# Shell stitch Mary Jane booties

3 to 6 months, foot 4 in (10 cm) · US terms



Finished size
**The sole is about 4 in (10 cm) long and about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide; the opening, under its shells, is about 6 in (15 cm) round (30 stitches)**
To fit a foot of 4 in (10 cm)

Skill
**Intermediate**

Yarn
**Light (3), 2 colors**

Hook
**3.5 mm (US E-4)**

Gauge
**20 stitches and 23 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)**
In single crochet.

## You will need

Yarn A: old rose, the sides, the top of the toe and the strap **about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: cream, the sole, the shells, the picot line and the pearl **about 45 yd (41 m), an estimate**
Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a stitch marker, two pins, a yarn needle and scissors.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge.

## Sizes

| Size | Foot | Finished size, about | Yarn, an estimate |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Newborn to 3 months** | 3½ in (9 cm) | 3½ in (9 cm) long, 1½ in (4 cm) wide | about 65 yd (59 m) |
| **3 to 6 months (this file)** | **4 in (10 cm)** | **4 in (10 cm) long, 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide** | **about 85 yd (78 m)** |
| **6 to 12 months** | 4½ in (11.5 cm) | 4½ in (11.5 cm) long, 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide | about 90 yd (82 m) |


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## Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

| | |
|---|---|
| **BLO** | back loop only: of the two loops at the top of the stitch, work under the one farther from you |
| **sl st** | slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch) |
| **hdc** | half double crochet (UK htr, half treble) |
| **sc** | single crochet (UK dc, double crochet) |
| **dc** | double crochet (UK tr, treble) |
| **ch** | chain stitch |
| **MR** | magic ring |
| **RS** | right side |
| **Rnd** | round |
| **st** | stitch |
| **sk** | skip |

### Special stitches

**dc2tog (Double crochet 2 together (UK tr2tog)):** Yarn over, insert the hook in the next st, draw up a loop, yarn over, draw through 2 loops; do the same in the st after it; yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on the hook. It makes 1 st of 2.

**picot:** Picot: ch 3, sl st in the 3rd ch from the hook. It stands on the stitch before it, is not counted among the stitches and is not worked into.

## Gauge

**20 stitches and 23 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)** in single crochet.

After the last round of the sole, the sole is about 4 in (10 cm) long and about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

## Before you start

- Measure the foot from the back of the heel to the tip of the longest toe and choose the size with the nearest foot length.
- The pattern makes a pair. The finished sole is about as long as the foot.
- The piece is worked from the sole up in one spiral: the rounds are not joined. Put a marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up every round.
- The right side always faces you and the work is not turned, except where a line says so.
- To change color, work the last stitch before the change until its last loops are on the hook, then draw the new color through them. A color that rests for 4 rounds or fewer can wait on the inside and be drawn up again; cut one that rests longer, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- For a baby the pearl is crocheted, not a bead. Sew it on firmly and look at it before each wear.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line are the stitches it has.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers to make a loop, work the first round into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed.


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## Instructions

Chosen: 3 to 6 months, foot 4 in (10 cm). Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, hdc is half treble, sc is double crochet and dc is treble.

### Bootie: make 2

**Yarns in order of use: B, cream; A, old rose.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With B, ch 13. | |

#### Sole

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 10 chs, 3 sc in last ch,<br>working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next 10 chs, 2 sc in last ch | **(26 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 10 sts,<br>2 sc in each of next 2 sts | **(32 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 11 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**,<br>2 sc in next st, sc in next 11 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(38 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 4** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 12 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**,<br>2 sc in next st, sc in next 12 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times** | **(44 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 5** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 13 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**,<br>2 sc in next st, sc in next 13 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times** | **(50 sc)** |

The sole, laid flat, is now about 4 in (10 cm) long and about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide. The middle of the heel lies between the last two stitches of a round, and the middle of the toe is opposite.

#### Sides

The next round is worked in the back loops only, which turns the sole up into the sides. The front loops stay free for the picot line.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 6** | With A, sc in BLO of each st around | **(50 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 7** | Sc in each st around | **(50 sc)** |

#### Toe

The decreases lie over the toe; the sc at the beginning and the end of each round go round the heel.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 8** | Sc in next 19 sts, **[**dc2tog**] 5 times**, sc in next 21 sts | **(40 sc, 5 dc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 9** | Sc in next 17 sts, **[**dc2tog**] 5 times**, sc in next 18 sts | **(35 sc, 5 dc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 10** | Sc in next 14 sts, **[**dc2tog**] 5 times**, sc in next 16 sts | **(30 sc, 5 dc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 11** | Sc in next 12 sts, **[**dc2tog**] 5 times**, sc in next 13 sts | **(25 sc, 5 dc)** |

#### Edging

The next round is worked in the back loops only. The front loops stay free for the three shells.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 12** | Sc in BLO of each st around | **(30 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 13** | With B, **[**sk next st, 5 hdc in next st, sl st in next st**] 10 times** | **(50 hdc, 10 sl sts)** |
| ☐ **End** | Sl st in the first hdc of the round. Fasten off. | |


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## Shells: make 2

**Yarn B, cream.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Hold the bootie upside down, with the toe toward you and the sole up, and join B with a sl st in the first of 13 places, free front loops of Rnd 11: 13 stitches of the bootie. They are the loops of stitches 21 down to 9 of that round, over the toe: upside down you work them in this order. The shells lie on the toe and point to its tip. | |
| ☐ **Row 1** | Sc in same st as the join, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(4 sc, 15 dc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off and take both tails to the inside. | |

## Picot line: make 2

**Yarn B, cream.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Hold the bootie with the sole toward you and join B with a sl st in the first of 50 places, the free front loops of Rnd 5: 50 stitches of the bootie. The first is the loop of the last stitch of Rnd 5, at the heel; go round in the direction of the rounds. The picots stand out round the sole. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1** | Sc in same st as the join, picot, sc in next st,<br>**[**sc in next st, picot, sc in next st**] 24 times**, sl st in first sc to join | **(50 sc, 25 picots)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off. | |

## Strap: make 2

**Yarn A, old rose.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With A, ch 11, leaving a tail of 8 in (20.5 cm) at the start to sew with. | |
| ☐ **Row 1** | Hdc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in each ch across | **(10 hdc)** |
| ☐ **Row 2** | Ch 1, turn, hdc in each st across | **(10 hdc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a tail of 8 in (20.5 cm) to sew with. | |

## Pearl: make 2

**Yarn B, cream.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With B, make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1** | 6 sc in MR | **(6 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | Sc in each st around | **(6 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | Sc in each st around | **(6 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30.5 cm). Push the starting tail inside for a filling, run the long tail through the front loops of the 6 sts of the last round, draw it up tightly to close the ball and knot it; keep the rest to sew with. | |


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## Finishing

- Straps: fold a bootie in half along its length to find the middle of the toe in Rnd 12, the last round of A. Counting from there, mark the 6th stitch of that round on each side with a pin. Lay each end of a strap against the inside of the bootie at a mark, with its width centered on the mark and its short end level with the bottom of Rnd 12, and sew it there with the tail that is there, behind the shells of the edge. The strap arches a little over the foot.
- Make the second bootie the same.
- Sew a pearl on top of each strap, with its middle 2 stitches in from where the strap meets the edge: toward the right side on one bootie and toward the left on the other, so that both lie to the outside of the feet.
- Weave in every tail on the inside.

In all: 8 pieces.

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