Butterfly top with an open tie back

M, to fit bust 37 in (94 cm) · US terms



Finished size

About 16¾ in (42.5 cm) at the front across and about 8¼ in (21 cm) at the upper wing from ring to tips of scallops

To fit a bust of 37 in (94 cm)

Skill

Intermediate

Fans of double crochet, color changes, a row in two colors, seams, embroidery in chain stitch

Yarn

Fine (2), 4 colors

Hook

4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge

18 stitches and 9½ rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In double crochet (UK treble).

What you need

Yarn A: marigold, color 1	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: rust, color 2	**about 50 yd (46 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: black, color 3	**about 170 yd (155 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, color 4	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 80 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 350 yd (320 m).

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: yarn needle, scissors, tape measure, about ¾ yd (0.7 m) of stretch swimsuit lining at least 56 in (142 cm) wide (enough for every size), sewing thread and a sewing needle and pins.

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

Sizes

Size	Bust	Yarn, an estimate	Front across, from wing tip to wing tip	Upper wing from ring to tips of scallops	Lower wing from ring to tips of scallops	Front long	Neck V deep, along its edge
XS	29 in (73.5 cm)	about 235 yd (215 m)	14 in (35.5 cm)	7 in (18 cm)	5 in (12.5 cm)	11¾ in (30 cm)	4½ in (11.5 cm)
S	33 in (84 cm)	about 245 yd (224 m)	15 in (38 cm)	7½ in (19 cm)	5¼ in (13.5 cm)	12½ in (32 cm)	5 in (12.5 cm)
M (this file)	**37 in (94 cm)**	**about 285 yd (261 m)**	**16¾ in (42.5 cm)**	**8¼ in (21 cm)**	**5¾ in (14.5 cm)**	**13¾ in (35 cm)**	**5¾ in (14.5 cm)**

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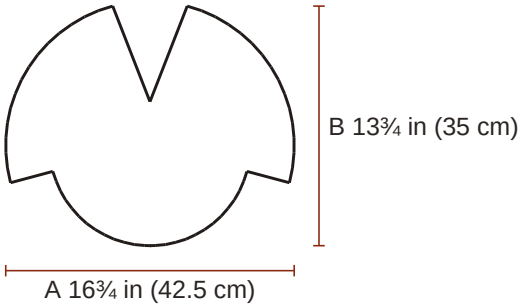
L	41 in (104 cm)	about 320 yd (293 m)	18¼ in (46.5 cm)	9¼ in (23.5 cm)	6¼ in (16 cm)	15 in (38 cm)	6¾ in (17 cm)
1X	45 in (114.5 cm)	about 340 yd (311 m)	19¼ in (49 cm)	9½ in (24 cm)	6¾ in (17 cm)	16 in (40.5 cm)	7 in (18 cm)
2X	49 in (124.5 cm)	about 375 yd (343 m)	20¾ in (52.5 cm)	10½ in (26.5 cm)	7 in (18 cm)	17¼ in (44 cm)	8 in (20.5 cm)

Schematic



Front, right side up
A the whole width
B how deep the neck is

Gauge

18 stitches and 9½ rows 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 29; begin in the 3rd ch from the hook and work 14 rows of double crochet on 27 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. Body and edgings: single crochet (UK: double crochet), 18 sts and 21 rows to 4 in (10 cm). The row of scallops is about 3/8 in (1 cm) high.

Notes

- Women's sizes, by the bust. It is a top for the front: measure across your front from side to side, over the fullest part, and compare that with the front across.
- The back is open and the ties hold the top, so there is no ease; the front across is a little less than half of the bust. No fit is promised beyond the measurements given.
- The turning chain (ch 1 for single and half double crochet, ch 2 for double crochet) never counts as a stitch. Work the first stitch of every row into the first stitch, at the base of the turning chain.
- The ch that is skipped at the start of row 1 is never counted, and nothing is worked into it later.
- All the four wings are worked from the ring at the body outward, in rows that are turned; row 1 is a right side row. The increases are spread over the row, alike from both ends.
- In the row of spots, "with C" and "with D" name the yarn of the next sts. Change the yarn on the last yarn over of the last st before; lay the yarn that is not in use along the top of the row below and work over it. Join D at the change to the first spot, and cut it when the change back to C after the last spot is made, leaving an end of about 6 in (15 cm) each time; C goes on into the next row.

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- Chain stitch: bring the needle up, put it in again at the same place and bring the point out about ¼ in (0.5 cm) farther on; lay the yarn under the point and draw the needle through, so that a loop lies on the wing; go on from inside the loop. At the end of the line put the needle down just outside the last loop, so that a small stitch over its tip holds it, and fasten the yarn off on the wrong side.
- Whip stitch: put the needle in through both edges from the back to the front, take the yarn over the edge, and do the same again a short step farther on.
- Mattress stitch: lay the two edges side by side with the right side up; with the yarn needle go under two strands at the side of a row end of one edge, then under two strands of the row end across from it, and so on, and draw the yarn up until the edges meet.
- Lining: when the body is sewn on, lay the front with the wrong side up on stretch swimsuit lining, the greater stretch of the lining from side to side, and smooth it as flat as it will lie. Its outline follows the end of the rust yarn on all four wings and the row ends beside the edging along the V neck, and at each notch the lower straight edge of the upper wing, from the rust of the upper wing to the rust of the lower wing. Cut the lining in one piece, ½ in (1.5 cm) outside this outline. Turn the ½ in (1.5 cm) under all around, toward the crochet, and pin it to the wrong side, so that the fold lies along the outline. Over the lower end of the V neck, where the front is hollow, lay a small fold in the lining. Snip what is turned under where an edge curves in or turns a corner. Sew the fold down with small slanting stitches of sewing thread that do not show on the right side, and stretch the piece a little as you sew. The dark borders are not lined.
- Color changes in rows: work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn, leaving an end of about 6 in (15 cm), or, if it is needed again at the same edge within 6 rows and that edge is straight, carry it loosely up the edge.

Instructions

M, to fit bust 37 in (94 cm). US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **st** stitch.
RS right side, the one that shows.
2 dc in next st: both in one stitch. **dc in next 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 8 times: work what is inside 8 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.
(4 dc): the stitches you have when the row is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

sc2tog (single crochet 2 stitches together (UK double crochet 2 together)): Insert the hook in the next stitch and pull up a loop, insert the hook in the following stitch and pull up a loop (3 loops on the hook); yarn over and pull through all 3 loops.

Upper wing: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, marigold; C, black; D, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 4; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring. Colors: rows 1 to 11 yarn A; row 12 yarn C; rows 13 to 16 yarn B; rows 17 to 20 yarn C.	
☐ **Row 1**	Ch 2; 4 dc in ring	(4 dc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st	(6 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts	(10 dc)

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☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts	(12 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next st	(16 dc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts	(18 dc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts	(22 dc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts	(24 dc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts	(28 dc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 14 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts	(30 dc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts	(34 dc)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 16 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts	(36 dc)
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts	(40 dc)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 18 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 10 sts	(42 dc)
☐ **Row 15**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts	(46 dc)
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 11 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 22 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 11 sts	(48 dc)
☐ **Row 17**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 11 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 11 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts	(52 dc)
☐ **Row 18**	Ch 2, turn; with C dc in next 5 sts, **[**with D dc in next 2 sts, with C dc in next 3 sts**] 8 times**, with D dc in next 2 sts, with C dc in next 5 sts	(52 dc)
☐ **Row 19**	Ch 2, turn; dc in each st across	(52 dc)
☐ **Row 20**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc in next st, (hdc, dc) in next st, (dc, hdc) in next st, sc in next st**] 13 times**	(26 sc, 26 hdc, 26 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off. The straight edges are the two edges at the sides, from the ring to the scallops. Rows 17 to 20 are the dark border; row 18 has 9 cream spots.	

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Lower wing: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, marigold; C, black; D, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 4; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring. Colors: rows 1 to 7 yarn A; rows 8 to 10 yarn B; rows 11 to 14 yarn C.	
☐ **Row 1**	Ch 2; 4 dc in ring	(4 dc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st	(6 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next st	(8 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts	(10 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next st	(14 dc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts	(16 dc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts	(18 dc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts	(20 dc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts	(24 dc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts	(26 dc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 12 sts, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts	(28 dc)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 2, turn; with C dc in next 3 sts, **[**with D dc in next 2 sts, with C dc in next 3 sts**] 4 times**, with D dc in next 2 sts, with C dc in next 3 sts	(28 dc)
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 2, turn; dc in each st across	(28 dc)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc in next st, (hdc, dc) in next st, (dc, hdc) in next st, sc in next st**] 7 times**	(14 sc, 14 hdc, 14 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off. Rows 11 to 14 are the dark border; row 12 has 5 cream spots.	

Body

Yarn C, black.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn C, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(3 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in each st across to last st, 2 sc in last st	(5 sc)

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☐ **Rows 3 to 43**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(5 sc)

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43

☐ **Row 44**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next st, sc2tog	(3 sc)
☐ **End**	The body is about 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) wide and 8½ in (21.5 cm) long. Fasten off, leaving an end of about 50 in (125 cm) for sewing.	

Neck tie: make 2

Yarn C, black.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn C, ch 120.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(119 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Each neck tie is about 23 in (58.5 cm) long (the slip stitches draw the chain in). Fasten off, leaving an end of about 8 in (20 cm) for sewing.	

Back tie: make 4

Yarn C, black.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn C, ch 125.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(124 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Each back tie is about 24 in (61 cm) long (the slip stitches draw the chain in). Fasten off, leaving an end of about 8 in (20 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Edging of the right-hand straight edge of an upper wing (make 2): Hold an upper wing with the right side facing and its right-hand straight edge uppermost, so that the ring is at your right. Join yarn C in the end of row 1 of the upper wing; ch 1, then in order: along rows 1 to 19 of the upper wing, 2 sc in the end of each of the next 19 rows (38 sc); along row 20 of the upper wing, sc in the end of the next row (1 sc). There are 39 sc in all. This is row 1, a right side row. Fasten off.

2. Edging of the left-hand straight edge of an upper wing (make 2): Hold an upper wing with the right side facing and its left-hand straight edge uppermost, so that the scallops are at your right. Join yarn C in the end of row 20 of the upper wing; ch 1, then in order: along row 20 of the upper wing, sc in the end of the next row (1 sc); along rows 1 to 19 of the upper wing, met from the last of them, 2 sc in the end of each of the next 19 rows (38 sc). There are 39 sc in all. This is row 1, a right side row. Fasten off.

3. Veins of the upper wings: in row 17, the first row of the dark border, there are 52 sts. With yarn C embroider three lines in chain stitch on the right side of each upper wing, each straight from the ring to row 17: one to the top of st 13, one to the space between sts 26 and 27, and one to the top of st 40. Make each chain stitch about ¼ in (0.5 cm) long. Take about 35 in (89 cm) of yarn C for each line.

4. Veins of the lower wings: in row 11, the first row of the dark border, there are 28 sts. Embroider two lines in the same stitch on the right side of each lower wing, each straight from the ring to row 11: one to the top of st 9 and one to the top of st 20. Take about 27 in (68.5 cm) of yarn C for each line.

5. Lower wings: lay them side by side, right sides up, with the rings together at the top. With a new length of yarn C of about 16 in (40 cm), sew the ends of rows 1 to 13 of the left-hand wing to the ends of rows 1 to 13 of the right-hand wing with mattress stitch, row to row, from the rings down. This seam is the middle of the front.

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6. Upper wings: lay one at each side above the lower wings, right sides up, with its ring at the other rings. Its lower straight edge meets the free straight edge of the lower wing. The edging of that edge has 39 sc; count them from the ring (on the left-hand wing as you look at it, that is from the last sc of the edging back). With a new length of yarn C of about 16 in (40 cm) for each side, whip stitch sc 1 to 26, counted from the ring, to the ends of rows 1 to 13 of the lower wing, 2 sc to each row end. The rest of the edge stays free: it is the notch between the wings.

7. V neck: the two upper straight edges of the upper wings are the neck. With a new length of yarn C of about 10 in (25 cm), whip stitch sc 1 to 12 of one edge to sc 1 to 12 of the other, counted from the rings, one to one. This draws the front in a little, so that it is hollow over the bust. Above it the neck stays open in a V.

8. Body: pin it, right side up, over the middle of the front: its middle st lies along the seams, the foundation chain at the lower end, level with the scallops, and row 44 about level with the top of the seam of the V neck. Sew it down all around with whip stitch, with its own end.

9. Neck ties: sew the end of a neck tie that has the long yarn end to the wrong side of each upper wing at the top of the V neck, behind sc 39 of the edging, counted from the ring, with that yarn end.

10. Back ties: sew a back tie in the same way to the wrong side of each upper wing at the outer end of its lower straight edge, behind sc 39 of the edging, counted from the ring, and to the wrong side of each lower wing at the outer end of its row of scallops, behind the last st beside the notch.

11. To wear it, tie the neck ties in a bow behind the neck, the two upper back ties in a bow under the shoulder blades and the two lower back ties in a bow at the waist. The back is open.

Finishing

- Weave in all the ends of the wings, the veins, the seams and the body on the wrong side, for the lining covers most of them. Then line the front (see NOTES).
- Weave in the ends of the ties. Wash as the yarn label says and lay flat to the measurements to dry.

In all: 11 pieces; 2,794 stitches (650 in each upper wing, 272 in each lower wing, 216 in the body, 119 in each neck tie, 124 in each back tie).

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

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