

## Very Casual Summer Shoes

Crochet guidelines

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This pattern was triggered by knitonthenet's Athena. I was inspired by the idea of crocheting beach shoes, but didn't like the idea of slipper soles and was somewhat perturbed by the construction of the shoes, which seemed a little "bitty". Having tackled busking my own version of them, I can now see why that might have been.

Firstly: what to do about soles? I didn't like the look of the slipper soles Athena recommended, so decided to craft my own. I got a ball of basic brown (sisal?) twine from the hardware store on Burscough Street (other hardware stores are available) and set to it.

Then: what yarn to use for the top? I had in mind some hemp yarn I'd bought & stashed over a year ago. On inspection, though, the yarn was much finer than I remembered it (4-ply equivalent rather than DK) so took a dive in my mother's stash (she passed away – I haven't integrated her stash into my own yet – I wasn't being Bad Daughter and just wilfully nicking her yarn) and came up with something that looked like it could be cotton, something near aran-weight, in a lovely blue. And probably enough left.

So, materials assembled – here goes!

### Abbreviations

CH – chain

SC- single crochet

DC - double crochet

TR - treble

**Shoe Soles** (make 2, or more if you have more feet)(Or 1 if you only have 1 foot)

Draw round your feet on a piece of paper. I found an A4 size to be big enough – indeed, you probably only need to draw around 1 foot and use the template twice. This is the template you will use to make a shoe sole the right size.

Work about 10 chains – enough to make a line down the centre of the wide part of your foot with an even margin all around if you imagine it as an oval rather than as part of your foot. Work 2 more chains, then work a row of SC. Work around the end of the chain- either 3 or 4 SC stitches into the end chain, and work back down the other side in SC. Work another round of stitches so that you have 4 rows of SC altogether, working 2 stitches into 1 at each end as necessary to keep your work flat. When you get to half way through the end turn, work 12 CH to extend the sole up to the heel. Work 2 more chains & turn and work back towards your main sole. Where you reach the first part, smooth out the corner by working DC, TR, DC, SC and



then continuing round the rest of the sole. Work enough rounds of the whole foot to fill in your foot's shape. You will need to make the soles less right- & left-foot than your actual feet: an approximation is enough. I found that 4 rounds of the whole foot was sufficient, ending just as I got to the toes. To end without a "step" work a slip stitch as the last stitch and thread the end through the stitches ahead.

(Make another one if necessary, but not recursively. I don't want to be responsible for a twine shortage)

### Shoe Tops

Join the yarn for the top of the foot at the back of the heel, and work a row of SC. Stepping up at the start of each row with 2 CH, work 4 rows of SC, decreasing 1 or 2 stitches at each end (heel and toes) to draw the sides in slightly. I did 2 stitches on row 3 and 3 on row 4, and had the inside of the shoe facing towards me. Break yarn.

For the top of the shoe, connect the yarn about 4 inches from the toe-end centre and work 10-15 CH (using your foot as a size guide) and connect the chain to the far side. Using slip stitches instead of CH to set up each row, fill in the space between chain and toes with DC, skipping a stitch at the start of each row for shaping. If the last row is too short, use SC rather than DC and end with a row of slip stitches to close the hole you will get at the end. Break yarn.

For the heel, join the yarn about 2 inches from the heel centre and work DC round to the same point on the other



side. I would have done another row here, only I ran out of yarn 3 stitches from the end, so took it back to 1 row. I think a second row would have looked better. Break yarn.



### Laces

There's a style decision to be made here. Having run out of yarn, the same colour wasn't an option for me. Exciting ribbon would be good – I've always been impressed by the selection in John Lewis (Give them the code "stitchedup" at the checkout and they'll give you a very odd look)(not an affiliate link).

I chose to crochet 2 lengths of chains in a coordinating colour (another mum-stash yarn – slightly bobbly white cotton). About 140cm (56 inches) per foot seems to do the trick. Thread the laces through the centre top hole between stitches and secure with a loop knot(?) then thread each lace through a hole between stitches about half way along the foot, cross over and thread through the heel corners, then cross & wrap around your leg (assuming your foot's in the shoe) and tie in a pretty but easily undoable bow.

### The End

And once you've sewn in the ends, you're done: wear your new shoes. But not too much, and probably not in the wet. And be careful on shiny floors. I have a plan to de-slipify mine with 3-D craft paint but I haven't done so yet... so I'm being careful not to polish my floors too much in the meantime. It's a hard life.