

# How to Sew Crossed Elastics on Split Sole Ballet Slippers

## Materials Needed:

- Scissors
- Needle
- 4 ballet slipper elastics (if your elastics came in one long strip, you may cut it into 4 equal pieces)
- Sturdy thread
- Pencil
- Superglue

- 1) If your ballet slippers came without elastics attached at the back, fold down the heel of the shoe to make a straight line across (see picture below). Mark the corner of each side with your pencil. This is where your elastics will be attached in the back. Sew one side of each of the 4 elastics to that spot being sure to attach the elastic securely stitching back and forth across the entire length of the elastic more than once and keeping your stitches and knots as smooth as possible – any raised spots can lead to nasty blisters! Be careful not to sew through the drawstring that tightens the shoe!

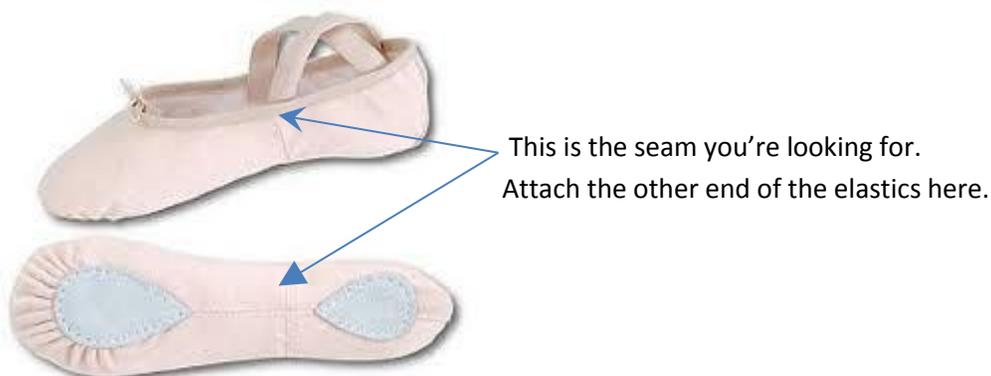


Back of shoe folded down where back elastics will be attached.

Mark at this corner on each side of both shoes.



2) Put your ballet slippers on. Take each elastic from the back of your shoe, and cross it over the top of your foot to the SEAM (around the arch area of the shoe – there is a seam on split sole ballet slippers that is between the soles on the bottom and comes up to each side) on the opposite side of the shoe. This is where it will be attached. Measure how long the elastic should be to fit snugly across your foot and hold your shoe on, but not too tight that it's digging in or leaving marks. The idea is to hold the arch of your shoe snugly against your foot when you pointe to show off your arch and pointed foot. Mark on the elastic where to sew it onto your shoe and the angle it need to be attached so that it lays flat.



3) Once you've finished sewing on your crossed elastics, put your ballet slippers on, be sure the elastics are sewn on securely and nothing is pinching or rubbing or too tight. Tighten the drawstrings and tie them (not in double-knots just yet!) Wear your ballet slippers around the house for awhile. Often they feel fine at first but are in fact too tight after wearing for some time.



What they should look like when you're done! Enjoy! 😊