

LACE AND VELVET SLIPPERS

By Nancy Minsky

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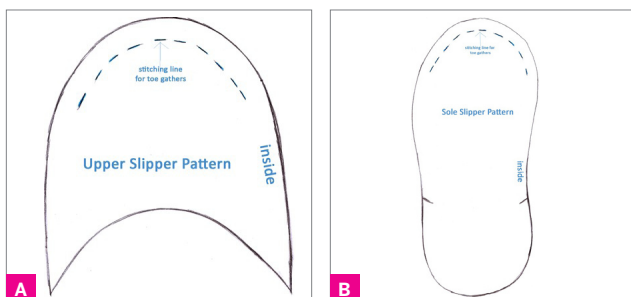
➔ These glamorous velvet slippers can be yours. Whether you are padding around your home in a pair of jeans, PJs, or dressed elegantly, just slide your feet into the comfy velvet, gaze down at the pretty lacy bows, and enjoy the pleasure of hand-made splendor!



Pattern

Level: Intermediate

Time: 2–3 Hours



Step 1: Print out the 2 pattern pieces.

This pattern is a medium adult size. Use it as a guide, and prior to cutting your fabrics, check the size. Cut 1 upper (Figure A) and 1 sole (Figure B) from simple muslin, pin them together, and slip it on. It should fit quite roomy, as the final slipper has lots of padding and it should extend about $\frac{3}{4}$ " around the perimeter of your foot. As needed, enlarge or reduce proportionately the upper or the sole, to fit your foot.

Step 2: Cut the sole pieces.

Note: Velvet has a nap, and lace has a right (top) and back side, so be careful to cut a right and left slipper by flipping the pattern over.

2a. Cut 4 pieces of the sole pattern in the black velvet (Figure C).

2b. Cut 2 pieces of the cotton wadding (Figure C).

2c. Mark the basting line and notch.

2d. Trim the pattern $\frac{3}{4}$ " smaller all around the perimeter, and cut 2 pieces of the cardboard.

Step 3: Cut the upper pieces.

3a. Cut 2 pieces each of: the lace, the gold velvet, the interfacing, and the lining (Figure D).

3b. Mark the basting line.

MATERIALS

- » **Black cotton velvet** enough to cut 4 soles
- » **Gold crushed silk velvet** enough to cut 2 uppers
- » **Black lace** enough to cut 2 uppers
- » **Black lining** enough to cut 2 uppers
- » **Woven interfacing** enough to cut 2 uppers
- » **$\frac{1}{2}$ " thick cotton wadding** enough to cut 2 soles
- » **Cardboard** enough to cut 2 soles
- » **2 pieces of $3\frac{1}{2}$ "x10" long black lace ribbon**
- » **2 pieces of 1"Wx2"L black organza ribbon covered in black jet and crystal beads**
- » **Black thread**
- » **Scissors, straight pins, hand sewing needle, sewing machine**



Figure C: The sole pieces for the right foot: starting on top with the black velvet, plush side facing up; the cotton wadding; the cardboard; and the black velvet bottom sole, with the plush side facing down.



Figure D: The upper pieces for the right foot, from the top: the lace with right side facing up, the gold velvet with plush side facing up, the interfacing, and the lining.

Step 4: Sew the upper.

4a. Pin the following together: the right uppers with black lining (back side facing up) on top, followed by the lace (right side up), velvet (right side up), and finally the interfacing. Pin, baste, and sew with a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance, the instep curve as marked in Figure E.

4b. Clip and trim the seam allowance.

4c. Turn the lining over and gently steam the seam so you have a neat curve.

4d. Following Figure F, pin the raw edges together, baste, and remove the pins. Sew a running stitch around the toe as marked on the pattern (later it will be pulled to form soft gathers).

4e. Repeat with the left upper.

Step 5: Sew the sole.

5a. Stitch a running stitch around the toe as marked on the pattern, on the 4 velvet soles. (Later this will be pulled to form soft gathers.)

5b. Now, starting with the right foot, pin the wadding on top of the wrong side of the velvet. Baste together as marked with blue thread on Figure G, and remove the pins.

5c. Following Figure G, pin the right upper, right side up, on top of the black velvet with the bottom point aligned with the notch on the sole. Baste together as marked with blue thread in the Figure H.

5d. Pin the remaining right foot, velvet sole on top, with the nap facing down. Baste in place along the same line as marked in Figure H. Remove the pins. Machine-stitch along the basted line with a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance.

5e. Remove all the basting, clip, and trim the seam allowance.

5f. Turn the slipper right side out — wiggling it through the toe — and your slipper looks normal!

5g. Then take something long (I used a chopstick), and slip it inside to nudge the seam into a nice smooth edge.

5h. Slide the cardboard inside, between the lower velvet sole and the wadding. If it's a squeeze to slip the cardboard inside, fold it a bit and don't worry, it will re-flatten out and be supportive.

5i. Repeat with the left slipper.

Step 6: Finish the toe.

6a. Pull the running stitches on the toes so they curl naturally around the cardboard toe. Knot all the threads.

6b. Tuck the seam allowance inside the toe and hand-stitch the toe closed with little backstitches.

Step 7: Adorn your slippers.

7a. As illustrated in Figure I, turn back the cut edges $\frac{1}{4}$ " and hem. Then stitch a row of running stitches down the center and pull it to form soft gathers. Knot securely.

7b. Lay the beaded organza ribbon down the center of the lace and fold the organza edges neatly under the lace.

7c. Stitch the bow onto the center of your slippers.

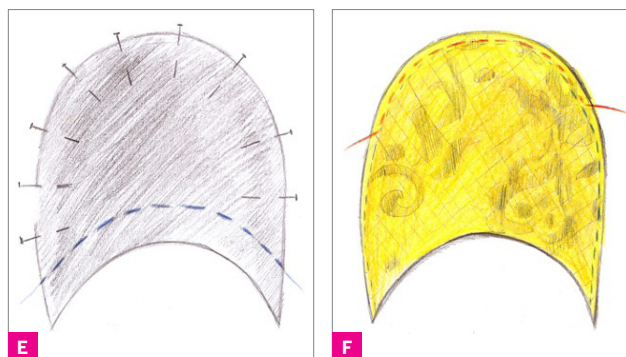
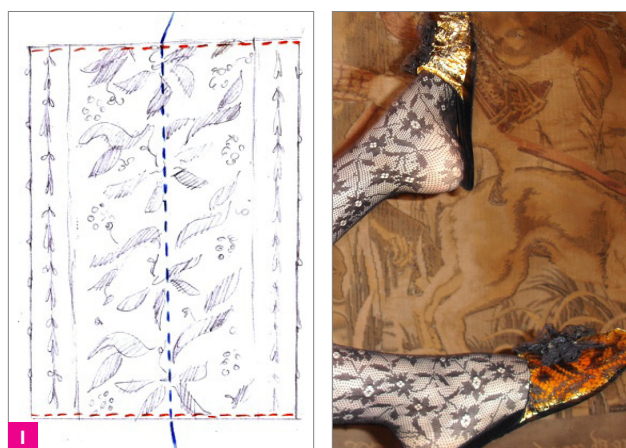
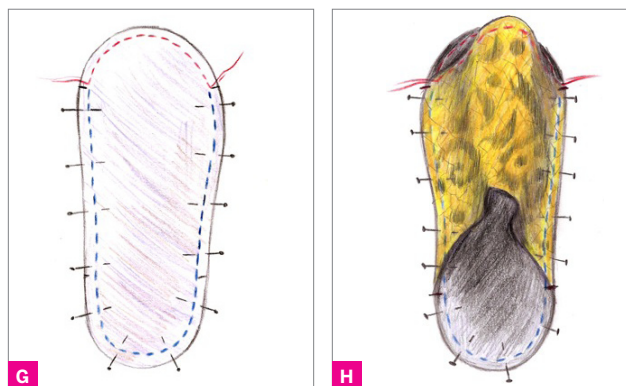


Figure E: The blue line indicates the stitching line.



About the Author

Nancy Minsky has recently published *Denim Revolution: Dozens of Ways to Turn Denim Cast-Offs into Fashion Must-Haves*, a craft book filled with fun projects to recycle castoff jeans into fashionable, "new" clothing and accessories.

A graduate of Parson's School of Design, where she has also taught fashion sketching, Nancy loves handmade, sewing, recycling, sketching, and fashion. You can read her craft and fashion blog at 21centurydressmakers.blogspot.com.

