Dress topper for a half tea towel

Regular · US terms



Finished size

Bodice about 6¼ in (16 cm) wide at the waist and 7¼ in (18 cm) at the chest, 5 in (13 cm) tall to the foot of the strap; strap about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide and 6 in (15 cm) long; for a rail up to 1¼ in (3 cm) thick

Skill

Intermediate

Simple shaping, and small pieces to sew

Yarn

Medium (4), 2 colors

Hook

4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge

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

In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: dusty rose, main color **about 60 yd (55 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: cream, the collar, the sash and more **about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 50 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a tea towel about 18 in (45 cm) wide (half of it makes one dress), a flat button, ¾ in (2 cm) across, strong sewing thread in the color of the towel, a sewing needle, pins and an iron, a yarn needle, scissors and a tape measure.

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, with 15 percent added.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Regular (this file)	**6¼ in (16 cm) wide, 7¼ in (18 cm)**	**about 100 yd (91 m)**
Wide	7¼ in (18 cm) wide, 8¼ in (21 cm)	about 105 yd (96 m)

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Gauge

16 stitches and 18 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Check it on the bodice, laid flat, when row 6 is done: the 25 stitches of a row are about 6¼ in (16 cm) wide in Regular and the 29 stitches of a row are about 7¼ in (18 cm) wide in Wide, and the 6 rows are about 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) tall. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one.

Notes

- The ch 1 or ch 2 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- The bodice is worked from the waist up to the end of the strap. Row 1 of every piece is a right side row.
- To change yarn, work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn at the end of its stripe, leaving a tail of about 6 in (15 cm), and leave a tail of the same length on the new yarn.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin and when you fasten off, unless another length is given. The ends that are not sewn with are woven in.
- Use cotton yarn: it stands up to washing.
- Whip stitch: hold the two edges together, put the needle through both from back to front, bring the yarn over the edges and go in again from the back, one stitch along.
- Buy whole balls from one dye lot.

Instructions

Regular. US terms.

ch chain, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **sp** space, **st** stitch.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **sk** skip, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 23 sts**: one in each. **ch-3 sp**: the gap under three chains; the hook goes in the gap.
[ ] 2 times: work what is inside 2 times in all.
(25 sc): the stitches you have when the row is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Bodice

Yarn A, dusty rose.

Rows 1 to 6 are the waist, rows 7 to 12 widen to the chest, and rows 13 and 14 leave 3 sts free at each side for the sleeves. Rows 19 to 22 slope the shoulders, and from row 23 on the 7 sts are the strap. Row 46 makes the buttonhole.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 26.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(25 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 6**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(25 sc)
2 3 4 5 6		
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 23 sts, 2 sc in last st	(27 sc)
☐ **Rows 8 to 9**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(27 sc)
8 9		
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 25 sts, 2 sc in last st	(29 sc)

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☐ **Rows 11 to 12** 11 12	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(29 sc)
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 26 sts, leave remaining 3 sts unworked	(26 sc)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 23 sts, leave remaining 3 sts unworked	(23 sc)
☐ **Rows 15 to 18** 15 16 17 18	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(23 sc)
☐ **Row 19**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**, sc in next 15 sts, **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**	(15 sc, 4 sc2tog)
☐ **Row 20**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**, sc in next 11 sts, **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**	(11 sc, 4 sc2tog)
☐ **Row 21**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**, sc in next 7 sts, **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**	(7 sc, 4 sc2tog)
☐ **Row 22**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**, sc in next 3 sts, **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**	(3 sc, 4 sc2tog)
☐ **Rows 23 to 45** 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(7 sc)
☐ **Row 46**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, ch 3, sk next 3 sts, sc in next 2 sts	(4 sc, 1 ch-3 sp)
☐ **Row 47**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, 3 sc in next ch-3 sp, sc in next 2 sts	(7 sc)
☐ **Row 48**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(7 sc)
☐ **Row 49**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog	(3 sc, 2 sc2tog)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Sleeve: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, dusty rose; B, cream.

Row 2 doubles the stitches and row 5 draws them in again, so that the sleeve puffs out between its two edges; push the puff out toward the right side with a finger.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 11.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(10 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each st across	(20 dc)
☐ **Rows 3 to 4** 3 4	Ch 2, turn; dc in each st across	(20 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 10 times**	(10 sc2tog)
☐ **Row 6**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(10 sc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(10 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

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Collar: make 2

Yarn B, cream.

Each half of the collar is a half circle. Its straight edge is the edge with the ends of the rows, and the foundation chain lies in its middle.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 2.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	5 sc in 2nd ch from hook	(5 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each st across	(10 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 20 in (51 cm) to sew with.	

Sash

Yarn B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 27.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(26 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(26 sc)
	2 3 4	
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 40 in (102 cm) to sew with.	

Bow

Yarn B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(7 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 30**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(7 sc)
	2 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	
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 30 in (76 cm) to sew with.	

Bow tails

Yarn B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 33.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(32 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(32 sc)
	2 3	
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

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Assembly

1. Weave in all the ends but the tails to sew with. Stitches are counted from the right edge, with the right side up and the strap at the top.

2. Sleeves: lay the bodice right side up. The edge for a sleeve goes up over the ends of rows 15 to 18, which are straight, and of rows 19 and 20, the first two that slope. The two sides of the bodice are alike. Cut a length of A about 52 in (132 cm) long, and use half of it for each sleeve. Lay a sleeve right side up beside the bodice, its foundation chain along this edge and under it, its cream cuff pointing away from the bodice and a little down. Whip stitch the edge of the bodice to the 10 chains: 1 chain to the end of each of rows 15 to 18, 4 stitches, then 3 chains to the end of row 19 and 3 to the end of row 20, 6 stitches. Go back over the 10 stitches once. Sew the second sleeve to the other side in the same way; the two sleeves lie in mirror image.

3. Collar: mark the middle st of row 18 of the bodice. Lay the two halves right side up on the bodice, their rounded edges down and outward: the straight edge of each runs from the marked st upward and outward to the outer end of row 21, one to the right and one to the left, and the two halves touch at the marked st. With its tail, sew each one down along its straight edge alone, 6 stitches, and go back over them once. The rounded edges stay free.

4. Skirt: fold the tea towel in half so that its two short ends meet, and cut it along the fold. Fold the cut edge of one half ½ in (12 mm) to the wrong side, and ½ in (12 mm) once more, press it and sew it down with thread. With a doubled thread work two lines of running stitches along this hem, 1/8 in (3 mm) and 3/8 in (9 mm) below its top fold, stitches about ¼ in (6 mm) long. Draw both threads up until the hem is 6¼ in (16 cm) wide, knot them, and push the gathers along until they are of one depth from side to side.

5. Lay the bodice with its wrong side up and the waist toward you. Lay the gathered hem on it, wrong side up, its top fold on the line between rows 3 and 4, its two sides level with the two sides of the waist. Pin it, and with thread, the stitches passing through to the right side, where the sash will hide them, sew the hem to the backs of rows 1 to 3 with two lines of backstitch, one along the top fold of the hem and one along the foundation chain of the bodice, a stitch to each sc: 25 stitches in each line.

6. Sash: lay the bodice right side up. Lay the sash, right side up, across the waist over rows 1 to 4, its foundation chain level with the foundation chain of the bodice; half a stitch of it stands out at each side. With its tail, whip stitch it down all round, 60 stitches: 1 in each st and 1 in each row end.

7. Bow: bring the foundation chain and the last row of the bow together, without twisting it, right side outside, and whip stitch them with the first part of the tail, 7 stitches: a ring. Press the ring flat with this seam in the middle of the back. Run the needle to the middle of the seam, wind the rest of the tail tightly round the middle of the bow 8 times, so that it is gathered to about ½ in (12 mm), and fasten the yarn at the back, leaving the end to sew with.

8. Bow tails: fold the strip in half so that its two short ends lie side by side, pointing down and a little apart, and sew the fold to the back of the knot of the bow with the same end of yarn, 3 stitches. With the same yarn sew the knot to the sash, through its 13th and 14th sts between its rows 2 and 3, 4 stitches through all the layers. The loops and the tails of the bow stay free.

9. Button: with thread, sew it to the wrong side of the bodice, on row 17, behind the 12th of its 23 sts. To hang the dress, bring the strap up in front of the rail, over it and down behind it, and button it behind the bodice.

Finishing

- Weave in what is left of the sewing lengths with the yarn needle. To wash it, open the button and take the dress down.

In all: 8 pieces; 1,365 stitches (695 in the bodice, 100 in each sleeve, 30 in each collar, 104 in the sash, 210 in the bow, 96 in the bow tails).

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

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