

Feltable Slippers

US Size 6 (4mm) double pointed needles and 1 skein of Cascade 220, Galway or some similar feltable worsted-weight wool.



Cast on 20 stitches over 4 needles. Use whatever toe-up sock cast-on method you prefer. If you've never done this before, you're not alone. Neither had I. For the original pair, I just sort of made up something but I found this on Knitty.com and it seems to have worked well.

<http://knitty.com/ISSUESpring06/FEATmagiccaston.html>

If you want to just do a regular cast on, you can just seam the toe at the end. I wear a US size 7 or 7½ so that's what I was aiming for. But you can adjust the size either by changing the needle size up or felting them more or less. You probably don't want to use a smaller needle size because the

wool needs some room to felt. There's more information about felting at the end of the pattern.

Note: Needles 1&2 are the sole of the slipper and needles 3&4 are the top of the foot.

- Round 1: Knit
Round 2: needle 1-K2, M1, knit to end; needle 2-knit to last stitch, M1, K1; needles 3,4-same as for needles 1&2
Round 3: Knit
Round 4: Repeat round 2.
Round 5: Repeat round 3.
Round 6: needle 1- K3, M1, K4; needle 2-K4, M1, K3; needle 3-K2, M1, K5; needle 4-K6, M1, K1
Round 7: Knit
Round 8: needle 1- K4, M1, K4; needle 2-K4, M1, K4; needle 3-K2, M1, K6; needle 4-K7, M1, K1
Round 9: Knit
Round 10: needle 1- K5, M1, K4; needle 2-K4, M1, K5; needle 3-K2, M1, K7; needle 4-K8, M1, K1
Round 11: Knit
Round 12: needle 1- K6, M1, K4; needle 2-K4, M1, K6; needle 3-K2, M1, K8; needle 4-K9, M1, K1
Round 13: Knit
Round 14: From this point on, continue to work the sole (needles 1&2) even. Increase 1 stitch each side of the top section until there are 19 stitches on each of needles 3&4.

Note: You can make the foot section narrower by increasing fewer stitches. I can't imagine you'll want it wider but of course you can do so by increasing more stitches.

Once you've got 22 stitches on the sole and 38 stitches on the top, work 4 rounds even.

Next round: Needles 1&2-knit; needle 3-K11, K2tog, K6; needle4-K6, SSK, K11

Next round: Knit

Next round: Needles 1&2-knit; needle 3-K10, K2tog, K6; needle4-K6, SSK, K10

Next round: Knit

Knit even until the slipper measures 7 inches (18 mm).

Next round: Needles 1&2-knit; needles 3&4-work i-cord bind off as follows:

At the beginning of needle 3, using the knitted cast on, cast on 4 stitches in front of live stitches. Knit 3 stitches then knit the next 2 stitches together. This gives you 4 stitches on the right-hand needle. Slip the 4 stitches back to the left-hand needle and then work knit 3, knit 2 together. Repeat this until all the stitches are worked off



needles 3&4. You're left with 4 stitches. Slip the stitches back to the left-hand needle and knit 2 stitches together twice. Slip the 2 stitches back to left-hand needle and knit 2 stitches together.

Now using the first stitch from needle 1, knit 1 and pass the last stitch from needle 4 over the knitted stitch. Basically, you're binding off that last stitch. This should leave you 22 stitches.

Using 1 needle, knit the remaining stitches but don't turn your work yet. Cast on 8 stitches at the end of the row then turn your work and purl to the end. Cast on 8 stitches at the end of the row. This gives you 38 stitches on the needle. You can change to straight needles if you want but I had room for all the stitches on my double pointed needles so I just continued to use 2 of the double pointed needles.



Knit even until piece measures 10.5 inches (27 mm).

Next row: K1, K2tog, K6, slip 1, K2 tog, PSSO, K14, slip 1, K2tog, PSSO, K6, SSK, K1.

Next row: Purl

Next row: K1, K2tog, K5, slip 1, K2 tog, PSSO, K10, slip 1, K2tog, PSSO, K5, SSK, K1.

Next row: Purl

Next row: K7, slip 1, K2 tog, PSSO, K6, slip 1, K2 tog, PSSO, K7

Next row: Purl

Next row: K7, slip 1, K2 tog, PSSO, K2, slip 1, K2 tog, PSSO, K7

Next row: Purl

Next row: K7, SSK, K2tog, K7

Next row: K7 to take the yarn back to the middle of the row to set up for the bind off.

Next row: Use either the Kitchener stitch or the 3-needle bind off to finish off the heel.

Fold the edge around the sole to the inside 2 or 3 stitches and seam. Sew the sole edge to the i-cord bind off to finish off the slipper. Work in the yarn ends.

Felt to fit. Keep an eye on the felting process. I let it run about 5 minutes and then check it every minute or so to make sure it doesn't go too far. If you've never felted something before, there are loads of instructions around. Keep in mind that felted knitting shrinks about 10% width-wise and 30% length-wise.

<http://knitty.com/ISSUEwinter03/FEATfelthis.html>

You'll notice in the picture at the beginning that they were still a little too wide but I stopped the felting because they were the right length. To make them fit better in the foot, I put in lacings like you would have on tennis shoes. That way I can make them larger if I decide I want to wear thick socks with them (it gets cold here and I hate heaters).

One other note is this. These make a fairly thin fabric. If you want the sole to be thicker and cushier, just follow the directions for needles 1 & 2 and make a second sole to sew on before you felt the slippers. You could even make it from a contrasting color wool.

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