



Slipper boots

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Crocheted in firm, dense single crochet using a robust, hardwearing British sheeps breed wool, this is my take on the ubiquitous twenty-first century footwear: the slipper boot.

Skill level



INTERMEDIATE

In this project you will learn

Working a simple single crochet decrease
Working a simple single crochet increase
Designing to fit your size


Stitches used

Single crochet

Size

Sole of this woman's slipper measures approximately 9½in/24.5cm long (to adjust size, see masterclass on page 94)

Materials

Bulky-weight wool yarn, such as Rowan Purelife British Sheep Breeds Chunky Undyed  BULKY in one color:

2 x 3½oz/100g balls (120yd/110m per ball)
in light gray

K-10½ (7mm) crochet hook

Scraps of leather, or suede, and matching sewing thread

Gauge

10 sts and 14 rows to 4in/10cm measured over single crochet using a K-10½ (7mm) hook.

Abbreviations

sc2tog = [insert hook in next st, yo and draw a loop through] twice, yo and draw through all 3 loops on hook—one stitch decreased.

See also page 45.

To make slipper uppers (make 2)

The slippers are made in two separate pieces—the upper and the sole.

Leg

The leg of the upper is worked in rounds as follows:

Base ring Using a K-10½ (7mm) hook, ch 31 and join with a slip stitch to first chain to form a ring. (Make sure that the chain is not twisted when you join the chain into a ring.)

Round 1 (WS) Ch 1, 1 sc in same place as slip stitch, 1 sc in each of remaining ch to end, join with a slip stitch to first sc. 31 sc.

Note: Do not turn at end of rounds but continue with WS always facing.

Round 2 Ch 1, 1 sc in same place as slip stitch, 1 sc in each sc to end, join with a slip stitch to first sc. 31 sc.

Repeat last round 4 times more.

Heel

The heel is worked in rows as follows:

Row 1 (WS) Ch 1, 1 sc in same place as slip stitch, 1 sc in each sc to end, turn. 31 sc.

Row 2 (RS) Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch 1, sc2tog, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 29 sc.

Row 4 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to end, turn.

Instep

The instep is worked in rounds as follows:

Round 6 (RS) Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to last sc, 2 sc in last sc, then work 11 sc across instep (row-end edges), join with a slip stitch to first sc.

Round 7 Ch 1, 1 sc in same place as slip stitch, 1 sc in each sc to end, join with a slip stitch to first sc, turn.

Top of foot

Starting with a WS row, the foot is worked in rows as follows:

Row 8 Ch 1, 1 sc in each of next 14 sc, turn. 14 sc.

Rows 9, 10, and 11 [Rep row 8] 3 times.

Row 12 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 13 sc.

Row 13 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 12 dc.

Rows 14 and 15 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to end, turn.

Row 16 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 11 sc.

Row 17 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 10 sc.

Row 18 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 9 sc.

Row 19 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 8 sc.

Fasten off and turn leg right side out.

Make second upper in exactly the same way.

To make soles (make 2)

The sole is worked from the heel to the toe.

Foundation chain Using a K-10¹/₂ (7mm) hook, ch 5.

Row 1 1 sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 sc in each of remaining ch to end, turn. 4 sc.

Row 2 Ch 1, 1 sc in each sc to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch 1, 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in each sc to last sc, 2 sc in last sc, turn. 6 sc.

Repeat row 2 until work measures 5¹/₄in/13.5cm from beginning.

Next row Ch 1, 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in each sc to

last sc, 2 sc in last sc, turn. 8 sc.

Repeat row 2 until work measures 9in/23cm from beginning.

Next row Ch 1, sc2tog, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 6 sc.

Next row Ch 1, sc2tog, 1 sc in each sc to last 2 sc, sc2tog, turn. 4 sc.

Fasten off.

Make second sole in exactly the same way.

To finish

Weave in any loose ends.

Pin sole to upper with wrong sides together, easing to fit around toe. Using a K-10¹/₂ (7mm) hook, join yarn with a slip stitch to center of heel, inserting hook through both layers, work ch 1, then work sc through both layers all around, join with a slip stitch to first sc.

Fasten off and weave in end.

If desired, turn down first three rows of leg to form a “cuff” at top of slipper.

Cut two pieces of leather for each slipper, using the two templates (see page 143), one for the sole under the ball of the foot and one for the sole under the heel. Hand sew these leather pads to the soles, using a matching sewing thread.

Note: To make the hand sewing easier, if you have a sewing machine use it to punch holes through the leather. Set the sewing machine to an extra-long stitch and do not thread the needle, then stitch all around the cut out shapes, ¹/₈in/4mm from the edge. Overcast stitch the pieces in place through the punched holes.

Masterclass

Adjusting the slipper pattern for different sizes

One of crochet's greatest qualities is its flexibility. As this slipper boot is worked in basic single crochet, it's very easy to adjust the length and width of the basic shape to suit different foot sizes. If you have a narrow foot, take out 2 chain from the width of the sole and 2 stitches from the top of the foot; or, alternatively, if you have a wide foot, add 2 chain (and 2 stitches) to the width. Alter the length of the foot by working fewer or more rows within the straight sole (and top of foot) section. As a general tip, add or subtract ¹/₂in/1cm if you wish to make a larger or smaller size. This is a very versatile pattern: I prefer a short boot that I wear with the edge rolled down to form a cuff, but you can work a longer cuff for a higher boot and even work the initial row in a contrasting yarn to give a further decorative detail.

