



Ballet Slipper Elastic Drawstring Replacement

Fixing ballet slippers when elasticity is lost or broken. How to repair ballet slippers with broken elastic.

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INTRODUCTION

This detailed how-to project will result in successful repair of damaged ballet slippers that are often mistaken to be no longer useful. When the elastic drawstring is lost within the casing of the ballet shoe, most dancers or parents feel the need to replace them instantly with a new pair since it can lead to dangerous consequences. Don't buy new slippers if this happens! These in-depth, affordable steps will result in like-new ballet slippers.



TOOLS:

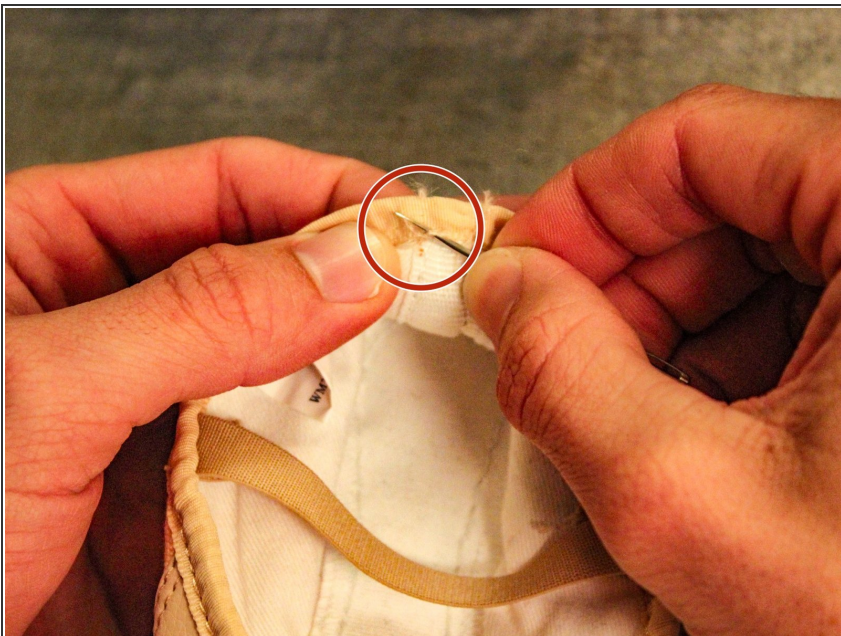
- [Fine needle](#) (1)
 - [Stitch Opener](#) (1)
(Optional)
 - [Fabric Glue](#) (1)
(Optional)
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Step 1 — Locating the Elastic



- Locate the end of the elastic that is stuck within the ballet casing

Step 2 — Ripping the Stitch



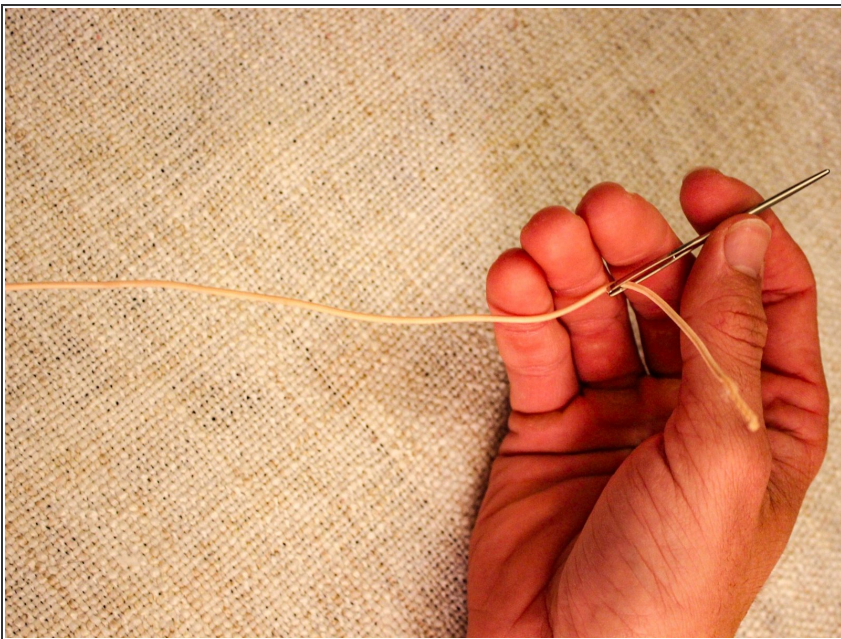
- Use a fine needle to rip a few of the stitches in order to open the exact area where the elastic is stuck to release it
- ⓘ You may also use a stitch opener in replacement of the fine needle if preferred
- ★ Fine needle can be found at Walmart in the sewing aisle. The one used is the brand "Dritz" and included 6 different sized needles. The one used is the smallest needle in the kit.

Step 3 — Remove the Elastic



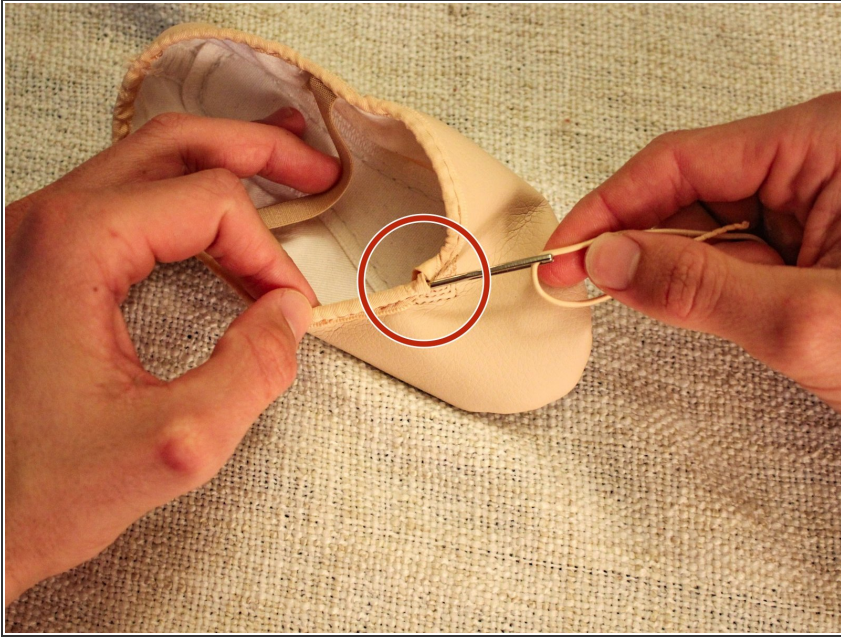
- Remove all of the elastic out of the shoe completely by gently pulling one end

Step 4 — Thread Through Needle



- Put one end of the elastic through the thin needle. Leave enough of a tail on the thread in order to ensure it does not come unthreaded

Step 5 — Rethread Shoe



- Rethread the shoe by putting the needle through one end and pushing it through to the other opening
- ⚠ This may be a bit tricky since the needle is super straight and the ballet shoe is curved. Use force to push the needle all the way through but be cautious not to stick yourself with the sharp end when doing so
- ⓘ Keep in mind that this may be the most difficult or time consuming part of the repair depending on the specific slipper and/or strength used

Step 6 — Secure Knot



- Once elastic is evenly pulled through the ballet casing, secure the knot and cut the leftover elastic, if necessary
- ✦ It may help to fit the ballet slipper to the ballerina's foot prior to securing the knot to ensure the elastic is adjusted specifically their size
- ⓘ You may also use fabric glue to seal the spot where you've broken the stitches, or if it appears in good condition, leave stitching broken and cut down any excess hanging thread. The few broken stitches do not affect the ballerina's performance in the shoe. It will still be in perfect working/wearing condition

It may appear frustrating at first with how tedious this repair is. However, I strongly advise having patience with each step in order to successfully repair the shoe. It will only work 100% if you're not rushing through it. Go into the repair with an open mind and the result will be worth it! Some ballet slippers are sentimental to ballerinas and this is where this simple fix comes handy.