White shift dress with lace squares

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



Finished size

About 41 in (104 cm) round the body and about 20½ in (52 cm) at the four squares side by side

To fit a bust of 37 in (94 cm) and a hip of 39 in (99 cm)

Skill

Intermediate

Lace squares in rounds, half squares in rows, sewn together

Yarn

Fine (2)

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: any one color (white in the picture), fine (2) **about 1,225 yd (1,120 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 350 g, 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 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	Around the body, all the way down	Four squares side by side	Armhole depth with the strap	From the underarm to the lower edge	Length from the shoulder
XS	29 in (73.5 cm)	about 1,000 yd (914 m)	33¾ in (85.5 cm)	17 in (43 cm)	7¼ in (18.5 cm)	28½ in (72.5 cm)	35¾ in (91 cm)
S	33 in (84 cm)	about 1,125 yd (1,029 m)	37¼ in (94.5 cm)	18¾ in (47.5 cm)	7¾ in (19.5 cm)	29¼ in (74.5 cm)	37 in (94 cm)
M (this file)	**37 in (94 cm)**	**about 1,225 yd (1,120 m)**	**41 in (104 cm)**	**20½ in (52 cm)**	**8¼ in (21 cm)**	**28½ in (72.5 cm)**	**36¾ in (93.5 cm)**
L	41 in (104 cm)	about 1,300 yd (1,189 m)	44½ in (113 cm)	22¼ in (56.5 cm)	8¾ in (22 cm)	29 in (73.5 cm)	37¾ in (96 cm)
1X	45 in (114.5 cm)	about 1,400 yd (1,280 m)	48 in (122 cm)	24 in (61 cm)	9¼ in (23.5 cm)	28¼ in (72 cm)	37½ in (95 cm)
2X	49 in (124.5 cm)	about 1,575 yd (1,440 m)	55 in (139.5 cm)	27½ in (70 cm)	9¾ in (25 cm)	28¾ in (73 cm)	38½ in (98 cm)
3X	53 in (134.5 cm)	about 1,700 yd (1,554 m)	58¾ in (149 cm)	29¼ in (74.5 cm)	10¼ in (26 cm)	30 in (76 cm)	40¼ in (102 cm)

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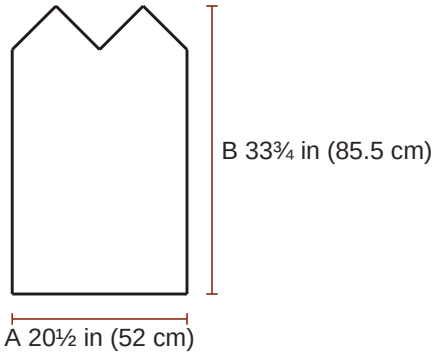
Schematic



Front
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. Squares: the stitches of the last rnd are 18 to 4 in (10 cm); a square must come to the measure named at its end when it is pinned out. Single crochet (UK: double crochet) rounds: about 21 to 4 in (10 cm).

Notes

- Women's sizes. The dress is straight: choose by the bust and look at the hip measure as well.
- The dress hangs straight and is from 3 in (7.5 cm) to 6 in (15 cm) wider around than the bust that the size is for. No fit is promised beyond the measurements given.
- The chain at the start of a round, and the turning chain of a row (ch 1 for single crochet, ch 2 for double crochet), never counts as a stitch. Work the first stitch into the stitch or space at its base.
- The squares and edgings are worked in rounds with the right side facing. The half squares are worked in rows and turned; row 1 is a right side row.
- Where a round begins with slip stitches into a ch sp, "in same sp" is that space. The sts that the slip stitches went over are worked at the end of the round.
- In a row or round over ch-1 sps, "sc in next ch-1 sp" or "dc in next ch-1 sp" goes under the chain.
- 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.
- An edging is worked along row ends by putting the hook under two strands at the side of each row end named.
- "as worn" names a side of the dress as the wearer has it: her right, her left.
- The size of the dress comes from the size of the squares, and the number of rows of squares goes with it. The lace shows what is under it: wear a cotton slip. The dress goes on over the head.

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Instructions

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

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **Rnd** round, **st** stitch, **sp** space.

RS right side, the one that shows.

3 dc in next st: all in one stitch. **sc in next 19 sts**: one in each. **ch-4 sp**: the gap under four chains; the hook goes in the gap.

[ ] 8 times: work what is inside 8 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.

(16 dc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Square: make 40

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 4; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 2; 16 dc in ring; join with sl st in first dc	(16 dc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, 3 dc in next st**] 8 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(8 sc, 24 dc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sl st in each of next 2 dc, ch 1; sc in same st, ch 4, skip next 3 sts, **[**sc in next st, ch 4, skip next 3 sts**] 7 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(8 sc, 8 ch-4 sps)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sl st in next ch-4 sp, ch 2; (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in same sp, 5 dc in next ch-4 sp, **[**(3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next ch-4 sp, 5 dc in next ch-4 sp**] 3 times**; join with sl st in first dc	(44 dc, 4 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sl st in each of next 2 dc and in next ch-2 sp, ch 2; (dc, ch 2, dc) in same sp, ch 1, dc in next st, **[**ch 1, skip next st, dc in next st**] 5 times**, ch 1, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next ch-2 sp, ch 1, dc in next st, **[**ch 1, skip next st, dc in next st**] 5 times**, ch 1**] 3 times**; join with sl st in first dc	(32 dc, 4 ch-2 sps, 28 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sl st in next ch-2 sp, ch 2; (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in same sp, dc in next st, **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 7 times**, **[**(2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp, dc in next st, **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 7 times] 3 times**; join with sl st in first dc	(76 dc, 4 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sl st in next dc and in next ch-2 sp, ch 1; (sc, ch 2, sc) in same sp, sc in next 19 sts, **[**(sc, ch 2, sc) in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 19 sts**] 3 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(84 sc, 4 ch-2 sps)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an end of about 28 in (70 cm) for sewing. The square is about 5 1/8 in (13 cm) along each side: 21 sc between two corner ch-2 sps.	

Half square: make 8

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 4; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 2; (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in ring	(6 dc, 1 ch-2 sp)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 2 sts, (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp, dc in next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(14 dc, 1 ch-2 sp)

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☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 6 sts, (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp, dc in next 6 sts, 3 dc in last st	(22 dc, 1 ch-2 sp)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; (dc, ch 1, dc) in first st, **[**ch 1, skip next st, dc in next st**] 5 times**, ch 1, (dc, ch 2, dc) in next ch-2 sp, ch 1, dc in next st, **[**ch 1, skip next st, dc in next st**] 4 times**, ch 1, skip next st, (dc, ch 1, dc) in last st	(16 dc, 14 ch-1 sps, 1 ch-2 sp)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 7 times**, (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp, dc in next st, **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 6 times**, dc in next ch-1 sp, 3 dc in last st	(38 dc, 1 ch-2 sp)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 18 sts, (sc, ch 2, sc) in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in last st	(42 sc, 1 ch-2 sp)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an end of about 28 in (70 cm) for sewing. Its two short edges have 21 sts each and meet in the corner ch-2 sp; its long edge is the ends of the rows and the ring.	

Top edging

☐ **Foundation**	Work this at step 4 of Assembly. With the right side facing and the half squares uppermost, join the yarn in the low point at the right side (as worn), where the edging begins, in the end of the last row of the half square to the left of it; ch 1, [up the long edge of the half square, sc in the end of the next row, 3 sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows, 2 sc in the ring, 3 sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows, sc in the end of the next row (34 sc); 2 sc in the top of the seam at the point of the pair; down the long edge of the next half square, sc in the end of the next row, 3 sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows, 2 sc in the ring, 3 sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows, sc in the end of the next row (34 sc)] 4 times. There are 280 sc in all; join with sl st in first sc. This is rnd 1.	
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1; sl st in each st around; join with sl st in first sl st	(280 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Work the slip stitches loosely, so that the edge lies flat and does not draw in. Fasten off.	

Hem

☐ **Foundation**	Work this at step 5 of Assembly. Hold the dress upside down with the right side facing. Join the yarn at the seam of the right side (as worn), in the corner ch-2 sp of the square to the left of it; ch 1, [sc in the corner ch-2 sp, sc in each of the 21 sts of the square, 2 sc in its next corner ch-2 sp] 8 times. There are 192 sc in all, 24 in each square; join with sl st in first sc. This is rnd 1.	
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 2; **[**dc in next st, ch 1, skip next st**] 96 times**; join with sl st in first dc	(96 dc, 96 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, sc in next ch-1 sp**] 96 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(192 sc)
☐ **Rnds 4 to 9**	Repeat Rnds 2 and 3, 3 more times	(192 sc)

4 5 6 7 8 9

☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 32 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(32 sc, 160 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

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Strap: make 2

☐ **Foundation**	Leave an end of about 8 in (20 cm) before the first ch, for sewing. Ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(5 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 38**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(5 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 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

☐ **End**	Each strap is about 7¼ in (18.5 cm) long and 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) wide. Fasten off, leaving a second end of about 8 in (20 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Body: lay the squares out with the right side up in 5 rows of 8. Sew neighboring squares together from corner to corner, right sides together, with whip stitch through the outer loops: 1 corner ch, 21 sts and 1 corner ch of one to the same of the other, with the end of one of the two or with a new length of the yarn of about 16 in (40 cm). Sew first the squares of each row, then the rows to one another, then the left edge of the body to the right edge, so that it is a tube with the right side outward. This last seam is the right side of the dress (as worn). Counted from it to the right as you see it, the squares of a row are 1 to 8: squares 1 to 4 are the front, squares 5 to 8 the back.

2. Pairs of half squares: lay two half squares side by side with the right side up, so that their right-angled corners touch at the bottom and one short edge of each stands upright against the other. Sew these two edges together: 1 corner ch and 21 sts to 1 corner ch and 21 sts. The pair is a triangle with a point at the top, where the two long edges meet. There are 4 pairs.

3. Sew the lower edge of each pair to the upper edges of two squares of the top row, the corner where the pair's half squares meet to the seam between the two squares: for each half square 1 corner ch and 21 sts to 1 corner ch and 21 sts of the square. The pairs stand on squares 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7 and 8. The low points between them are the neck in front (between squares 2 and 3), the left armhole (between 4 and 5), the neck at the back (between 6 and 7) and the right armhole (between 8 and 1).

4. Top edging: work it now, as written above.

5. Hem: work it now, as written above.

6. Straps: lay ½ in (1.3 cm) of one end of a strap behind the point of the pair on squares 1 and 2, and ½ in (1.3 cm) of its other end behind the point of the pair on squares 7 and 8. Pin both straps, the second from the pair on squares 3 and 4 to the pair on squares 5 and 6, and try the dress on: a strap that is too long is laid farther behind the points. Sew each end down along the edging of the point with its own end of yarn.

Finishing

- Weave in all the ends. Wash as the yarn label says, pin the squares out square to their measure and let the dress dry flat.

In all: 48 pieces; 15,076 stitches (292 in each square, 138 in each half square, 280 in the top edging, 1,632 in the hem, 190 in each strap).

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

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