
Lil' Tootsies Slippers with Maggie Pace

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview of project

- I'm gonna show you how to make these darling little felted slippers. They're knit first and then they're felted. So this is an excellent project for first time felters. People who are maybe a little bit afraid to throw their knitting into a washing machine because the knitting is very easy, it's quick, and when you are done you have these great durable very wearable little shoes.

Chapter 2 - Building the Tootsies (Slippers)

Materials you will need

- To make your tootsie slippers, you're going to need a few basic knitting supplies and also some basic sewing supplies, the sewing supplies are optional because you don't have to do the little sole insert but they do make the slippers very cozy when they're done. So this is the knitting supplies you're going to need. You'll need a set of size 10 knitting needles, straight needles not circular. You're going to need some worsted weight yarn, a full ball or a skein, a 220 yard ball and it's really important that you get 100% wool that is non-washable, not treated for washing because if you got a super wash you wouldn't be able to shrink your slippers. You're going to need a yarn needle and then for the sewing side you're going to need some batting, half a yard of fabric, a sewing needle and thread. And for the felting part of the project you're also going to need some synthetic ribbon and a couple of safety pins.

Casting on and knitting

- I'm gonna begin this project by casting on stitches and for this project, I'm using a knit on cast on. You can use whatever kind of cast on that you like. I like this one because I don't have to know how much yarn I need in the beginning of the cast on as you do with a long-tail cast on. So I'm just leave about a six inch tail, make my slip knot. So if you don't know how to do a knit on cast on, this is a good opportunity to learn. Pull it tight for tension, and then I'm gonna knit that first stitch. So I knit it as I normally would, but instead of pulling that piece off, I use this needle to put it back on that needle. So now I have two stitches. And I continue that knit as I normally would and I use my left-hand needle to go grab that stitch and put it back on. You don't have to take it off every time like I've been doing. I just keep that right-hand needle inserted and that makes your cast on also really fast, which is nice. Depending on what size you're doing, cast on the specified number of stitches. And then after you've cast on, we get right into the shaping. So I've actually gone ahead and knit up the shaping here for the front piece. I just want to give you a little bit of orientation about where we are before we continue. What we're knitting right now is what we've just cast on. This is the cast on edge all the way around and the shaping is gonna happen right in here. So that's what I'm gonna talk about. I'm gonna tell you how to achieve that shaping. Here's the piece right here, so this is the toe. This is this, because this side of the toe and this side of the toe are gonna come together and I'm gonna seam it right here. In order to get this shaping, I have decreased on the knit side and on the purl side. That's what I'm gonna show you now is how to make those decreases. There are so many different ways to decrease, and they achieve a different decorative aim, but because this piece is gonna be felted, I just do a standard decrease at the edge. So I'm knitting straight across my work, and then right here all I'm gonna do is knit two together. And then

I'm gonna turn my work, and I'm gonna purl two together. So the knitting really doesn't get any easier than that. And then I purl across and then I'm gonna decrease at that end as well. The knitting really doesn't get any easier than that. Knitting for felting doesn't ever require any sort of fancy stitch work because all of that gets lost when you shrink the piece, so it's sort of the most down-and-dirty kind of knitting that you can do. So I'm coming to the end of my last purl row that requires shaping, so I'm going to purl two together at the edge here. And the number of rows that you work for the shaping section is gonna depend on what size boot you're doing, but the basic concept of getting this slanted edge, is the same for all of the boots, no matter what size you're doing. It's just achieved over a different number of rows. So now the pattern calls for me to knit straight for ten rows. So that mean I'm just gonna knit a row, turn, purl a row in stockinette stitch without any shaping on the sides at all, and that will prepare us for our tuck, which is the next think we're gonna do.

Tuck stitch (creating a channel)

- So now I'm coming to the end of my purl row and the last bit of shaping I'm gonna do before I move on to the tuck stitch. So I'm going to go ahead and purl two together and turn my work. How many rows this shaping has achieved, it's gonna depend on which pattern you're following, which size you're following, by how many rows this shaping has achieved over. But it's the same general concept for every size, that you're gonna get this slanted action with the knitting and purling two together. So what's next is that I have to set up for my tuck stitch. And in order to do that, I have to lay down a contrasting color yarn so that I can mark where I am right now. And I do that by threading a needle with a length of contrasting color yarn, can be just a couple of feet. And go ahead and run it through all of these stitches like this. I'm just gonna lay it in there all the way across. And this seems like kind of a tedious thing to do, and when you're in your flow of knitting, you kinda don't wanna stop and place this marker, but believe me, it's gonna make your world so much easier when you arrive to the tuck. So that's why I do it. I've tried to do the tuck without this, and it's really hard to get your seam even, which you'll understand when I show you what a tuck is. So just run it through all the way to the end. Like this. Okay, I'm through. And then I'm gonna continue knitting. And just pretend like it's not there. And that contrasting piece of yarn is gonna sit in that row. It will not move. And so I'm just gonna knit straight, and according to your pattern, which size your following, it could be eight rows, it could be 10 rows. And when you're knitting straight, that means you're not decreasing on either side. So now I'm gonna continue working straight in stockinette stitch, which means knit a row, purl a row with no shaping on either side until I've reached, for me, it's 10 rows. For your pattern, it will be something different depending on what size you're doing. And then, with the contrasting color yarn in there and those 10 rows, I'm all set up and ready to do my tuck. The tuck stitch isn't a very commonly used stitch of knitting, but I end up using it a lot. It works really well for me in my felting designs. And part of the reason why is because it creates a channel. And this is what I'm talking about when I say a channel. You could see in the finished boot, I've run a ribbon through here and I can pull it tight. So it's sort of like in sewing when you make a hem, when you fold something in 1/2 and then sew it onto itself. This is the way we get that done. And now you're gonna be really excited that you took the time to lay down that contrasting color yarn for this part of the process. So you can see it here in my work. That's where we laid it down. And this gives me a marker to know where I'm gonna pick up stitches. So that's what we're gonna do first is pick up all of these stitches. So picking up stitches for this tuck stitch is different than picking up stitches and knitting them. For picking up stitches for a tuck stitch, I'm just

gonna go in and scoop up all the stitches. If I were to pick up and knit, I would be knitting them as I go. So just a little point of clarification, 'cause you're gonna see that in patterns and they're two different things. So I'm gonna go ahead and pick up my stitches now. And I'm gonna do that by taking my needle and just scooping those stitches up that are marked by that yarn. So that makes it really easy. And you can imagine, if I didn't have that contrasting piece of yarn there, it would be really hard to keep the stitches in the same row. It would really be easy to get lost, basically. But now that I have this little guide, that's not gonna happen. So you continue picking up the stitches like this until you reach the end of the row. And before I continue on with the tuck, I'm gonna pull out that contrasting color yarn because I'm not gonna need it anymore. So you just pull it out like that. And then we can do the tuck. You'll be knitting these stitches down with your size 10 needle. And I should've mentioned earlier that when you pick up these tuck stitches, it's much easier. I did it on a size 10 needle, and it was kinda hard to get them in there. Use any small needle like a size two, size three. The needle size for this one doesn't matter. But this needs to be a size 10. Okay, so this is how I set up for the tuck. I have my picked up stitches on this needle, and I have my live stitches here. I'm gonna fold the work onto itself with the wrong side on the inside of that fold like that. I'm gonna orient the work so it's facing me, and the live stitches are on top of the picked up stitches. And it's important that the wrong side is inside the tuck like that. And then what I'm gonna do is I'm gonna orient the needle so that the live stitches are on top, and the picked up stitches are on bottom. And I'm gonna knit the first stitch on each of those needles together. So I'm gonna insert my needle as if to knit on this one, and I'm gonna insert my needle as if to knit also on the back needle. And then I'm gonna wrap my yarn around the needle that I just inserted, and I'm gonna pull up a stitch through there. So I had two stitches, now I have one. And I'm gonna do the same thing again here with my second stitch. I had two stitches, now I have one. This particular pattern calls to bind off as you work. You don't always do that with the tuck stitch. So I'm gonna bind off this stitch by pulling the first stitch I knit over the second stitch. So I've locked down that stitch. I'm actually ending the top of my boot by doing that. I need to put my needle through the first stitch and the second stitch. I'm sending my yarn around, and I'm knitting those two stitches together. So I'm gonna continue knitting my live stitch to my picked up stitch by putting my needle through both of them. And then wrapping the yarn and knitting them together by pulling up that loop. And then I'm gonna bind that stitch off. I'm gonna continue with this, knitting the live stitch to the picked up stitch, knitting those two together and binding off until I reach the end of the row. And when I'm done with that, I've completed my tuck stitch. Well, I can show you now. You can see it coming out. It's making this cool hollow channel right here. And that channel's gonna run the length of the work. And that is where I'll insert the ribbon. And then that channel will remain open, 'cause it won't shrink onto itself. And then I'm gonna go ahead and run the final ribbon through, and that's how I cinch up the boot and it makes the fit be perfect on everybody's foot. So that is why the tuck stitch is really useful.

Making the sole

- I just finished the tuck and this is what it looks like. See how that nice channel is folded over there and it's all seamed to itself. So what will happen is this will be seamed to this and you're starting to see the formation of the boot now, it's starting to emerge. Before we do that though, we need to make the sole. So the way you make the sole is you cast on the specified number of stitches in your pattern depending on the size you're doing, and then you do an increase. So the increase is the opposite of a decrease which we did earlier and I'm going to show you the shape that we're trying

to do here. This is the sole. And I'm right here and I'm going to be making these increases right here. There're a lot of different kinds of increases. I'm going to be doing the most basic kind of increase, it's called a bar increase, also known as a knit one in the front and back increase. The reason it's called a bar increase is because it leaves a little bar right there on the front of your work. And I don't mind those little bars because when the work is felted, they're going to disappear, they're going to meld into the work. So now I'm going to show you how to do the knit one front and back which is abbreviated K1 f&b. So you put your knit as if you would regularly knit like that and you know how normally we just pop that piece off. When you do a K1 F and B you do not do that. You re-insert your right needle through the back of the stitch, right there, and you wrap your yarn a second time and you pull it through and see where I had one stitch, now I have two. So I've done an increase on that side which is going to make my work start going out into a v shape. I'm going to knit until the end of the row and I'm going to show you another bar increase, K1 f&b increase, so you can see it again. I act as if I'm knitting. Pull that through. Instead of popping that stitch off, I'm going to reinsert my needle, I'm going to wrap my yarn a second time, and I'm going to make my second stitch. So the pattern calls for you to make several increases along the side and you can already see the shaping coming out here, it's starting to make that v shape. And then we need to knit straight for several rows. And that's what I've done here. And stock and knit stitch folds up on itself so it's sort of hard to see but I'm going to unfold it here so you can see the shaping. So here's all my increases. And now I've worked straight, all of these rows, the pattern calls to knit straight for multiple rows which is knit a row, pearl a row in stocking knit stitch. And now I'm at the top of my sole and I need to start decreasing so I get the opposite shape here. So I'm on a knit row. All of these increases and decreases are happening only on knit rows and not on pearl rows. And all I do, it's really simple, is I knit two together. So that's just what we did before. Knitting two together at one end and then what I do at one end I'm going to do also at the other end. So now I'm just knitting across without knitting two together. And now I'm going to knit two together here. Turn my work. I'm going to pearl back and then on my knit row, I'm going to decrease again. So something that's going to surprise you as you're knitting is that you're going to notice that the sole is going to seem much much longer than the top of the boot and don't worry about that at all. That's because of the way that felting works when the fibers shrink and I'll get into that more in the felting segment but for now, just make sure that you don't worry about that.

Seaming together

- Now I'm gonna seam the top of the tootsie boot to the sole and before I do that, I'm gonna pin all the elements together. You don't always have to pin when you seam, but in this case it's really important because the sole is so much longer than the top. The reason the sole is so much longer than the top is because when the fibers are gonna felt and break down, they shrink much more in length than they do in width, so it's gonna be very disproportionate when we put it together. I'm gonna have to ease in all this extra length and its gonna look really bad, the seam is gonna look really bad and we're just gonna be okay with that because by the time we put it in the washing machine and it shrinks, it's actually gonna shrink up to the perfect proportion, so that's kinda one of the things that's the most fun about felting and we'll get to that when we felt, but for now I'm just gonna show you how to ease in all this extra fabric. So, I put the top on top of the sole and the sole's wrong side is facing me and I stretch it so I get the midpoints of both and this is important to get the midpoint of this shaping right here, and the midpoint of the back shaping, the midpoint of here, and the midpoint of here. If you don't get those midpoints all lined up, then the boots gonna

come out really wonky, even after it's felted. So I do that by kind of stretching the whole thing and I mark. I mark here, but I'm not just marking, I'm actually pinning the two together and then I'm gonna do the same thing on this side. Okay, so what I'm looking at here is I'm making sure I'm getting the center point of this, and the center point of the back of the heel, and I'm pinning right at those two center points. and then I'm gonna do the same thing here for the tip. Here's the center of my tip, here's the center of my sole and I'm pinning, okay, and then I'm gonna work all the way around, but first I'm gonna split it up into quarters, so this is how you ease in, if you split everything first in half, and then in quarter, all of the material in between you can evenly ease into your work. So I'm gonna eye-ball the quarter mark here, I'm gonna eye-ball the quarter mark on my sole. Oops, I already had a pin there, and I'm gonna pin them together and then I'm gonna flip my work and I'm gonna do the same thing over here. And then, I'm gonna go ahead and place just a few more pins to secure it and I'm gonna seam. Now the kind of seam I'm gonna be doing for this is different than the mattress stitch that I did for the last seam, I'm gonna do an overcast stitch, and the reason I'm choosing an overcast stitch is it's gonna give me a nice solid edge and I want that for the sole of the boot. So you don't have to put too many pins in, just a few just to make sure you're gonna be sewing in the right places. Alright, so I just placed my last pin and you can see the shape of the boot is coming out and you can see how that excess fiber now has been taken care of, so if it looks good with the pins, then it's gonna look good when you seam it. Now I'm gonna go ahead and seam and thread maybe a yard or so of yarn, maybe even a little bit more. You wanna make it all the way around. And then I'm gonna start at the toe and I'm gonna do this overcast stitch, so the overcast stitch is just a sturdier stitch, it's good cause this is a boot and it's gonna also kind of create a little ridge where the top meets the bottom, and if I did a mattress stitch, that would create a flatter stitch and I don't really want that, I want that real defined ridge. I'm gonna start at the tip here of the toe and I'm gonna just pick a couple of stitches, both the outside edge stitches are fine, and I'm gonna go in to the next stitch from the first stitch where I started, and I'm gonna pull and you're gonna see that the yarn actually spans those two and I'm always coming in from the back stitch to the front every time with overcast. So you can see how I have these loops coming over, which are really reinforcing the place where the sole meets. the seam where the sole meets the top. So I'm gonna continue all the way around, and as I work around, I remove my pins, but I don't remove the pin until I reach it, the pins are really important cause that's what is allowing me to ease all of that fabric in. So, I'm gonna go from toe to heel and then heel to toe, removing the pins as I progress, and when I'm done with that I'm gonna weave in all my ends and it's really important to get those ends woven in on this project really well, like leave a nice long end and then really secure it because the worst thing that can happen is if you're felting your project and a woven in end comes out and you have a hole in your work, so be very conscious of when you're weaving in your ends and that's it, when we're done with this, we're gonna be all ready to felt and that will be the most exciting part.

Chapter 3 - Felting the Tootsies (Slippers)

Felting preparation

- Here's our Tootsie slipper all ready to felt. It's been seamed together, and look at how bad it looks. Like, it's just really ugly. It's not gonna stay this ugly for very long, which I'm excited about. Before we actually throw it in the washing machine though, I'm gonna need to thread this ribbon right through that channel, just like this, and the reason I'm doing this is that if I just let it felt and shrink, this channel would fuse onto itself and you wouldn't be able to get the ribbon through there. So this is the way to keep that channel open. So make sure that you get a synthetic ribbon that's not gonna

felt. Because if you get something that's a natural fiber, it will meld right into the wool. The other thing I want to say before we throw it in here is because this is a sized boot, I think it's important to have whoever you're sizing it to on hand. And you're gonna be slipping it on their foot, a little wet slipper, you're gonna be putting it on their foot. Kids usually don't like that at all. But you know what? They're just gonna have to go for it in order to get the sizing right. If you don't have the person on hand, you can have their foot measurements, and then you can kind of work with it from there. You just wanna make sure that you don't felt it too much and it gets too small, because if that happens, there's no way of making it bigger. Make sure you use a synthetic ribbon, and also, make sure you tie it off here with a safety pin so that the ribbon doesn't come undone during felting. If you don't use a safety pin, the possibility is that it will come out, and then the channel will fuse to itself. So now, we are ready to felt. Here's what we do. You need a top-loading machine like this. You can't use the other kind because you have to be able to stop it in the middle of the felting process. You need to set it to the hottest setting and also on the smallest load. And I just don't have a dial here, so I happen to know, though, that it is set to the smallest load. What makes something felt is the heat plus the agitation. So I'm gonna go ahead and throw this in. I'm gonna get this started. If it doesn't felt as quickly as I want it to, I'll start adding some jeans to the wash to increase the agitation. And the last setting is to put it on a heavy-duty cycle. Let the basin fill up. As it's going, you can go ahead and throw your slipper in there and then shut it. And now, we wait.

Felting

(washing machine rumbles) - I'm checking the slippers to see how they're doing. They've been in there for a little while, and I've noticed that they're really not felting very fast. And the reason why is the water in this machine doesn't get that hot, and so the hotter the water, the more agitation, the quicker they felt. So when I felt it on different machines, the water's so hot I can't even put my hands in it. I know it's going to felt really fast in that case. This is not felting very fast, so my solution for that is I'm going to add some jeans to the wash with it, which is going to increase the agitation, and lower the amount of time it takes to felt. As a little warning, though, definitely don't add towels because if you add towels, the lint from the towels can come off and will imbed in your felting, and can ruin your slippers. So just add jeans. So that's what I'm doing now. If you want to take a look at the stitches, though, you can see, you can really see them, there's a really clear definition, and the goal, what we really want to have happen, is we want to have those stitches go away completely. That should have already started happening now, it's not, so I'm adding the jeans. (machine agitating) (whistling) So I've been standing by the washer this whole time, and my cycle just switched from agitation into rinse and spin, and I heard it. So now I'm stopping the process because I don't want that to happen. I'm going to set it back all the way to the beginning of the cycle, and the reason I'm doing that is because I checked my boot, still not felting. So it's starting, you can see. Can you see a difference from the last time? It's starting to get fuzzier, the stitch definition is starting to go away, and when it gets to this stage where it's starting to compress, it starts felting quicker, but it made it all the way through the cycle before it really felted, and that's totally normal. And there really aren't any guidelines, because every washing machine is so different, so you really just need to babysit and find out how your washing machine felts. So this one went all the way through a cycle, didn't finish felting, that's fine, I'm just setting it back, and we're going to get the agitation going again so it felts more. (machine agitating) Ooh, it's getting there. Cool, still have a few minutes left. I just checked it again, and it's really on its way. You can really see the difference now in the fiber. And if you're new to felting, a lot of people think that this is all done, it's completely

felted, but I know that it's not. And the few little clues that I have that it needs to felt more is that one, I can still see some stitch definition right there you can still separate out the knit stitches, and ideally, we don't want to see any of those when it's done; two, I know how big the foot is that's going into this slipper, and it's probably about that big, so I know that it needs to shrink quite a bit more. And the last thing is, I can tell by touch; I can tell by the feel of it it's really flimsy, it's not stiff enough, and when it's done, it's going to be pretty stiff and upright and you'll get the feeling that if you set it down it would stand up on its own. So I'm going to add it back, but at this point I'm watching it like a hawk because this is when it really starts going quickly. (machine agitates) Okay, I'm going to check the slipper again. When I pull it out of the water, it looks like that. That's a really good sign, I can tell without even wringing it out that it looks really felted, it looks significantly different than last time I checked it. I'm going to wring it out really good. I can't really check the size until I get a lot of the water out of it. And now, I'm going to block it and shape it a little bit. So at this point I can really stretch it and manhandle it and get it into the shape that I want, and I want to do that before I measure it against the foot that it's going to go into because I want it to be close to the final shape that it will be in. So at this point, I would measure it, and I'm aware that there's a range of sizes. So in the pattern, I think it's three or four sizes it can span, so at the higher end, the stitches are going to be a little bit less stiff, and at the smaller end, it's going to be a little bit more stiff. So you really control the sizing in the felting process. If I put the little foot in here that this is going to belong to, and found that it's too small, I could go ahead and throw it back in. I would be really careful with it, though, because at this point, it's shrinking really fast, and I would pull it out like every minute and check it again against the foot. So now I'm going to block it, get it exactly how I want it. I'm going to set it out, I'm going to air dry it, and I'm not going to touch it until it's completely dry. And that's important because however you block it and set it out is how it's going to be. So if I pull it up like this, that's how it's going to be when it dries. If I squashed it down like that, it would dry like that with that crease there. I don't want that, so I want to make sure that I really get the sides of it nice and tall, I get the toe nice and round. I'm going to let it air dry, and it's going to take about 24 hours before I can do any more stitching on it and finish the project.

Chapter 4 - Finishing touches

Making the inner sole

- So, just as a little reminder, this is what the boot looked like before it went into the washing machine, and this is what it looks like now. So it's a pretty amazing transformation. Look how wonky it is and kinda, it's much longer. And so, the felting has made it into this perfect little boot. So, we can be done with the boot at this point if you like it like this. It's very wearable, ready to go. But I kinda like adding these special little touches. So, it makes it softer on the inside to add the batting, and then I like the added decorative touch of choosing a fabric that I like that complements the felt. Now, I'm gonna show you how to cut out a template so you can make your interior sole. The first thing you do is grab a piece of paper and the felted boot, and you make a rough outline. And this really doesn't have to be precise. You're just getting the general shape of the bottom of the boot. Now I'm gonna cut the template out, and then that's where I'll finesse it a little bit to the inside of the boot. And I'm making it a tiny bit smaller than the outline that I drew, and that's okay, because that's how it's gonna fit inside the boot. And as you can see, I'm just not being that careful, and that's okay. I just wanna make sure that general shape is gonna fit inside there. So now I'm gonna test. I know it's gonna be a little too big, because I went ahead and did the outside of the boot, but I'm gonna see how too big it is. And I can tell just by looking down in there that I need to trim

maybe a half inch off the whole thing. So I'm gonna pull it out and I'm gonna go ahead and do that, and then I'm gonna test it again, and once I get the right shape, I'm gonna place it on my batting and my material and I'm gonna cut it out. Okay, so I'm just gonna trim. Continue this process of trimming and putting it back in there until I have a shape that I know is gonna work. So, that's why I said that the template can be really, really rough because you're really finessing at this stage. So I'm gonna put it back in and see if I like the way it fits. It's looking good from here. And yes, it fits in there perfectly. So now what I'm gonna do is I'm gonna go ahead and take the template that I made and I'm gonna place it on my batting, and I'm gonna cut out that material. The reason I chose quilting batting for this is because different people are gonna want different widths for different softnesses, and so I could do one layer if I just want a little bit of softness, or I could go all the way up to three layers or more if I want it to be more of a really cozy boot, so that's what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna actually have three layers here. And I'm just gonna trace it, 'cause this is gonna be covered by fabric, so I don't mind that I'm marking on there. And honest to God, I'm not a sewer, I'm a knitter, so sewers would probably be aghast at the way I'm doing this, but it works, so we'll just go ahead and stick with it. I'm gonna pin all three layers together. I think this is the part where sewers would not agree. But I wanna do it quickly, and this is kind of down and dirty. So, I'm gonna cut all three of those out at the same time, following along that line. And then, before I cover it with the fabric, I'm gonna put it back inside the boot, just to make sure I like all three layers together and that they fit inside there. This might be a little thick, I'm not sure. I'm gonna see once I get it inside the boot. I'm gonna feel it. I really like adding the batting 'cause it kinda makes the boot really stand up and feel like a little shoe. So, I think that's perfect. I like the three layers. So now I'm ready to cover it. I'm gonna unfold my fabric, and I'm gonna do basically the same process. I'm gonna place my batting on the fabric, and then I'm gonna give myself a margin of probably about an inch, and now I've switched to a pencil, 'cause the pen will actually run through. I am sure a sewer would do this differently, but it's gonna work. So, rough outline of about an inch. And then I'm gonna cut along that line here. And also, this does not have to be precise, because I'm just gonna fold it over the batting and tack it down. So, as you can tell, I'm not being super careful about following that line, but I am being careful about staying outside of that line, so I don't cut in too much and not leave enough room for me to sew. Okay, so now I'm gonna remove my pins from my batting, and then I'm going to fold up my material like this, and I'm gonna ease it. I'm gonna make little folds, like that, and pin them so I have a nice edge, so it doesn't look really bumpy from the front. I'm gonna pin it all the way around on the other side. And since this is gonna be on the inside of the boot, it really doesn't have to be a professional sewing job. Most of the edges are gonna be hidden inside of the felted shoe. The corners are a little bit harder 'cause you get those little points there, so I'm gonna back that up and do that instead. So I just sort of ease the fabric in a little bit more, like that. So, there's not always a lot of crossover between knitters and sewers. Not everybody who sews knits, not everybody who knits sews. So, if I include fabric in my knitting patterns, I will always get knitters who are really scared and kinda freaked out about that 'cause they do not wanna sew at all. So, part of the reason that I really wanted to incorporate this into this project is 'cause I don't want you to be scared of it. It's really, you don't have to be a technical person to be able to do it. Look at, I mean, this is gonna be adorable, and I'm, you know, I'm not being very precise and it's just gonna be some quick hand stitching, so I encourage you not to be afraid of the sewing part of this project. And I check it from this side, and I think it looks pretty good. So now I'm just gonna test it one more time to see how it looks. I'm gonna put it back inside the boot before I sew it up. And look, that's great. Look how tidy the edges are. You can't even see them in there. So I'm gonna pull it back out,

and I'm gonna get my needle and thread. Like this, and now I'm gonna sew. And I'm gonna sew like how I sewed when I was a little kid: big, loopy, crazy stitches. I don't care, I'm gonna do whatever I can just to get these ends very securely stitched down. Now, when I'm doing this, though, I'm not passing through all the layers of the batting. I'm just catching that first, or maybe even the second layer. And the reason I'm doing that is because I don't want my stitches to show at all on this side. I only want it to be on the back side. So, when I take a bite with my needle, I'm only coming into there, and then coming through the fabric. I'm not biting all the way down, which would look like that, and then the stitch would show up on the top. So I'm just coming through on the first layer like this, catching the edge of my fabric. And I'm making sure, when I reach these little folds, that I catch those. Then I'm gonna remove all my pins, and then I'm gonna actually place it right back in the boot. And then the next step is to tack it into the boot itself.

Stitching the inner sole to the slipper

- I just finished taking the last of the pins out. I'm gonna place the covered batting into the boot here. And then I'm gonna get it exactly where I like it, just where it feels really even in there. Like that. And then I'm gonna go ahead and pin it in two places to secure it to the bottom. And now I'm gonna turn the boot inside out, like this. And I know that I have the right placement there 'cause I just pinned it. And then I'm gonna do a stitch, this stitch here, where I grab a little bit from the felt, felted side, and a little bit from the fabric side. And then pull on my thread. And then I'm gonna do that stitch. I'm basically just tacking it so that it doesn't slip around when, you know, a little person is wearing it. And I'm gonna tack it all the way around. And you're gonna see the stitches and they're gonna look sloppy, and you're not gonna be bothered by that because when you turn it inside out, they'll go away. I'm gonna finish up stitching this all the way around and then we're almost done. The last step is to add a little ribbon.

Finishing touches with ribbon

- The last little detail that we're gonna add is a decorative ribbon right here and, again, this is optional. You don't have to do it. You can go buy a ribbon, but I like the ribbon matching the interior of the boot. So I want to make my own little ribbon that will go through that channel. So the way that I do that is I cut a one inch or so strip. You can make a thinner strip if you want it to be a thinner ribbon. You fold it on itself and you stitch up the side here. You can do that by a machine, which is much faster, much easier, but you can also do it by hand. It's just gonna take a little bit more time. So the problem with this, as a technique, is that it's nearly impossible to turn these, so I have a little trick for you that will make it easier. I've done it on this different fabric here. Then I wanna show you, my machine stitched this one up. The problem with these strips is they're really easy to sew, but they're really hard to turn. You sew them inside out and then you have to get them right side facing you. So how do you do that? I have a little trick that's gonna make it a lot easier. I take a yarn needle threaded with maybe two or three yards of yarn, depending on how long your strip is. Longer than what the strip is what the most important thing is. And I actually take a little stitch here and secure that yarn really tightly to one side of the top. And I've already done that. It's actually inside here. And then, you start pulling. So that the inside pulls. So that yarn is allowing you to pull that inside right out of that outside. So it's a really good trick for turning. Otherwise you would be struggling with that for days. And actually now, you can see the stitch I made in the beginning. So you just, at the start of that, I put a little stitch there to secure it. So what I would do with this now is I would go ahead, if it were the matching material, I would take a safety pin like this

and then I would secure it to the end. And then I would remove the ribbon that I had used in felting. Just pull it right on out. Like that. And then, I'm gonna take the safety pin and I'm gonna run it right through that channel with the new ribbon dragging behind. I'm inching that safety pin through here, like this, all the way through the channel until I get to the other side. When I get to the other side, I'll just put a pretty little bow here. And then, there's a couple of optional things that you can do to make them non-slip because the felt is really slippy, so I highly suggest that you do this. I would take a couple of patches of leather, cut 'em in to circles that will fit here, sew them on. That will make them non-slip and nice and safe. We're almost done. I, on this pair, added all of these little Xs at the very end. And you can do whatever kind of personalization you want at this point. This is where it can get very creative. It's just sort of a nice endpoint on your project. And then, when you're done with that, you're gonna have your first little pair of tootsie slippers and you can tell all your friends that you made your own shoes. How cool is that?