

by Kay Gardiner and Ann Shayne

Holey Sock Gusset, Batman!

Dear Problem Ladies:

Here's one for you. I have given up on doing anything but short-row heels for my socks because I simply cannot pick up the stitches for the gusset. I need some very explicit directions/pictures to help me. I always end up with the wrong amount picked up, and they are always too loose looking at the gussety join. Help!

Flapless

Dear Flapless,

If short-row heels are working for you, there is absolutely no need in the world for you to feel despondent over your gusset-stitch-pick-up inadequacy. Who cares? If your sock has a heel on it, you're good. Brilliant, in fact: short rows are not for sissies.

However, if you've got that nagging feeling that a short-row heel is somehow the wrong heel for you, we suggest you take a field trip to your local yarn shop—nay, we *urge* you—to find a human to help you with this. The gusset of a sock is something that is best seen in person, not described in words. That's just a fact.

You will quickly learn that picking up stitches along a heel flap is a simple matter of counting carefully. The math of a sock pattern is pretty straightforward, so if you take your time, the stitches want to add up. For a quick look at eliminating that loose bit at the top of the heel flap/gusset join,

we direct you to Our Lady of YouTube, that source of comfort in times of trouble. We like [this short video](#) from St. Jen of Georgia, aka KatAutumn on Ravelry.



Knit Strong! Keep those cards and letters coming in to problemladies@twistcollective.com. Write a letter that Kay and Ann choose to answer in the summer issue and we'll send you a Twist Collective tape measure.