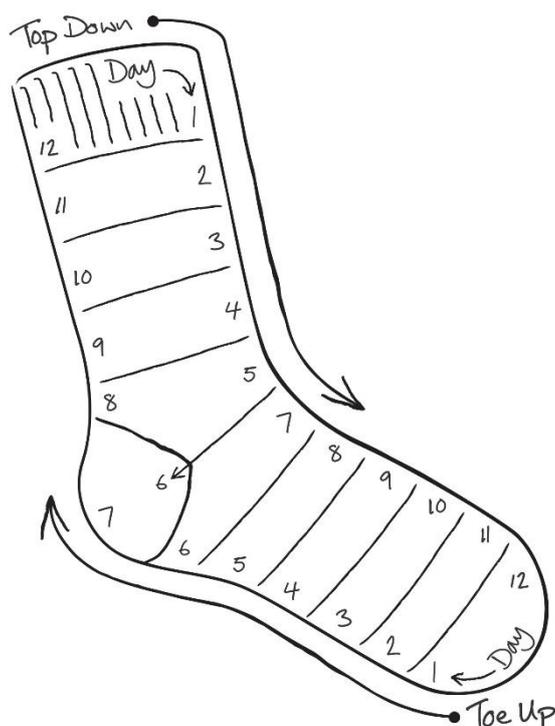


# scrappy sock stripe-o-meter

Every year, one of my dearest friends and I swap advent mini-skein calendars to knit scrappy socks; and every year, she messages me on the first of December to find out how many rows to put in each stripe of her sock. So, this is my Christmas present to scrappy-sock knitters – the Stripe-O-Meter! It isn't exact, you might need to fudge a bit: but it will give you a near-enough figure to work with.

*(Disclaimer: If you were lucky enough to have an awesome maths teacher, and are fearless with numbers, the Stripe-O-Meter is not for you. You've probably already done this calculation.)*

## using the stripe-o-meter



The Stripe-O-Meter is meant to be used in conjunction with my [Favourite Sock pattern](#), and my [Favourite Toe-up Sock pattern](#). It will work (imperfectly) with other sock constructions, if you match the finished sock length to the nearest size.

The Toe-up Sock measurements are different to my standard sock because of the particular heel construction I use in my pattern. Unlike other heel constructions, the short rows for the Fleegle Heel start right at the very back of the heel. Most other heels have a wee piece of fabric that sits under the base of the heel. If you are knitting toe-up socks with another heel construction, use the stripe width measurement for the Favourite Socks.

Stripe widths are calculated so you have 4 stripes on the leg of the sock, and 5 stripes on the foot. Refer to the diagram to see which section of the sock you should be knitting each day.

## average row gauge

Both of my Favourite Sock patterns give a recommended row gauge; however, when you're working with a number of yarns from different manufactures, it's worth working out your own average row gauge. There are also some knitters who pay no attention to row gauge when knitting socks, and I strongly suspect you are one of those.

Go and fetch 5 pairs of socks that have all been knitted by you on the same size needle.

Count the number of rows over 5 cm of stocking stitch and write that number in the boxes below.

<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	+	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	+	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	+	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	+	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	=	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Sock 1		Sock 2		Sock 3		Sock 4		Sock 5		Box A

Add all the numbers together, and put the answer in Box A.

## stripe width calculation

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Take the number from Box A and divide it by 25 to find your number of rows per 1 cm.

$$\begin{array}{c} \square \\ \text{Box A} \end{array} \div 25 = \begin{array}{c} \square \\ \text{Rows} \\ \text{per 1 cm} \end{array}$$

Choose the Finished Sock Length you want, according to the pattern you're using; either My Favourite Socks (or Favourite Toe-up Socks). Then look across to find the Width of Stripe number for the pattern you are following.

	Finished Sock Length, in cm	Louleigh's Favourite Socks	Louleigh's Favourite Toe-up Socks
xs	20 (20)	2.8	3.2
s	21 (22)	2.9	3.6
m	22 (22.5)	3	3.7
l	23.5 (23.5)	3.2	3.9
xl	25 (25)	3.3	4.2
xxl	26 (26)	3.5	4.3

Take your Rows per 1 cm number, multiply it by the Width of Stripe number for your size, and you'll get your Rows per Stripe number.

$$\begin{array}{c} \square \\ \text{Rows} \\ \text{per 1 cm} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \square \\ \text{Width of} \\ \text{Stripe} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \square \\ \text{Rows} \\ \text{per} \\ \text{Stripe} \end{array}$$

I can already hear you shouting 'Hold your horses! I can't knit a half-height row!'

This is how I manage that nasty little decimal point that tells me to knit .333 of a row. I always round the number up regardless what the decimal is. So if it says to knit 12.42 rows per stripe, I knit 13 rows.

For top-down socks, this usually means that I need to start the toe decreases partway through a stripe, and that you see less of the toe colour. I like the way this looks.

If you're knitting toe-up socks, you might need to start knitting with the heel colour partway through a stripe, and then finish the stripe after you've done the short-row section of the heel.

A friend recently suggested another way of managing the decimal. She alternates the number of rows she knits. Using the example of 12.42 rows per stripe, she would knit 12 rows for the first stripe, 13 for the second stripe, then go back to 12 rows for the third stripe, and so on.

Now that you have your Rows per Stripe number, all you need is a set of needles, a copy of my [Favourite Sock pattern](#) or [Favourite Toe-up Sock pattern](#), and a steady supply of mini-skeins! I hope my Stripe-O-Meter gets you on the way to a lovely pair of scrappy socks.

Warmly  
Leigh