

Reversible Fabric Baby Shoes Tutorial

By Rhiannon Vining www.maked.ca

inspired by bitty booties <http://www.flickr.com/groups/bittybooties/> by Heather Bailey and
Stardusts cloth shoes for babies <http://www.flickr.com/groups/clothshoes/>

Finally! So many of you have been asking for this tutorial. I was actually quite shocked.

I've been spending so much time fussing over the pictures and technique because I wanted it to be perfect, but I've finally accepted the limitations of my dark apartment and my cheapo camera. So, the pictures aren't very pretty and you can see that the fabric isn't ironed, but hopefully the pics are enough to explain the process.

Keep in mind that I am by no means sure if this is the best way to do this. It can get quite tricky at times. But if you have any questions, I'll certainly answer them the best I can. And if you think of a better way, let us know.



NOTES:

- All seams are 1/4 inch seam allowance.
- Printout of pattern is available at www.maked.ca/shoepattern.pdf

STEP 1:

Cut out your pieces. For each piece you want two pieces of each colour (4 in total). Shown here I have just one piece of each colour. This is what you need to make one shoe. The pieces are such that you don't have to worry about flipping them over or anything. They're symmetrical. So just cut the shapes out and they'll work.

Not shown, you'll also need two pieces of elastic about 3/8" wide and about 3.5" long.



STEP 2:

Place one of fabric A and one of fabric B right sides together. Sew them together along the longer straight edge.



STEP 3:

Fold the heel pieces over the seam so that they are now wrong sides together.

Now you sew a seam to make a casing for the elastic. My elastic was 3/8" wide so I sewed my seam about half an inch away from the edge.

Your seam will depend on the width of your elastic. Try not to use an elastic that is very thin as this might cut into the baby's feet. Too wide and the elastic won't hold the shoe snugly above the heel.



STEP 4:

Attach a small safety pin to the edge of the elastic to help you push it through the tunnel.



Push the safety pin through until the other end of the elastic is just poking out. Do not push the elastic the whole way through. At the pictured stage, the safety pin is hidden inside the fabric.



STEP 5:

Now we make a sandwich.

It goes:

Fabric A toe, right side up

Heel piece, fabric A down, fabric B up, elastic towards the middle, elastic poking out the side

Fabric B toe, right side down

Start sewing a seam along the flat edge of the toe pieces, catching the heel piece (including the elastic) as you sew.

Stop after you've sewn over the heel piece, a little less than halfway down the toe piece.



STEP 6:

Here's where it starts to get tricky.

While everything is still in the sewing machine, pull the elastic and scrunch up the heel piece so that the free end of the elastic pokes out the other end of the heel piece.



Pull the heel piece around so that its edge is lining up against the edge of the toe pieces.

I like to put a little pin at the end, hold the pieces together with my left hand and pull on the safety pin with my right hand.

Finish the seam.



This is how it should look when the seam is done.



STEP 7:

Fold the two toe pieces over.
Now it should look like this.

Ooooh, it's starting to take shape.



STEP 8:

Now we make another sandwich.

The shoe top is going to get squished in between the two sole pieces.

It goes:

Fabric A sole, right side up
Shoe top, fabric A down, fabric B up
Fabric B sole, right side down

Pin often, attempting to keep the fabric distribution relatively even. I like to start with pins at the mid point of the toe and the mid point of the heel and then go from there.

Also I find it works better with smaller pins. Here I'm using mini quilt appliqué pins. They work great.



STEP 9:

Sew around the shoe leaving an opening. I like to leave about an inch at the side of the shoe because that's where it's straightest and going to give you the least amount of trouble.



STEP 10:

Fold back one of the sole pieces away from the opening. Sew the remaining pieces along the seam line.

Now, through that little opening, you turn the shoe right side out.



We're almost there!

STEP 11:

Slip stitch that opening closed.



You're done! Yay!

Find a little tootsie to show off your new creations.

