Be sure you pick up the last stitch held by the chain, it is easy to miss. You should have the same number of stitches on each needle. *If you DON'T, don't panic, you can pick one up in the first round.*



Now you are ready to shape the remainder of the main Toe Cap.

Here you see the Toe Tip Cap defined. Fig. F.

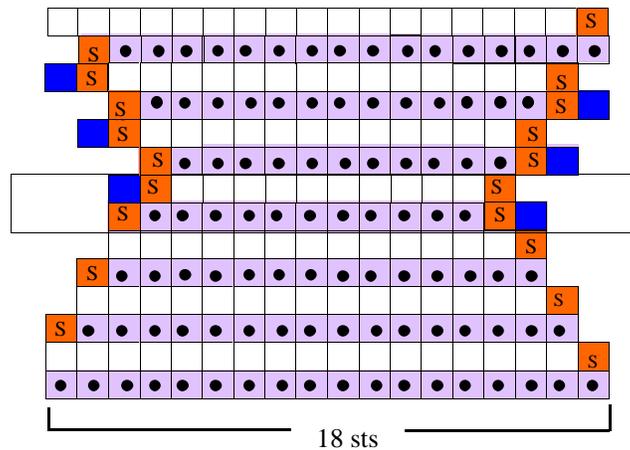
I have increase every other row on the little toe side **only**. The “big” toe side is worked straight.

Below are picture of socks I have made using this method. You can see how nicely they round out when washed.



Tip Toe Cap Chart # 1

- Knit – Right side
- Purl – Wrong side
- The orange box = SLIP stitch Knit side, Sl st purlwise, with yarn in back.
- The blue box = Lift, **SPR** (Slipped stitch in **P**revious **R**ow), K 1, PSSO. *Always lift the SPR on to the right needle and work it on same needle.*
See tutorial with pictures– Short Row Heel with a Tweak.*



Tip Toe Cap

Chain 28, with waste yarn, and with a slightly larger hook than the needle you are going to use. Leave about a 5 inch tail. Pull through the last chain and **immediately** tie your working yarn together with the tail you just cut. This reminds you what end you are going to undo to pick up the stitches off the chain. Turn the chain over, and begin picking up your 18 stitches using the 5th loop to the left of the last chain made.

- Row 1 – Purl across (wrong side row)
- Row 2 – Sl 1, K 17. Turn.
- Row 3 – Sl 1, P 16. Turn.
- Row 4 – Sl 1, K 15. Turn.
- Row 5 – Sl 1, P 14. Turn.
- Row 6 – Sl 1, K 13. Turn.
- Row 7 – Sl 1, P 11, Sl 1, lift, **SPR** (Slipped stitch in **P**revious **R**ow), P 1, PSSO. Turn.
- Row 8 – Sl 1, K 10, Sl 1, lift, **SPR** (Slipped stitch in **P**revious **R**ow), K 1, PSSO. Turn.
- Row 9 – Sl 1, P 11, Sl 1, lift, **SPR** (Slipped stitch in **P**revious **R**ow), P 1, PSSO. Turn.
- Row 10 – Sl 1, K 12, Sl 1, lift, **SPR** (Slipped stitch in **P**revious **R**ow), K 1, PSSO. Turn.
- Row 11 – Sl 1, P 13, Sl 1, lift, **SPR** (Slipped stitch in **P**revious **R**ow), P 1, PSSO. Turn.
- Row 12 – Sl 1, K 14, Sl 1, lift, **SPR** (Slipped stitch in **P**revious **R**ow), K 1, PSSO. Turn.
- Row 13 – Sl 1, P 16. Turn.
- Row 14 – Sl 1, K 17.
- Row 15 – Pick up stitches from chain as instructed on previous pages.

I begin my increases on the first round making a YO in between the last two stitches on the row, and again in between the first two stitches of the opposite side. I knit these YO's the second round.. It is very helpful to pull your beginning tail snug, thread it into a yarn needle, and put it through the toe cap on the side you want to use for your increase. **It becomes your marker.**

