

PROJECT 2

Baby Booties



This is a brilliant second project as it is a good step up from a scarf, but still very simple and quick to finish. Also, who doesn't know someone about to have a baby? The perfect personalised gift!

This is a garter stitch bootie – this means that the stitch used is 'knit' for every row. There is no purl in this pattern.

As this is your first project using a pattern, I have broken it down fully so that you'll have images and help for each stage of the knitting. As you progress through the book, you'll learn more and more so that you'll need less help each time.

Overtail are instructions written as they would be for a standard knitting pattern. Then I've broken the pattern down using images so you'll know what your knitting should look like at each stage.

YOU WILL NEED

50G DOUBLE-KNIT YARN

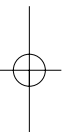
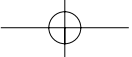
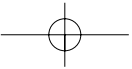
I suggest you choose one of the many specialist baby yarns available – Rowan 'Soft Baby' or Debbie Bliss 'Baby Cashmerino'

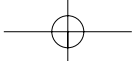
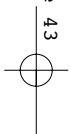
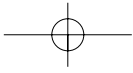
5MM KNITTING NEEDLES

For a smaller bootie, try using 4mm needles

DARNING NEEDLE

To sew up the bootie





HERE IS THE KNITTING PATTERN**ABBREVIATIONS:**

K = Knit
 K2tog = Knit two stitches together
 St(s) = Stitch(es)

START KNITTING

- 1** Cast on 38 sts
- 2** Knit 12 rows
 You will now start decreasing:
- 3** Row 13: K16, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K16.
 Count 36 sts.
 Row 14: K15, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K15.
 Count 34 sts.
 Row 15: K14, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K14.
 Count 32 sts.
 Row 16: K13, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K13.
 Count 30 sts.
 Row 17: K12, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K12.
 Count 28 sts.
 Row 18: K11, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K11. Count 26 sts.
 Row 19: K10, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K10.
 Count 24 sts.
- 4** Rows 20-27: Knit these next 8 rows.
- 5** Cast off loosely leaving a long end for sewing up (about 50cm).
- 6** To finish the bootie, fold it in half and sew up using the long cast-off end of yarn.

Choosing Yarn

A standard double-knit (DK) weight of yarn is used for this pattern, together with a needle one size bigger than normally used so that the booties are stretchy enough to fit various sizes of baby feet. The needle size should also help you avoid that typical beginners' problem: tight tension.

When choosing yarn, the assistants in the yarn store will help if you want them to bear in mind that you are knitting for a baby, and choose your yarn accordingly. There are many lanolin-free, organic or cotton yarns available these days, and these are good options about if you are worried about allergies. Don't get anything too hot or scratchy – baby skin is very soft. Also, as pretty as they are, it's best to stay away from any yarn too fluffy or with bits or bobbles on it.

Remember Rule Number One

Count your stitches at the end of every row. This is very important to ensure that you are decreasing correctly, and that you end up with identical booties.

**Handy HINT**

If you tick off the rows as you knit them, you are more likely to get two booties the same size.

HERE IS THE PATTERN WITH PICTURES FOR EACH STAGE

START KNITTING



1
Cast on 38 sts



2
Knit 12 rows



3
Start decreasing



3a
When you have finished the decreasing rows, your bootie should start to take shape



4
Then knit 8 rows



5
Cast off loosely leaving a long end for sewing up (about 50cm)



6a
Hold the bootie right side out - so that the plait ridge of your cast off edge is on the inside



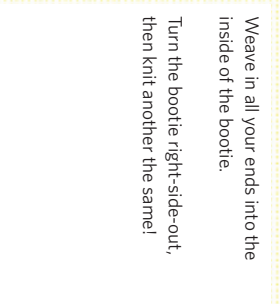
6b
Sew from the top of the bootie to the heel using garter mattress stitch



6c
When you get to the heel, turn the bootie inside out - so that the plait cast off edge is on the outside



6d
Then sew up the bottom of the bootie using backstitch



Weave in all your ends into the inside of the bootie.
Turn the bootie right-side-out, then knit another the same!





**Handy
HINT**

If your cast off is too tight, the bootie will be hard to put on the baby's foot. To make your cast off looser, try using a knitting needle 1mm bigger than you used in the rest of your knitting to cast off with. (See Cast Off section, p20).

Questions & Answers



My bootie ended up enormous! What happened?

Some beginners knit very tightly and some knit very loosely. This means that your booties might turn out too big or too small or even different sizes each time.

Knitting two the same comes with practice, but if your booties are too big, try making another using a 4mm knitting needle rather than the 5mm needle I've suggested.



The bootie on the left was knitted with 4mm knitting needles and the one on the right with 5mm needles. That is a demonstration of gauge - using different needles will alter the final piece of knitting you make: Bigger needles = bigger knitting. Smaller needles = smaller knitting.

Both my booties are different sizes!

What have I done wrong?

Nothing - this is just an example of your 'beginners' tension acting up. You can't expect to always knit evenly when you are a beginner - so don't worry if you have to knit three or more booties until you get two that match. And if you really have trouble, remember that babies won't complain too much!



Variation on the original bootie

Finishing options

These booties are very simple, but you can also add some variation to the last eight rows of the pattern if you want to. Here are just a few finishing options:

- Run some ribbon through with a darning needle and tie it in a bow.
- Instead of just plain garter stitch, try stocking stitch for a pretty rolled edge.
- 1X1 rib the last eight rows - see stitch patterns (p.Xx)
- Knit more than 8 rows for a 'boot' look.