



Link Stitch Bodice for Bleuette

baw 8/6/2012

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)
- three 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.

Gauge: 8 sc = 1 inch

This bodice is worked from the neck down, and starts with 18 link stitches to form the neckline. You

can work as many rows as you like to make the bodice short, medium, or long. These instructions will give you a mid-waist bodice.

Bodice:

1: Work 18 link stitches, ch1, turn.

2: Work four sc in one side of each link stitch, ch1, turn. 72 sc

3: Sc in the first eight sc, ch nine, skip next 20 sc, sc in the next 16 sc, ch nine, skip next 20 sc, sc in the last eight sc, ch1, turn.

4: Sc in each sc and ch across, ch1, turn. 50 sc

5-9: Sc in each sc across, ch1, turn. 50 sc

10: (Sc in the next nine sc, two sc in the next sc) across, ch1, turn. 55 sc

11-13: Sc in each sc across, ch1, turn. 55 sc

14: (Sc in the next 10 sc, two sc in the next sc) across, ch1, turn. 60 sc

15: Work [(sc, 2dc) in the first st, skip next two sts] across for shell trim. ch4. At the end of the row, turn the work so you are working up one side of the back of the bodice.

Buttonhole loops:

Skip the first two rows up the side of the bodice, sc in the end of the next four rows, ch3, skip two rows, sc in the end of the next four rows, ch3, sc in the end of the last row up the side. Three buttonhole loops made. ch1, turn the work so you are now working across the neckline of the bodice.

Neckline: work in the unworked side of each link across the neckline

Work four sc in the first link, three sc in the second link. Work two sc in each of the next five links.

Work three sc in the eighth link, work four sc in the next two links, work three sc in the 11th link. Work two sc in each of the next five links. Work three sc in the 17th link and four sc in the last link. Ch1.

Turn the work so you are now working down the remaining backside of the bodice. Sc evenly down the side of the bodice to the final row. Sl st to the first sc in the last row and finish off, leaving a long tail to sew the fabric skirt to the bodice.

Armhole trim.

Join thread to the fifth st under the arm opening. Sc in the next three sc. Working in the BLO across the top of the armhole opening work [(sc, 2dc) in the first st, skip next two sts] across the the first st under the arm opening. Skip this st, then sc in the remaining sts under the arm. Join to the top of the first sc and finish off.

You can add a picot trim to the neckline in a contrasting color, or leave it as is.

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