

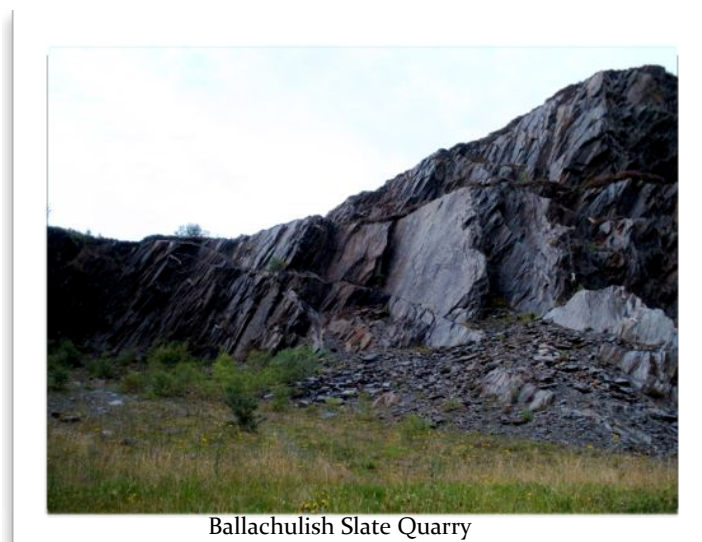
# Ballachulish

For Valentine's Day 2008, my husband presented me with an envelope. Inside were two passport applications and a brochure for a tour of Scotland. The gift was to celebrate me finishing my oral comprehensive exams and reaching ABD (all but dissertation) status in my PhD program.

We went that August, starting in Glasgow, spending a couple of days in the Highlands, passing through Aberdeen, and ending in Edinburgh. On our first night in the Highlands, we stayed in a lovely little town on the shores of Loch Linnhe: Ballachulish.

Ballachulish built up around a slate quarry that was opened in 1692, and was in operation until 1955, providing much of the roofing material in Glasgow and Edinburgh for nearly two centuries.

As an anniversary gift later that year, I decided to design a pair of socks for my husband, in memory of our trip. The second pair of socks I had ever knit were the Yarn Harlot's Early Grey pattern for my husband, who loved them so much he promptly requested a second pair. I had some dark grey sock yarn gifted to me from a Ravelry swap partner in the UK, who had sent it expressly for the wonderful man who had given his "premium wife" a trip to Scotland. She thought, at the very least, that he deserved a pair of handknit socks. And the UK yarn by Woolcraft was just the color of Ballachulish slate.



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Two years later, I grafted the stitches on the toe of the final sock on the morning of our anniversary.

## Technical Specs:

Size: Adult Men's Size 11

Finished Measurements:

- ▶ Foot Circumference: 10 inches
- ▶ Leg Length: 6-1/4 inches

Materials:

- ▶ Woolcraft Superwash Sock Yarn [Light Fingering / 3 ply 75% Wool, 25% Nylon]; Color 315 (slate grey); 1 skein/ 455 yards (or substitute the sock yarn of your choice)
- ▶ 1 size 1 circular knitting needle (47" long) for magic loop
  - ▶ 1 tapestry needle
  - ▶ 2 stitch markers
- ▶ Gauge: 9 stitches/ 12 rows per inch in stockinette stitch

Pattern:







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Foot:

- ▶ Knit all sole stitches, working top of foot in pattern, until you have 13 repeats of the diamond rib pattern from the start of the gusset, or until the work measures 2 inches less than the desired length of the sock, ending on Row 3 of the top of foot chart.

Toe:

- ▶ Round 1: K to end.
- ▶ Round 2: K to 3 st from marker, k2tog, K1, slip marker, K1, ssk., K to end.

Repeat these two Rounds until 28 stitches remain. Graft toe using Kitchener stitch (Tutorial here: <http://www.stitchdiva.com/custom.aspx?id=50>).

Abbreviations:

- ▶ K - Knit
- ▶ P - purl
- ▶ tbl - through the back loop
- ▶ tfl - through the front loop
- ▶ Sl 1 - slip one stitch purlwise onto the right needle
- ▶ Sl 1 wyb - while holding working yarn in back, slip one stitch purlwise onto the right needle
- ▶ Sl 1 wyf - while holding working yarn in front, slip one stitch purlwise onto the right needle
- ▶ ssk - slip two stitches knitwise onto the right needle, place them back onto left needle, and knit the two slipped stitches together
- ▶ K2tog - knit two stitches together
- ▶ p2tog - purl two stitches together



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## About the Designer:

Kris is a geneticist by day, knitter by night (and during long meetings). Her grandmother, who taught her to knit when she was 12, was dismayed (but not surprised) when she promptly forgot, but rejoiced when she saw Kris' newly recovered skills (after 24 years).

Her mother, who also knits, is amazed that Kris can knit socks. Ballachulish is her second knitting pattern. Her other projects, including the afghan that restored her grandmother's faith in the power of knitting, can be found at <http://www.geknitics.com>.



Sunrise over Loch Linnhe