



Crochet Bleurette Dresses using the Camisole Bodice

baw 7-17-2012

Two dresses, one long waisted with crochet skirt, the other short waisted and with a fabric skirt. Both variations made from the camisole bodice.

Materials:

- Size 10 crochet cotton, in main color and contrasting colors, if desired.
- Size 6 steel hook
- Five 1/4 inch buttons

Rib = two sc rows.

Gauge: 8 sc = 1 inch

Special Stitches:

Love Knot stitch(lk): begin with a sc, then *pull up long loop on hook to measure 3/8", yo, pull through loop, sc in the back strand of the long loop. Pull up a second long loop, yo, pull through loop, sc in the back strand of this long loop. Skip next st, sc in the next st. Repeat from * across. *These instructions from Annie's Crochet Stitch Dictionary*

Knot stitch: begin with a sc, *then pull up long loop on hook to measure 3/8", yo, pull through loop, sc in the back strand of the long loop.

If you like, you can substitute a simple ch3 lace stitch for the love knot lace. I'd work two or three rows of this to give a nice lacy look.

BLO = back loops only.

Link Stitch = ch3, dc in the third ch from the hook (one link made), ch3, dc in the third ch from the hook (two links made). Work as many links as called for in the pattern. The link has a ch3 side and a dc side.

Bodice is worked side to side instead of top to bottom. If making up in main and contrasting color stripes, work two rows of first color, then two rows of the second color. Carry the colors behind the work and don't cut thread after each color change. Makes for a lot less work in working loose ends in.



Long Waisted Bodice; worked in the BLO.

1: Ch25, sc in the second ch from hook and each ch across, ch1, turn. 24 sc
 2-50 : In BLO, sc in each sc across, ch1, turn. At the end of row 50, turn the work so you are now working across the bottom edge of the bodice. Work (two sc in the first rib, 3sc in the next rib) across. 62 sc. Ch1

Turn the work so you are now working up one side of the bodice. Sc in the first st, ch3, skip two sts, sc in the next five sts, ch3, skip two sts, sc in the next five sts, ch3, skip two sts, sc in the next five sts, ch3, skip two sts, sc in the last st. Four buttonhole loops made. ch1.

Turn the work so you are now working across the top of the bodice. Work two sc in each rib across, changing to CC1 in the last stitch. 50 sc, ch1, turn (so you are working back across the top).

Neck and armhole shaping:

1: Sc in the next nine sc, work five link sts, skip next eight sc, sc in the next 16 sc, work five link sts, skip next eight sc, sc in the last nine sc, changing to CC2 in the last st, ch1, turn.

2: Sc in the next seven sts, sc next two sts tog, (work 2sc over the ch3 side of each link st, for ten sc total), sc next two sc tog, sc in the next 12 sc, sc next two sc tog, (work 2sc over the ch3 side of each link st, for ten sc total), sc next two sc tog, sc in the last seven sc, changing to CC3 in the last st, ch1, turn.

3: Sc in the next six sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next ten sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next 10sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next ten sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the last six sc. Ch4, sl st in the first row of the neckline (this creates a final buttonhole loop) Finish off.

Skirt:

1: Join CC1 in the back loop of the first sc at the bottom edge of the skirt, ch2 (is NOT the first dc), dc in the same st (four dc in the next st, dc in the next st) across. In the last sc, work enough dc sts to end

with an even number of dc sts for this row, ch1, turn.

2: (Sc in the first st, dc in the next st) across. Join to the beginning sc, ch1, turn.

3: (Sc in the next dc, dc in the next sc) across. Change to CC2 in the last st, join, ch1, turn.

4: (Sc in the next dc, dc in the next sc) across.

5-6: Repeat row 4, changing to CC3 in the last st of row 6.

7-9: Repeat row 4, changing to Main color in the last st, ch1, turn.

Skirt trim:

10: sc in the same st as sl st, work love knot st, skip the next st. Working in BLO, work (love knot, skip next st) across. Turn work by working three single knot stitches.

2: Work a single knot stitch in the center of each love knot across. Finish off, leaving a tail to sew the last row of lace together, if you like.

Sleeves:

1: Join Main Color with sc in the fifth sc at underarm; work love knot st, skip the next st. Love knot in the next sc. Work two love knot sts around each unworked link across the top of the armhole; work (love knot) in the second and fourth sc of underarm. Turn work by working three single knot stitches.

2: Work a single knot stitch in the center of each love knot across. Join in the first knot st and finish off.

Flower Trim:

1: With Main color, ch2, 12 sc in the second ch from hook

2: Sc in the back loop of each sc around.

3: (Sc, ch2, skip next st) around for six ch2 loops. Change to CC1 in the last st.

4: In each ch2 space work (sl st, sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc, sl st).

5: (Ch3, sc around the post of the next sc worked from round 3) across for six ch3 loops. Change to CC2 in the last st.

6: In each ch3 space work (sl st, sc, hdc, three dc, hdc, sc, sl st).

7: (Ch4, sc around the post of the next sc worked from round 5) across for six ch4 loops. Change to CC3 in the last st.

8: In each ch4 space work (sl st, sc, hdc, five dc, hdc, sc, sl st). Finish off and sew flower to dress bodice.

Sew five 1/4 inch buttons to the back of the dress and you are done



Short Waisted Bodice; worked both loops.

Materials:

- Size 10 crochet cotton, in main color and contrasting colors, if desired.
- Size 6 steel hook
- 5" x 16" cotton fabric for skirt (use a longer strip for a fuller skirt, if desired)
- Four 1/4 inch buttons

Link Stitch = ch3, dc in the third ch from the hook (one link made), ch3, dc in the third ch from the hook (two links made). Work as many links as called for in the pattern. The link has a ch3 side and a dc side.

Rib = two sc rows.

Gauge: 8 sc = 1 inch

1: Ch13, sc in the second ch from hook and each ch across, ch1, turn. 12 sc

2-50 : In BLO, sc in each sc across, ch1, turn. At the end of row 50, turn the work so you are now working across the bottom edge of the camisole. Work (two sc in the first rib, 3sc in the next rib) across. 62 sc. Ch1, turn to work back across the bottom edge of the bodice.

2: [(Sc, 2dc) in the first st, skip the next two sts] across to create a shell border along the bottom edge of the bodice, ch1,

Turn the work so you are now working up one side of the bodice. Sc in the first st, ch3, skip two sts, sc in the next three sts, ch3, skip two sts, sc in the next three sts, ch3, skip two sts, sc in the last st. Three buttonhole loops made. ch1.

Turn the work so you are now working across the top of the bodice. Work two sc in each rib across. 50

sc, ch1, turn (so you are working back across the top). Do not fasten off.

Neck and armhole shaping:

1: Sc in the next nine sc, work five link sts, skip next eight sc, sc in the next 16 sc, work five link sts, skip next eight sc, sc in the last nine sc, ch1, turn.

2: Sc in the next seven sts, sc next two sts tog, (work 2sc over the ch3 side of each link st, for 10 sc total), sc next two sc tog, sc in the next 12 sc, sc next two sc tog, (work 2sc over the ch3 side of each link st, for ten sc total), sc next two sc tog, sc in the last seven sc, ch1, turn.

3: Sc in the next six sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next ten sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next 10sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next ten sc, sc next two sc tog, sc in the last six sc. Ch4, sl st in the first row of the neckline (this creates a final buttonhole loop) Finish off.

Sleeves: Short, long, or no sleeves can be added to this bodice. I am going to make little cap sleeves in a contrasting color.

1: Join with sc in the fifth st of the underarm, sc in the next two sts, hdc in the next st. Working around the unworked side the the links over the arm, work 5dc in each link, hdc in the next sc at the underarm, sc in the last three sts. Join to the first sc.

2: Sc in each sc, hdc in each hdc, and dc in each dc around. Join. Fasten off.

If you like, you can use a contrasting color to work (sl st, ch1) trim around the neckline and around the last row of each sleeve.

At this point, your bodice could be a cute summer top. Paired with the pantaloons as shorts, it makes a cute crop top. But we are going to add a fabric skirt, which is a simple and easy way to make a dress for your Bleurette.

Fabric skirt preparation:

Cut a piece of fabric 5" by 14" to 18", depending on how full you want the skirt to be. With a sewing machine, narrow zig-zag stitch all around the fabric to keep the edges from raveling. With a hot iron, dampen the lower edge of the fabric and press up 3/4" for the hem (be careful not to burn your fingers!). Press under 1/4" on the short sides of the fabric.

Sew two rows of gathering stitches along the top edge of the fabric, 1/8" and 1/4" inch from the edge, using a long sewing machine stitch.

After you have finished crocheting the dress bodice, gather up the top edge of the skirt fabric and fit it to the lower edge of the bodice. Overlap the bottom edge of the bodice over the top edge of the skirt, and hand sew the skirt to the bodice using a backstitch, make sure the line of gathering stitches doesn't show below the bottom of the bodice. I use the crochet cotton I made the bodice with to do the hand sewing; it is almost invisible.

After sewing the skirt to the bodice, go back and tack the top edge of the skirt to the bodice to help it to lie flat.

Hand sew up the back seam of the skirt, leaving about one inch open at the top of the skirt.

Hand sew the hem of the skirt. I like to use a decorative featherstitch for this, but a blind stitch will work as well.

Sew four 1/4 inch buttons to the back of the bodice, and you're done!