

Short-Row Slippers
by Lara Neel

Size before felting: about 10" long and 4.75" wide

Size after felting: about 9" long and 4.25" wide

Gauge, in general, after felting: about 4.25" for 10 stitches

I've knit two pairs of these slippers. One pair, felted in a draconian manner involving the washer and the dryer, fits a woman who normally wears an American 6.5 shoe. The other pair, felted in the washing-machine and then laid out to dry, fits a woman who normally wears an American 8.5 shoe. Your best judgment will produce the best results. See Math4Knitters: Crafty Living, Show 3, at journalgazette.net/craftyliving, for general felting instructions.



Special techniques needed: temporary cast-on, long-tail cast-on, three-needle bind-off. Photo tutorial for the two cast-ons are available with Math4Knitters: Crafty Living, Show 5, at journalgazette.net/craftyliving.

Yarn: Bernat Felting Natural Wool, 75 grams or 2.6 oz/ball (4 balls), or any Bulky (#5) yarn, 100% wool. The yarn is held double throughout.

#11 needles, either two circular needles or at least five dpns. I highly recommend circulars.

Top of Slipper:

Using a temporary cast-on, cast on 15 stitches.

Knit one row.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 13 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 12 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 11 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 10 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Knit 2 ridges (4 rows) of garter stitch.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 13 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 12 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 11 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Slip 1 p-wise, knit 10 stitches, turn, knit to end of row.

Break yarn, leaving yourself enough yarn to use in a 14-stitch long-tail cast-on. I used about 28".

Sides of Slipper:

Remove waste yarn and pick up stitches from the cast-on edge. Turn the piece so that the last knit row is facing you. In other words, you are going to start working again on the opposite side of the piece from where you last left off.

Using a long-tail cast-on, cast on 14 stitches, knit the 15 stitches picked up from the original cast on, remembering to untwist the ones that were twisted in the cast-on, pick up and knit 2 stitches from the toe end, knit the 15 stitches on the other side of the slipper, cast on 14 more stitches (using the tail you left when you broke the yarn before).

Knit four rows.

Purl row: Purl 25 stitches; switch to another needle (reserve needle), purl 2 stitches, knit 6 stitches, purl 2 stitches; switch back to original needle, purl 25 stitches. Break yarn.

Bottom of Slipper:

Position stitches so that nothing is twisted, the top of the slipper is facing down, and the purl bumps from the last row are facing out. Starting at the back of the slipper (open end), move three stitches from the right-hand needle to the left-hand needle. Join new yarn, knit 6 stitches. Turn, knit 7 stitches. Turn, knit 8 stitches. Turn.

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Knit 7 stitches, ssk, turn.

Knit 7 stitches, k2t, turn.

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Repeat these two rows until there are 40 stitches total. Knit 9 stitches, turn. Knit 10 stitches, turn.

Continue decreases as before, with two more stitches to knit, (Knit 9 stitches, ssk, turn. Knit 9 stitches, k2t, turn.) until you have 20 stitches total. There should be 10 stitches on the needle on reserve and another 10 stitches on the working needle. You will be moving stitches from your reserve needle onto the working needle as you continue to decrease.

k1, k2t, k6, k2t, turn.

k1, k2t, k5, k2t, turn.

k1, k2t, k4, k2t, turn.

k1, k2t, k3, k2t, turn.

You should now have two sets of six stitches. Use a three-needle bind-off to close the six top stitches to the six bottom stitches. Sew the small seam at the back heel of the slipper. Darn in all ends. Felt and enjoy. Please be careful when walking on hard surfaces. I always experiment, but I've found that anywhere I can walk in socks, I can safely walk in slippers. I've heard that some people apply puff paint to the bottom of slippers, but I haven't tried it, so I don't know if it works.

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