Tutu dress with a stretch bodice

4, to fit chest 23 in (58.5 cm) · US terms



Finished size
About 21 in (53.5 cm) at the chest and about 6¾ in (17 cm) down the bodice
To fit a chest of 23 in (58.5 cm)

Skill
Easy
Basic stitches and V-stitches in rounds, with tulle looped on

Yarn
Light (3), 2 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

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

You will need

Yarn A: rose, main — **about 130 yd (119 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: blush, contrast — **about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: yarn needle, scissors, tape measure and soft nylon tulle in a roll 6 in (15 cm) wide, in the length the cutting step comes to: from 16 yd (15 m) for the smallest size to 50 yd (46 m) for the largest, 32 yd (30 m) for size 4.

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	Chest	Around the chest	Bodice depth without the top edging	Tulle below the bodice	Strap length	Yarn, an estimate
6 months	17 in (43 cm)	15 in (38 cm)	5 in (12.5 cm)	8 in (20.5 cm)	8 in (20.5 cm)	about 90 yd (82 m)
12 months	18 in (45.5 cm)	16½ in (42 cm)	5¼ in (13.5 cm)	9 in (23 cm)	8½ in (21.5 cm)	about 105 yd (96 m)
2	21 in (53.5 cm)	19½ in (49.5 cm)	5¾ in (14.5 cm)	10½ in (26.5 cm)	9½ in (24 cm)	about 125 yd (114 m)
4 (this file)	**23 in (58.5 cm)**	**21 in (53.5 cm)**	**6¾ in (17 cm)**	**12 in (30.5 cm)**	**10½ in (26.5 cm)**	**about 145 yd (133 m)**
6	25 in (63.5 cm)	24 in (61 cm)	7¾ in (19.5 cm)	14 in (35.5 cm)	11½ in (29 cm)	about 175 yd (160 m)
8	26½ in (67.5 cm)	25½ in (65 cm)	8¼ in (21 cm)	16 in (40.5 cm)	12½ in (32 cm)	about 190 yd (174 m)

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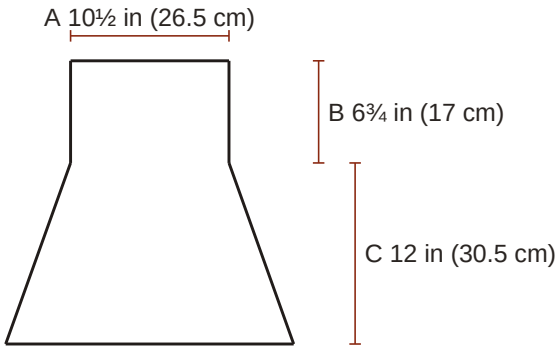
Schematic



Dress, laid flat
A the strap length
B the bodice depth without the top edging
C the tulle below the bodice

Abbreviations

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

sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
ch	chain stitch
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch
sp	space

Gauge

16 stitches and 8½ 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 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. V-stitch rounds: 1 V-stitch (dc, ch 1, dc), worked over 3 sts, is ¾ in (1.9 cm) wide; 8.5 rounds to 4 in (10 cm). Single crochet (UK: double crochet) rounds: about 18.5 rounds to 4 in (10 cm). 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

- Six sizes. Choose by the chest.
- The finished chest is from 1 in (2.5 cm) to 2 in (5 cm) narrower than the body measurement, by the size, and the fabric stretches to it. Choose by the finished measurement you like; no fit is promised beyond the measurements given.
- The rounds are not turned; the right side always faces you.
- The chain at the start of a round (ch 1 for single and half double crochet, ch 2 for double crochet) never counts as a stitch. Work the first stitch of the round into the stitch at its base.
- To work a V-stitch: (dc, ch 1, dc) in the place named. To work into a ch-1 sp, insert the hook in the space under the chain.

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- The rounds begin at the middle of the back. Work loosely: the bodice is smaller than the body and stretches to it.
- The straps are sewn down at both ends, and the bow and the flowers are sewn on firmly.
- 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.

Instructions

Chosen: 4, to fit chest 23 in (58.5 cm). Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. 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, dc is treble and hdc is half treble.

Body

Yarn A, rose.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 84; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring, taking care not to twist the chain.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1; sc in each ch around; join with sl st in first sc	**(84 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 2; beginning with the st at the base of the ch-2, **[**skip next st, (dc, ch 1, dc) in next st, skip next st**] 28 times**; join with sl st in first dc	**(56 dc, 28 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 13**	Sl st in next ch-1 sp, ch 2; (dc, ch 1, dc) in same sp, **[**(dc, ch 1, dc) in next ch-1 sp**] 27 times**; join with sl st in first dc	**(56 dc, 28 ch-1 sps)**

A box for each round, 3 to 13: tick them off as you go.

☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13

☐ **Rnd 14**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, sc in next ch-1 sp, sc in next st**] 28 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(84 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 2; **[**dc in next st, ch 1, skip next st**] 42 times**; join with sl st in first dc	**(42 dc, 42 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, sc in next ch-1 sp**] 42 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(84 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Top edging

Yarn A, rose.

☐ **Foundation**	With the right side facing, join yarn A in the foundation chain at the start of rnd 1; ch 1, sc in each ch around (84 sc); join with sl st in first sc. This is rnd 1.	
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 14 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(14 sc, 70 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Shoulder strap: make 2

Yarn A, rose.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 43.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(42 sc)**

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

☐ 2 ☐ 3

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an end of about 10 in (25 cm) for sewing.	

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Bow cord

Yarn B, blush.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn B, ch 65.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(64 sl sts)**
☐ **End**	The bow cord is about 14 in (35.5 cm) long (the slip stitches draw the chain in). Fasten off.	

Flower: make 2

Yarn A, rose.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 4; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring. Colors: rnd 1 yarn A; rnd 2 yarn B.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1; 10 sc in ring; join with sl st in first sc	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1; **[**(hdc, 3 dc, hdc) in next st, sl st in next st**] 5 times**; join with sl st in first hdc	**(10 hdc, 15 dc, 5 sl sts)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an end of about 10 in (25 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Straps: the sts of rnd 1 of the top edging are counted from the join at the middle of the back; the middle of the front lies between sts 42 and 43. The ends of the straps lie on the inside of the dress, behind the top edging, each with about ½ in (1.5 cm) of its length behind the edging. Lay one strap so that the middle of one end is at st 32, on the front, and the middle of its other end at st 11, on the back; lay the second strap so that the middle of one end is at st 53, on the front, and the middle of its other end at st 74, on the back. See that the right side of both straps is outside and that neither is twisted. With the yarn needle sew each end down firmly around all its edges: one end of each strap with the end left for sewing, the other with a new length of yarn A.

2. Bow: tie the bow cord in a bow with two loops of about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) and two ends of about 2¼ in (5.5 cm). The bow lies at the middle of the front, on the outside, with its ends hanging down: count the sts of rnd 14 of the body from its join; the knot lies over sts 42 and 43. With the yarn needle and a new length of yarn B sew the knot to these two sts, through the knot and the body six times or more, so that the bow cannot come undone, and catch the outer end of each loop down to the body.

3. Flowers: lay the middle of one flower on the outside of the top edging over st 32 and that of the other over st 53, right side up. With the yarn needle and their own ends sew each one down around its middle and through the back of each of its five petals.

4. Tulle, cutting: cut 42 strips of the tulle, each 27 in (68.5 cm) long and as wide as the roll, 6 in (15 cm), cutting straight across the roll (folded, a strip has 1½ in (4 cm) more at each end than the skirt is long, for the loop and for cutting level): one strip for each of the 42 ch-1 sps of rnd 15.

5. Tulle, looping: fold a strip in half, end to end, and gather it at the fold between two fingers. Hold the dress with the right side facing. From the outside push the fold in through a ch-1 sp of rnd 15 and bring it out below the lower edge of rnd 16. Draw the two ends through the fold and pull them gently until the loop is snug around rnd 16; do not draw the crochet in. Loop one strip in this way in every ch-1 sp around. Then spread the tulle and cut its ends level at 12 in (30.5 cm) from the crochet.

Finishing

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

In all: 6 pieces; 1,446 stitches (966 in the body, 84 in the top edging, 126 in each shoulder strap, 64 in the bow cord, 40 in each flower).

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