



Ruth's "Perfect" Baby Booties

After looking for the "PERFECT" baby bootie pattern online, I found many that came close, but none that seemed perfect for me...

So, I did what most knitters probably do and don't tell anyone. I took the best features from each pattern I found, tweaked the math to suit the way my brain works and wrote my own pattern. I can only hope you will find these perfect for you, too!

Newborn to 3 months: 90 yards of sport or DK weight yarn on size 3 needles

3 to 6 months: 90 yards of worsted weight yarn on size 4 needles

Gauge: Worsted- 4 st/inch in stockinette

Sport or DK- 5 st/inch in stockinette

(Note: Gauge isn't too critical, since baby feet come in a wide variety of sizes and grow quickly.)

Notions: Tapestry Needle

Scissors

Two Stitch Markers

Small amount of ribbon or I-cord to use as "shoelace"

Sole of Bootie:

Using Long Tail Cast On, CO 26 st.

Row 1: 3, 5, 7, 9: Sl 1 st knitwise, knit to end.

Row 2: Sl 1 st knitwise, M1, K11, PM, M1, K1, M1, K1, M1, PM, K11, M1, K1. (31 sts)

Row 4: Sl 1 st knitwise, K1, M1, K11, (marker is here), M1, K2, M1, K3, M1, (marker is here), K11, M1, K2. (36 sts)

Row 6: Sl 1 st knitwise, K2, M1, K11, (marker is here), M1, K4, M1, K4, M1, (marker is here), K11, M1, K3. (41 sts)

Row 8: Sl 1 st knitwise, K3, M1, K11, (marker is here), M1, K5, M1, K6, M1, (marker is here), K11, M1, K4. (46 sts)

Row 10: Sl 1 st knitwise, K4, M1, K11, (marker is here), M1, K7, M1, K7, M1, (marker is here), K11, M1, K5. (51 sts)

Row 11: Sl 1 st knitwise, knit to end, removing markers.

Row 12, 14, 16, 18: Sl 1 st purlwise, purl to end of row.

Row 13, 15, 17: Sl 1 st knitwise, knit to end of row.

Shape Toe/Top of Foot (Short Rows!)

Row 19: Sl 1 st knitwise, K28, ssk, turn.

Row 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34: Sl 1 st purlwise, P7, P2tog, turn.

Row 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33: Sl 1 st knitwise, K7, ssk, turn.

Row 35: Sl 1 st knitwise, K4, M1, knit to end of row. (36 sts)

Row 36: Sl 1 st purlwise, purl to end of row.

Row 37: Sl 1 st knitwise, (YO, K2tog, K1)* to last 2 sts, YO K2. (37 sts) (This makes 12 eyelets for "shoestring".)

Row 38: Sl 1 st purlwise, purl to end of row.

Cuff:

Row 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55: Sl 1 st knitwise, (K2, P2)*, repeat to end of row.

Row 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56: Sl 1 st knitwise, P1, (K2, P2)*, repeat to last 5 sts, K2, P3.

BO in pattern, leaving a 26" tail.

Turn bootie inside out. Use tail to sew up selvedge edge. (I suggest using mattress stitch for garter stitch rows and backstitch for the cuff and sole.) Thread a ribbon or I-cord through your eyelets to make your "shoelace".

Variations:

- Instead of a ribbed cuff, feel free to tweak the stitch count and make a cuff with 18 rows or garter stitch, seed stitch, different rib stitches, cables, or whatever pleases you.
- You can also change the look of the bootie using different materials for the shoe lace- leather cord, length of braided yarn, etc.
- Use a contrasting color for sole of bootie. The booties pictured use a navy blue for the sole and light blue for the top and cuff.
- You could also use a bulky weight feltable wool yarn on size 10.5 needles and then felt them down to size.