



There was a question recently of how the cast on is supposed to look for Stephanie van der Linden's magical [Harika socks](#), and [Stephanie](#) was generous enough to send along some photos so knitters can see her innovative treatment in action.



Step 1: Holding the yarn as usual, drop or twist the right hand needle down behind the work.



Step 2: Bring the Right Hand needle under the work and up in front so that there is a twist in your fabric.



Step 3: Knit the next stitches normally, forgiving the gap that will form around the twisted fabric. That gap will disappear as you knit the following row. Have faith: the ribbing makes it all look right again. The result is lovely and inspiring. Stephanie recommends this treatment with a four or five stitch repeat for a sweet edging on mittens and children's sweaters as well.



I know a number of knitters are smitten with the socks in the colours as [they appear in the magazine](#), but are having a challenging time locating solids to coordinate with their self-striping yarn. I have a consolation to offer you: perhaps even more beautiful than the first stained-glass pair she sent to us, Stephanie has an orange version that I have to admit just takes my breath away, orange-loving knitter that I am. Suddenly that ball of Trekking XXL I scored a few years ago has a new purpose. Can't you see bright green or cobalt blues against that white too? I want them so much I have to go cast on now so that I don't fall over. If I don't post (or pass out) in the meantime, have a Happy New Year!

