

Sneaker Booties

By Michelle Lo

The inspiration for this came as I was knitting a sweater for my cousin's baby shower. Cute as the sweater was, I felt it needed a companion. I knew I wanted booties, but none of the patterns I saw were quite to my tastes... so I decided to make up my own.

I would guess these would fit an infant 3-6 months old. The pattern can be easily be made smaller by using smaller needles and/or smaller yarn, and vice versa.



MATERIALS

Yarn: Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino (125 m/50 g); 202 pale blue, 1 ball (MC); 201 ecru, 1 ball (CC). *Note: much less than a ball of each color is needed for a pair of booties.*

Needles: Set of 5 2.75 mm (US 2) dpns (Adjust needle size as necessary).

Notions: Marker (m), tapestry needle

GAUGE

24 sts and 36 rows in St st

PATTERN NOTES

Laces Pattern:

Row 1: (RS) k2, ssk, yo, p4, yo, k2tog, k2

Row 2: (WS) p4, k4, p4

Row 3: k4, p4, k4

Row 4: p4, k4, p4

The sole of the sneaker is worked by knitting a vertical "strip" (starting from the front of the foot) and connecting it to the foot by knitting the edge stitch of the strip with the stitches on the sides of the foot.

DIRECTIONS

Cuff:

CO 36 sts in MC. Distribute stitches as follows:

Needle 1: 6 sts

Needle 2: 12 sts

Needle 3: 6 sts

Needle 4: 12 sts

Join, being careful not to twist. Place m to mark beginning of the round.

Rnd 1-10: Knit in St st.

Round 11: knit 18 sts. Turn.

The 12 stitches on Needle 2 make up the "tongue" of the bootie. For tongue portion, work back and forth on Needle 2 ONLY.

Tongue:

Purl all 12 sts on Needle 2.

Work laces pattern 3 times.

Work Row 1 one more time. Then work St st for 5 more rows, ending on a WS row.

Foot:

K 12. Do not turn.

Pick up and knit 12 stitches along edge of the tongue and knit 6 stitches on Needle 3 for a total of 18 sts.

K all stitches on Needle 4.

K all stitches on Needle 1 and pick up and knit 12 stitches along the other edge of the tongue. 48 sts total.

You will now work the rest of the foot in the round. Move the original marker here. This is now the beginning of the round. This next needle will now be designated as "Needle 1". The stitch distribution should be as follows:

Needle 1: 12 sts
Needle 2: 18 sts
Needle 3: 12 sts
Needle 4: 18 sts

Rnd 1-5: Knit in St st.

Rnd 6: Change to CC. K all around

Rnd 7-8: K in St st.

Sole:

Row 1: K 11 and with remaining stitch and next stitch on Needle 2, ssk. Turn.

Row 2: P 11 and with remaining stitch and next stitch on Needle 4, p2tog. Turn.

Rep these last two rows until there are no remaining stitches on Needle 3 or Needle 1. There should only be 12 stitches on Needle 2 and 12 stitches on Needle 4 left.

Graft the stitches on Needle 2 to the stitches on Needle 4.

Work second bootie as first.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends and block as needed. Using about 12 inches of CC, lace up the bootie however you fancy.

Put them on the wee one's feets and admire them for the five seconds they stay on!

