

Tante Sophie avoit un chien

Knitwear for little girls and boys
big girls and boys and even the dog.



The Saartje Baby Booties are already a staple in the baby knitting repertoire. After finishing the adorable smock dress from Mel Clark's newest book (Knitting Gifts for baby) I was only too happy to incorporate that lovely element into stay on baby slippers.

To boot they are made in one piece without any seaming. You have to weave away a tail from the cast-on and one from the bind-off at the top. Altogether a super fast project that will delight any new mom or even a seasoned one and is sure to guarantee sighs of awe!

So let's get on with it shall we?!



1. How to knit smock top baby slippers ...
2. 10 g (about 45m or 50 yards) of sock yarn (you really don't need a whole lot) ... we are not being too fussy about what you are using though something light and not too busy in the colors will be what shows off the smocking best.
3. A set of US #2 (3.00 mm) double pointed needles. If you only have 3.25 mm ones it will still work. The first pair can be for practice and you'll be making them many more times any way. See that you work that garter stitch in the round nice and tight!
4. This pattern is a modified version of the Saartje booties and surely you could carry on with different sizing. For the first time we are keeping it simple! The ones in the photos are about 3.5-3.75" long.
5. Simple + beautiful = priceless!
6. Using two double pointed needles cast on 31 stitches using the knitted cast-on. Make a slip knot ... does it pull tight from the tail? You want to be able to pull that stitch tight, it will be the last one you knit on the first "round". Knit the second stitch out of that slip stitch and all following ones from between the stitches.
7. You are ready to divide the sts over two needles.
8. Holding two needles in your right hand alternately slip a stitch as if to purl onto the front and back needles.
9. You have 16 sts on the front needle and 15 sts on the back needle.
The round starts at the heel!
The tail from the cast-on is at the toes!
10. Needle #1 ... knit 16 sts
needle #2 ... knit 15 sts
11. It will be VERY awkward for the first few needles/rounds!
12. Don't worry it works itself out and you will master the double pointed needles in tight quarters in no time.
13. You will work the first few rounds over the two needles only and you want to keep the stitches tight and together. That means when you begin the next needle always tug tightly when you work the first two stitches.
14. Next round ... needle #1 ... p1bf (purl one into the back of the loop and then purl into the front loop of that same stitch, almost the same as the other way around but better!), p14, m1 (using the backward loop method, I give mine a double clockwise twist), p1, m1 ... 19 sts.
needle #2 ... p14, p1bf ... 16 sts = 35 sts.
15. Knit one round. Knit the m1 through the back loop ... 35 sts.
16. Needle #1 ... P1bf, p15, m1, p3, m1 ... 22 sts.
needle #2 ... p15, p1bf ... 17 sts = 39 sts.

17. Knit one round. Knit the m1 through the back loop ... 39 sts.
18. Needle #1 ... p1bf, p16, m1, p1, m1, p3, m1, p1, m1 ... 27 sts.
needle #2 ... p16, p1bf ... 18 sts = 45 sts.
19. Knit one round redistributing the sts. Knit the m1 through the back loop ... 45 sts.
Needle #1 ... knit 16 sts.
needle #2 ... knit 13 sts.
needle #3 ... knit 16 sts = 45 sts.
20. Needle #1 ... p1bf, p15 ... 17 sts.
needle #2 ... p2, m1, p1, m1, p7, m1, p1, m1, p2 ... 17 sts.
needle #3 ... p15, p1bf ... 17 sts = 51 sts.
21. Knit one round. Knit the m1 through the back loop ... 51 sts.
22. Purl one round, knit one round for 10 rounds. You will have 10 garter ridges on either side of the center line of the RS.
23. Purl one round.
24. K15, ssk (5 times), k1, k2tog (5 times), k15 ... 41 sts ... 11 garter ridges on the RS.
Needle #1 ... k15, ssk ... 16 sts
needle #2 ... ssk (4 times), k1, k2tog (4 times) ... 9 sts
needle #3 ... k2tog, k15 ... 16 sts = 41 sts
25. Purl one round.
26. Needle #1 ... k10, BO 21 sts (from needle #1, 2 and 3), needle #3 ... 1+9 = 10 sts. Needle #2 is empty!
27. P10, using the backward loop method, as before when adding stitches on the sole, add 12 sts on needle #1, p10 (on what is the second needle right now) ... 32 sts (4 sets of smock sts will be created).
28. Knit one round. Knit the m1 through the back loop, that keeps it nice and tight along the bottom edge of the smock cuff.
Needle #1 ... 8 sts.
needle #2 ... 16 sts.
needle #3 ... 8 sts = 32 sts.
29. Needle #1 ... (p1, k2, p2, k2, p1).
needle #2 ... (p1, k2, p2, k2, p1)* ... repeat * 2 times.
needle #3 ... (p1, k2, p2, k2, p1) = 32 sts.
30. Repeat #29 four more times ... 5 rounds of ribbing on the smock cuff.

31. Smocking round ... p1, (insert right needle from the front between the 6th and 7th sts on the left needle and draw up a loop, slip this loop twisted onto the left needle and knit it together with the first stitch on the left needle, then k1, p2, k2, p1)* ... repeat * twice on needle #2 and once on needle #3.
32. Repeat #29 four more times ... 10 rounds of ribbing on the smock cuff.
33. Bind off in the ribbing pattern.
34. Close the bind-off gap at the top and weave away the end.
35. Put the cast-on tail on the WS and weave away.
36. Make a second smock top slipper!

P.S. Otherwise noteworthy ... the photographed booties were made with the merino bamboo sock yarn from Steam Valley Fiber in Trout Run, PA, www.steamvalleyfiber.com ... got the yarn at Rhinebeck, it isn't on the website.