Crochet Mary Jane Baby Booties With a Crossed Strap: Free Pattern, 0 to 12 Months

Crochet an oval sole, turn up a deep sole edge, shape the toe over two rounds, raise the back with one round of taller stitches, then sew a strap across the top of the foot at both ends. The strap stays sewn, so the booties slip on with nothing to fasten. In DK yarn on a 3.5 mm hook the 0–3 month sole comes out about 9 cm long, and the opening behind the strap is about 17.5 cm round.

The straps in the picture are held by pearl buttons. This pattern has no buttons and no pearls. A pearl or a button that comes off is something a baby can choke on, so on this pattern the strap is sewn down at both ends and the pink dots are knots of pink yarn, worked through the strap and the bootie together.

This is our own design. A script checks every round and row against the one before it, the sole against our baby bootie size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/baby-bootie-size-chart/) and the opening against measured baby ankles. The sizes are worked out from a gauge, so the first thing to check is your own sole against the size table.

Pick your size

Size	Sole length	Foundation chain	Top edge	Strap	Opening behind the strap	Yarn for the pair
0–3 months	about 9 cm (3.5 in)	12 ch	32 sts, about 16 cm round	18 sts, about 7 cm between the sewn ends	about 17.5 cm, for a heel-to-instep round of 16.8 cm	about 45 m, plus 2 m pink
3–6 months	about 10 cm (4 in)	14 ch	36 sts, about 18 cm round	18 sts, about 7 cm between the sewn ends	about 18.5 cm, for a heel-to-instep round of 16.9 cm	about 50 m, plus 2 m pink
6–12 months	about 11.5 cm (4.5 in)	17 ch	40 sts, about 20 cm round	20 sts, about 8 cm between the sewn ends	about 20.5 cm, for a heel-to-instep round of 18.9 cm	about 60 m, plus 2 m pink

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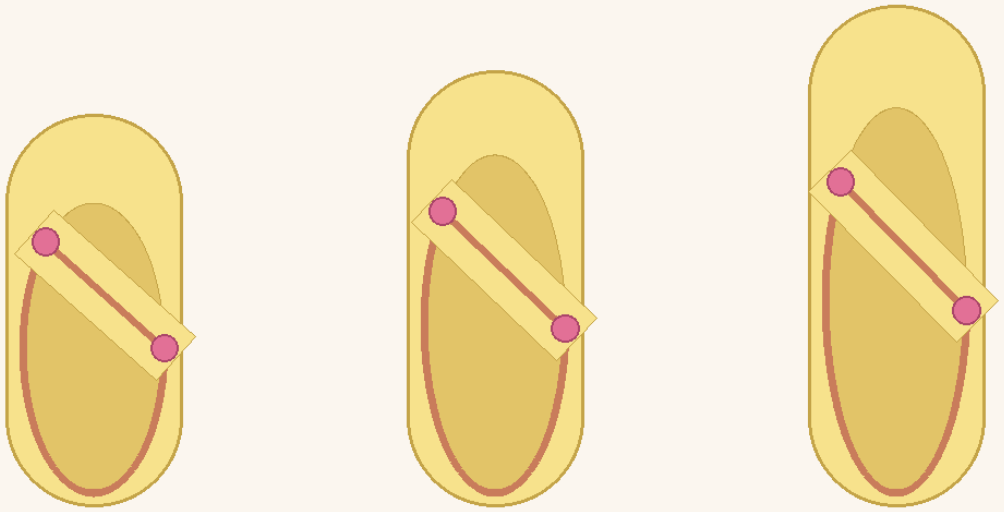
Mary Jane booties from above

Drawn to one scale from the size table, toe at the top.



0–3 months	3–6 months	6–12 months
sole 9 cm	sole 10 cm	sole 11.5 cm
opening 17.5 cm	opening 18.5 cm	opening 20.5 cm
strap 7 cm	strap 7 cm	strap 8 cm

The coloured line is the opening the foot passes through: the top edge round the heel, plus the strap. It is never smaller than the heel-to-instep round we allow for, 16.8 cm for 0–3 months. The strap arches over the foot, so from above it looks shorter than it is.

Measurements from the size table in this article **crochetbabygifts.com**

The sole lengths are the ones on our bootie size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/baby-bootie-size-chart/), which already allow a little room past the toes. The sole is the same oval as our ribbed baby booties (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-ribbed-baby-booties/); the low sides, the high back and the strap are new.

Which size, quickly: for a gift with no measurements, make 3–6 months. A bootie that is a little long is worn for longer; one that is short is not worn at all.

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Will it go on with the strap sewn?

A Mary Jane with a sewn strap has no button to undo, so the foot has to pass through the gap behind the strap: the top edge from one strap end, round the heel to the other end, plus the strap itself. The widest part of a foot that has to pass through it is the round from the back of the heel over the front of the ankle.

There is no published measurement of that round for babies that we could find, so we estimate it. Sock knitters call it the heel diagonal. Marly Bird's sock worksheet, citing a study by Kate Atherley in her book Custom Socks, puts it at 30 to 40% more than the sock round, and works with the lower figure. We take the lower 30% too, and apply it to a large baby ankle rather than a sock: the ankle round that only one baby in twenty is bigger than, from a US survey of infants, 12.9, 13 and 14.5 cm for the three sizes. The ratio comes from adult socks, so treat the result as an estimate.

That gives a heel-to-instep round of 16.8, 16.9 and 18.9 cm. The opening behind the strap is about 17.5, 18.5 and 20.5 cm round, never smaller than that estimate and no more than 2 cm bigger, so the strap still lies on the foot.

Check it before you sew the second strap end. Section 5 of the pattern tells you how to measure the opening. If your baby's foot is bigger than average, or the opening feels tight, make the strap 2 stitches longer: each stitch adds about half a centimetre.

What you need

Every tool our patterns use is on the Crochet essentials (https://crochetbabygifts.com/essentials/) page.

- DK (#3) baby yarn in pale yellow, the amount in the size table, soft and machine washable. One 50 g ball of most DK yarns (125 m or more) makes a pair of any size here.
- A little DK yarn in pink for the dots, about 2 m.
- A 3.5 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letter near it.
- Two locking stitch markers to hold the strap while you sew it, a blunt tapestry needle and scissors.

Gauge and abbreviations

Gauge: about 20 single crochet and 22 rounds to 10 cm (4 in) on a 3.5 mm hook, and a double crochet about 1.1 cm tall. We have not measured this on the booties yet. It is a planning figure from published DK gauges, the same one our ribbed booties use, and every size on this page is worked out from it.

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The quick check is the sole: after round 4 it should be the length in the size table. If it is more than 0.5 cm off, change your hook by half a size and start again.

US crochet terms throughout. The UK name is in brackets.

- ch: chain. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es).
- sc: single crochet (UK: double crochet). hdc: half double crochet (UK: half treble). dc: double crochet (UK: treble).
- inc: increase, 2 sc in the same stitch. dec: decrease, sc 2 stitches together.
- Back loops only: work into just the loop of each stitch that is furthest from you.
- French knot: an embroidery knot made with a needle. The second video below shows it on crochet.
- 12 (14, 17): the first number is for 0–3 months, the ones in brackets for 3–6 and 6–12 months.

The video

Crochet Art of Loving's video makes a bootie like the one in the picture, in a different way from ours. Hers is a flat strip of half double crochet about twice as long as the baby's foot, with a long tab crocheted out at each end. She gathers the toe, folds the strip and sews it into a bootie, then crosses the two tabs over the foot and sews a small pearl on each as a button. Ours is worked in the round, and the pearls are replaced by knots of yarn.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_LMZ4hl4zM

- Measuring the baby's foot, heel to toes, and chaining twice that length, from 0:24.
- Folding the strip in half to find where the top of the foot starts, from 3:21.
- Folding the bootie and sewing the sole, from 10:05.
- The finished bootie with its crossed straps and pearls, from 11:52. On ours the pearls are yarn knots.

Video: Crochet Art of Loving, "Sapatinho de Crochê Fácil para Bebê" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_LMZ4hl4zM), 2026, in Portuguese, about 13 minutes. A similar bootie; the pattern on this page is our own.

The pink dots. A French knot is a few wraps of yarn round a needle, pulled into a small knot that is part of the fabric. CrochetGarden's short video shows one in pink yarn on crochet.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5BHO_Cnvzs

- Wrapping the yarn twice round the needle, from 3:43.

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- The finished knot on the crochet, from 4:49.

Video: CrochetGarden, "French Knots On Crochet" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5BHO_Cnvzs), 2013, 6 minutes. It teaches the knot, not these booties.

The pattern

Corrected 23 November 2026: the toe decreases in rounds 9 and 10 now sit on the centre of the toe, round 11 now has its tallest stitches on the centre back of the heel, and the strap ends are given as stitch numbers for each bootie. If you started before this date, see the rounds and the strap steps below.

Make two. Every round is joined with a sl st in the first stitch and starts with ch 1, which does not count as a stitch (ch 2 before round 11). Do not turn. Put a marker in the first stitch of each round: it sits at the back of the heel, a little to one side.

1. Sole

- Foundation: ch 12 (14, 17).
- Rnd 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc 9 (11, 14), 3 sc in last ch; working along the other side of the chain, sc 9 (11, 14), 2 sc in last ch. [24 (28, 34) sts]
- Rnd 2: inc, sc 9 (11, 14), [inc] 3 times, sc 9 (11, 14), [inc] 2 times. [30 (34, 40) sts]
- Rnd 3: sc 1, inc, sc 9 (11, 14), [sc 1, inc] 3 times, sc 9 (11, 14), [sc 1, inc] 2 times. [36 (40, 46) sts]
- Rnd 4: sc 2, inc, sc 9 (11, 14), [sc 2, inc] 3 times, sc 9 (11, 14), [sc 2, inc] 2 times. [42 (46, 52) sts]

The round starts at the heel end of the oval, so the toe is the far end, where the 3 sc went into the last chain.

2. Sole edge and toe

- Rnd 5: in back loops only, sc in each st. [42 (46, 52) sts]
- Rnds 6–8: sc in each st. [42 (46, 52) sts]
- Rnd 9: sc 11 (13, 14), [dec] 8 (8, 10) times, sc 15 (17, 18). [34 (38, 42) sts]
- Rnd 10: sc 13 (15, 17), [dec] 2 (2, 2) times, sc 17 (19, 21). [32 (36, 40) sts]

Round 5's free front loops make a ridge round the sole, and the three plain rounds above it are the deep sole edge in the picture. The decreases sit over the toe only, so the sides stay low and the heel stays round.

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3. High back and top edge

- Rnd 11: dc 1 (1, 2), hdc 3 (3, 3), sc 4 (5, 5), sl st 12 (14, 16), sc 4 (5, 5), hdc 3 (3, 3), dc 5 (5, 6). [32 (36, 40) sts]
- Rnd 12: sc in each st. [32 (36, 40) sts]

The double crochets are centred on the back of the heel, which is 2 stitches before the marker, and the slip stitches sit over the toe, so the back stands about 1 cm higher than the front. Round 12 is the top edge. Fasten off and weave in the ends.

4. Strap

Make 2, one for each bootie.

- Foundation: ch 19 (19, 21).
- Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [18 (18, 20) sts]
- Rows 2–3: ch 1, turn, sc in each st. [18 (18, 20) sts]

Fasten off and leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for sewing. The strap is about 1.5 cm wide.

5. Sew on the strap

Each end of the strap overlaps the bootie by 2 stitches, about 1 cm, on the outside, just below the top edge. The outer end goes on the outer side, the left side of the left bootie and the right side of the right one, so the pair mirrors. To place the ends, number the stitches of the top edge in the direction you crocheted, with the marked stitch as 1. The marker is a little to one side of the centre back, so the two booties use different stitches.

- Outer end: on one bootie, lay one end of the strap over stitches 6 (7, 8) and 7 (8, 9); on the other, over stitches 22 (25, 28) and 23 (26, 29). Hold it with a stitch marker.
- Inner end: take the strap over the top of the foot to the other side, slanting it towards the toe, and lay the other end over stitches 17 (20, 23) and 18 (21, 24) on the first bootie and 11 (12, 13) and 12 (13, 14) on the second. Hold it there.

On both booties the outer end is 8 (9, 10) stitches from the centre back and the inner end 13 (14, 15), so the opening is the same. The bootie with the outer end on its left side is the left bootie.

Measure the opening behind the strap: along the top edge from one strap end, round the heel to the other end, and back along the strap. It should be about 17.5 (18.5, 20.5) cm. Then sew all round each overlapped end with the strap's tail, through both layers, in small whip stitches about one stitch apart. Pull each end hard: it must not lift at any corner.

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6. The pink dots

Thread the needle with pink. Work one French knot in the middle of each sewn strap end, through the strap and the bootie together: bring the needle up from the inside, wrap the yarn twice round it and take it back down right beside where it came up. Tie the two pink ends together inside the bootie with a double knot and weave each one in for at least 5 cm (2 in), in different directions.

7. Finishing

Weave every tail into the inside of the stitches, back and forth through several stitches, then trim it close. Turn each bootie inside out and check that there are no loose loops or strands inside, then turn it back.

Made for a baby

- No buttons, beads or pearls. Here the strap is sewn and the dots are yarn.
- The strap and the dots are sewn down at both ends. A knot worked through the strap and the bootie is part of the fabric, not a separate piece, the same reason our handmade baby gift safety checklist (https://crochetbabygifts.com/handmade-baby-gift-safety-checklist/) says to embroider features instead of attaching them. Pull both strap ends hard before every wear, and resew one that lifts.
- No long ties or cords. There is nothing to tie on these booties.
- They are not walking shoes. A crochet sole has no grip, so these are slippery on hard floors. Keep them for a baby who is not yet standing or walking, or for carpet.
- Check inside for loose threads. A loose thread or hair can wind round a baby's toe and cut off the blood flow, which doctors call a hair tourniquet.

The sources for each point are on our handmade baby gift safety checklist (https://crochetbabygifts.com/handmade-baby-gift-safety-checklist/#safety-sources).

Yarn and time

A 0–3 month pair takes about 45 m of yellow and 2 m of pink. The amounts come from counting every stitch and allowing a published length of yarn per stitch for DK, so they are upper estimates.

It is about 500 stitches a bootie, most of them single crochet.

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If something goes wrong

The bootie will not go on. Measure the opening behind the strap. If it is smaller than the table, unpick the inner end and move it 1 or 2 stitches further forward, or make the strap 2 stitches longer.

The bootie falls off. The strap is too long or sits too far back. Move the outer end 1 stitch nearer the heel, or make the strap 2 stitches shorter, but keep the opening at least the size in the table.

The back does not stand up. Check that round 11 starts and ends with double crochet either side of the marker, and that round 12 is worked into every stitch, slip stitches included.

Frequently asked questions

What is a Mary Jane bootie? A low, open shoe with a strap across the top of the foot. On this pattern the strap crosses from the outer side to the inner side, slanting towards the toe.

Can I use a button after all? For a keepsake that a baby will not wear unsupervised, it is your choice, but we do not recommend it. A sewn strap and yarn knots give a similar look and cannot come off as small pieces.

Will they stay on? The high back cups the heel and the strap holds the top of the foot. They are not as secure as our ribbed booties (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-ribbed-baby-booties/), whose cuff hugs the ankle, so for a baby who kicks a lot those are the better choice.

Is this a good first project? It suits a confident beginner. Everything is single crochet except one round of taller stitches; the sewing and the knots are the new parts.

See also

- Easy crochet baby booties (https://crochetbabygifts.com/easy-crochet-baby-booties/), a half double crochet bootie in four sizes
- Ribbed crochet baby booties (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-ribbed-baby-booties/), the same sole with a fold-over ribbed cuff
- Crochet Christmas baby booties (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-christmas-baby-booties/), in red and cream with a bow
- Crochet baby socks (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-baby-socks/), toe-up with a ribbed cuff
- Baby bootie size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/baby-bootie-size-chart/) for sole lengths by age

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