

# Clafoutis bedsocks

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Warm fruit desserts were a mainstay last winter when the night-time temperatures in Adelaide dropped to zero several times. But plum clafoutis doesn't keep you toasty in bed overnight no matter how much you eat. (Drat!) So, inspired by two balls of Rare Yarns Fire (an alpaca/mohair/merino blend in the warm red colourway called Fruity) from my stash and motivated by my 10 icy-pole toes, I knitted up this fuzzy pair of quick and easy winter warmers.

- **Yarn** Rare Fire (50% alpaca, 30% mohair, 20% superfine merino; 50 g/1.75 oz; 80 m/87 yds) Fruity, 2 balls.
- **Needles and notions** 5.5 mm double-pointed needles (1 set of 4), a fat tapestry needle for grafting, waste yarn or stitch holder
- **Tension** 14.5 sts and 23 rounds to 10 cm; 5.5 wpi.
- **Finished measurements** Fits women's size 7.5–9
- **Note** I can report first-hand (foot?) that these socks have worn well, but you (or the recipient) will want to wash them on gentle cycle, or handwash to be even safer.



Using long-tail method, cast on 24 sts. Divide sts so there are 8 on each needle and join for working in the round. Work 36 rounds k2p2 ribbing. Divide for heel flap: K 4 sts from the next needle onto your working needle. Slip the rem 4 sts onto the third needle, leaving 12 sts on each of two needles.

**Heel flap** Turn and work 13 rows st st on the 12 sts on Needle 1 only, slipping the first st of each row and ending with a purl row.

**Turn heel** Sl 1, k 7, k 2 tog, turn. Row 2: sl 1, p 4, p 2 tog, turn. Row 3: Sl 1, k to one st before the gap where the last turn was, k 2 tog, turn. Row 4: sl 1, p to 1 st before the gap, p2tog, turn. Keep working back and forth in this manner, until the gaps are gone, ending with a purl row. Turn, knit 1 row. (6 sts)

**Gusset shaping** With a free needle, pick up and knit 9 sts down the side of the heel flap (7 sts down the side of the heel flap and 2 sts in the gaps between needles). With a free needle, knit across the 12 held instep sts. With a free needle, pick up and knit 9 sts (7 along the other side of the heel flap and 2 sts in the gaps between needles). K 3 sts

from the heel flap needle onto your working needle, and sl rem 3 sts onto the third needle so there are now 12 sts on each needle. (36 sts) K 1 round.

**Gusset decrease** Needle 1: k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (11 sts) Needle 2: k across 12 instep sts. Needle 3: k1, ssk, knit to end. (11 sts) (34 sts total). Repeat gusset decrease round until you have 8 sts on Needles 1 and 3 (28 sts total). Options: In many sock patterns you'd decrease back to the number cast on, but for a house sock like this one, a looser fit may be more comfortable. (If do you want a tighter-fitting sock, repeat the gusset decrease round until you have 6 sts each on Needles 1 and 2. Then carry on with 24 sts rather than 28 sts as below.

**Foot** K around on rem sts until foot is about 4 cm less than desired finished length. Rearrange sts so there are 14 sts on Needle 2 and 7 sts each on Needles 1 and 3. Toe decrease round: Needle 1: K to last 3 sts, k 2 tog, k1. Needle 2: K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. Needle 3: K 1, ssk, knit to end. Repeat decrease round until 16 sts remain, then k 1 round, work 1 decrease round (12 sts). Rearrange sts so there are 6 on each of two needles. Graft toe and give thanks for baked desserts and the warmth of the sun.