Baby shell dress

6-12 months · US terms



Finished size
About 20 in (51 cm) at the chest and about 14 in (35.5 cm) long
To fit a chest of 18 in (45.5 cm)

Skill
Easy
Basic stitches and simple shaping, in one piece from the neck down.

Yarn
Light (3), 2 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
16 stitches and 8½ rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In double crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: lavender, the main color	**about 400 yd (366 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, the second color	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7). Also: yarn needle, scissors and tape measure.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge.

Sizes

Size	To fit chest	Chest	Length	Yoke depth	Sleeve	Upper sleeve	Neck	Hem	Yarn, an estimate
0-3 months	16 in (40.5 cm)	18 in (45.5 cm)	11½ in (29 cm)	3¾ in (9.5 cm)	1 in (2.5 cm)	7 in (18 cm)	15 in (38 cm)	27 in (68.5 cm)	about 320 yd (292 m)
3-6 months	17 in (43 cm)	18 in (45.5 cm)	13 in (33 cm)	4¼ in (11 cm)	1 in (2.5 cm)	7½ in (19 cm)	16½ in (42 cm)	27 in (68.5 cm)	about 350 yd (320 m)
6-12 months (this file)	**18 in (45.5 cm)**	**20 in (51 cm)**	**14 in (35.5 cm)**	**4¼ in (11 cm)**	**1 in (2.5 cm)**	**8 in (20.5 cm)**	**17½ in (44.5 cm)**	**30 in (76 cm)**	**about 425 yd (389 m)**
12-18 months	19 in (48.5 cm)	20 in (51 cm)	15 in (38 cm)	4¾ in (12 cm)	1 in (2.5 cm)	8½ in (21.5 cm)	18½ in (47 cm)	30 in (76 cm)	about 450 yd (412 m)
18-24 months	20 in (51 cm)	22 in (56 cm)	15½ in (39.5 cm)	4¾ in (12 cm)	1 in (2.5 cm)	9 in (23 cm)	19 in (48.5 cm)	33 in (84 cm)	about 525 yd (480 m)

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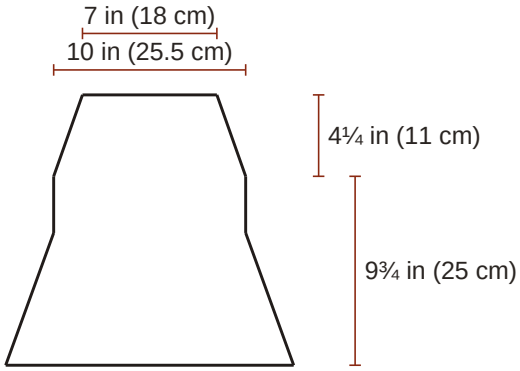
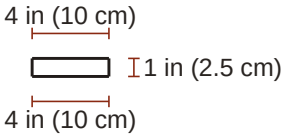
Schematic



Body, laid flat



Sleeve, laid flat

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
st	stitch
rnd	round

Gauge

16 stitches and 8½ rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Ch 26; begin in the 3rd ch from the hook and work 13 rows of double crochet on 24 sts, about 6 in (15 cm) wide and 6 in (15 cm) high, and measure 4 in (10 cm) in the middle. Use a larger hook if your swatch is small, a smaller one if it is large. Shell rounds: 1 sc with 1 shell of 5 dc, worked over 6 sts, is 1½ in (3.8 cm) wide; 11.5 rounds to 4 in (10 cm).

Before you start

- Baby sizes.
- The finished chest is from 1 in (2.5 cm) to 2 in (5 cm) wider than the body measurement, by the size. Choose by the finished measurement you like; no fit is promised beyond the measurements given.
- Worked from the neck down in one piece. The rounds are not turned; the right side always faces you.
- The rounds begin at the middle of the back, so the first and the last section of each round are the two halves of the back.
- Work the foundation chain and the neckband loosely: the neck has no opening and must stretch over the head.
- The chain at the start of a round or row (ch 1 for single crochet, ch 2 for double crochet) never counts as a stitch. Work the first stitch into the stitch at its base.
- At the underarms, work into each of the new chains as into a stitch on the next round. The sleeves are worked into the free side of these chains.
- Color changes in rounds: work the sl st that joins the round before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn, leaving an end of about 6 in (15 cm), or, if it is needed again within 6 rnds, carry it loosely up the inside at the join.

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Instructions

Chosen: 6-12 months. Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet and dc is treble.

Yoke

Yarn A, lavender.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 70; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring, taking care not to twist the chain.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 2; dc in each ch around; join with sl st in first dc	**(70 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 2; [dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st] twice, **[**dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 10 times**; join with sl st in first dc	**(82 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 2; dc in next 3 sts, [2 dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts] twice, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts**] 9 times**, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts; join with sl st in first dc	**(94 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 2; dc in next 2 sts, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 9 sts**] 3 times**, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 7 sts; join with sl st in first dc	**(104 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 2; dc in each st around; join with sl st in first dc	**(104 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 2; dc in next 6 sts, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 7 sts**] 4 times**, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts**] 7 times**, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; join with sl st in first dc	**(116 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 2; **[**dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 4 times**, **[**dc in next 9 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 8 times**; join with sl st in first dc	**(128 dc)**
☐ **Rnds 8 to 9**	Ch 2; dc in each st around; join with sl st in first dc	**(128 dc)**

A box for each round, 8 to 9: tick them off as you go.

8 9

☐ **End**	Do not fasten off.	

Body and skirt

Yarns in order of use: A, lavender; B, white.

Colors: rnds 10 and 11 yarn A; rnds 12 and 13 yarn B; rnds 14 to 37 yarn A.

☐ **Foundation**	Go on from rnd 9 of the yoke.	
☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 2; dc in next 18 sts, ch 4 (underarm), skip next 28 sts (one sleeve), dc in next 36 sts, ch 4 (underarm), skip next 28 sts (one sleeve), dc in next 18 sts; join with sl st in first dc	**(72 dc, 8 ch)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 2; dc in each st around; join with sl st in first dc	**(80 dc)**
☐ **Rnds 12 to 13**	**Yarn B.** Ch 1; sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(80 sc)**

A box for each round, 12 to 13: tick them off as you go.

12 13

☐ **Rnd 14**	**Yarn A.** Ch 2; **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 40 times**; join with sl st in first dc	**(120 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 20 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(20 sc, 100 dc)**

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☐ **Rnd 16**	Ch 2; **[**5 dc in next st, skip next 2 sts, sc in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 20 times**; join with sl st in first dc	**(100 dc, 20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sl st in each of next 2 dc (the second is the middle of the shell), ch 1; sc in same st, skip next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, skip next 2 sts, **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 19 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(20 sc, 100 dc)**
☐ **Rnds 18 to 37**	Repeat rnds 16 and 17 in turn: every even-numbered rnd is worked as rnd 16, every odd-numbered rnd as rnd 17.	

A box for each round, 18 to 37: tick them off as you go.

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Sleeve: make 2

Yarn A, lavender.

☐ **Foundation**	With the right side facing, join yarn A in the left one of the two middle chs of an underarm.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 2, dc in that ch and in the next underarm ch, dc in each of the 28 sleeve sts and dc in each of the 2 underarm chs left; join with sl st in first dc	**(32 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 2; dc in each st around; join with sl st in first dc	**(32 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Neckband

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Foundation**	With the right side facing, join yarn B in the foundation chain at the middle of the back.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, sc in each ch around; join with sl st in first sc	**(70 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 2 to 3**	Ch 1; sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(70 sc)**

A box for each round, 2 to 3: tick them off as you go.

2 3

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Putting it together

Close any small gaps at the underarms with the yarn ends there.

Finishing

- Weave in all the ends. Wash as the yarn label says and lay flat to the measurements to dry.

In all: 5 pieces; 4,492 stitches (954 in the yoke, 3,200 in the body and skirt, 64 in each sleeve, 210 in the neckband); 10 ends to weave in.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

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