



[www.tsocktsarina.com](http://www.tsocktsarina.com)

Taught by her mother and inspired by the independence of Elizabeth Zimmermann, Lisa Grossman, the Tsarina of Tsocks, has been knitting for nearly half a century; she vaguely remembers following a pattern once, before striking out into her own road-less-traveled-by. She teaches her “Art for your Feet” brand of inspired lunacy, most recently at Sock Summit 2011.

Her door is always open in the Tsock Flock group on Ravelry. Contact her at [tsocktsarina@tsocktsarina.com](mailto:tsocktsarina@tsocktsarina.com)

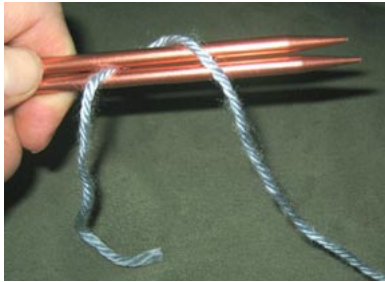
## TURKISH CAST-ON TUTORIAL

This is a lovely, clever and elegant toe-tip cast-on - no wasted effort, no complicated winding and twisting, no fiddling and adjusting and compensating to get it to lie “just so.” The yarn is simply wound around both needles, creating a set of loops that then do double duty as bases for stitches on both sides.

I strongly recommend working this cast-on on 2 circular needles, even if you plan to work the sock on DPNs. It can be done on DPNs, but that will make for a less perfectly seamless tip because the first round of stitches won’t be tight enough. The beauty of using circulars is that while you are working the first row of stitches for one side, the stitches for the other side lie on the cable of the idle needle and can be kept taut as you work - and vice versa as you come down the second side and back toward the tail.

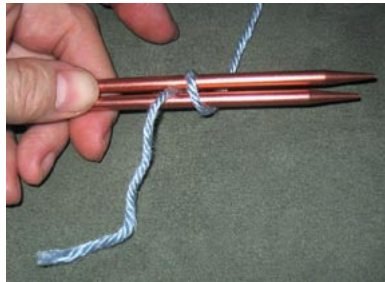
## To Cast on X Stitches:

Holding the shafts of two circular needles together, one above the other, tips pointing to the right, you're going to wind the yarn snugly around them both (X/2) times (e.g., make 14 wraps around both needles to cast on a total of 28 stitches). Begin by passing the yarn between the two needles so that the tail hangs down in front of the lower needle.



(If you like you can use a slip-knot to anchor the tail in place, but I prefer not to. Holding it between the needles for this first round is a tiny bit trickier, but produces a much smoother and more seamless result.)

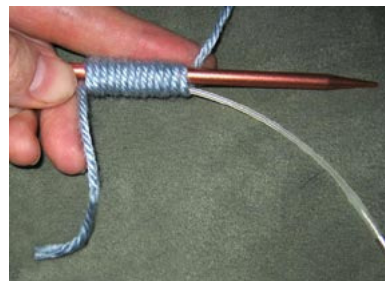
Working from the back of the shaft (where it joins the cable) toward the needle tip, wrap the working yarn up and over from back to front, down and under from front to back.



At the end of the required number of wraps, your working yarn is at the back, coming up from behind the lower needle.

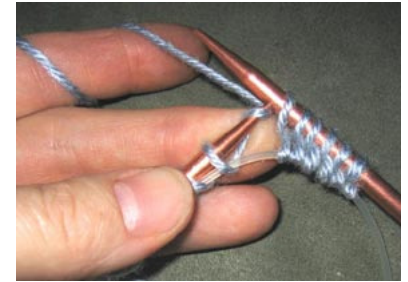


Holding the wraps in place, slide the lower needle to the right until the bottom loops are resting on the cable instead of the shaft. Let the lower needle hang and work with the upper one.

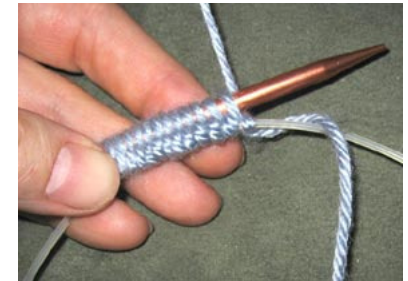


Tighten the loops (as much as you reasonably can without a lot of tinkering).

Knit all the stitches on the top needle as tightly as possible, pulling them toward the right as you go to take up any slack. You're working toward the tail, so the slack will naturally dissipate in that direction, making the tail a touch longer while keeping your stitches snug. You'll need to keep a grip on the tail to keep it from being pulled free.



Turn the work; the needle you just worked is now on the bottom. Slide it to the right so that the stitches you just worked are resting on the cable instead of the shaft. Now slide the other needle into place so that the unworked loops are on the shaft instead of the cable. Still keeping the tail under control (it's now at the right of the work, hanging down in front of the lower needle), work all the stitches on this needle.



(Note that the working yarn is again at the back, coming up from behind the lower needle. The tail is also at the back, hanging down, and wedged into position by the working yarn.)



Turn the work again; slide the needles again; work all the stitches on the new top needle. You will still have to adjust tension on the tail at the end of this needle, but this is the last time it will be an issue. You have completed the cast-on.

