



Bleurette Mock Smocking Bodice

baw 8/16/2012

Materials:

- Size 10 crochet cotton, main and contrast color
- Size 6 steel hook
- If making up with a fabric skirt: 5" x 16" cotton fabric for skirt (use a longer strip for a fuller skirt, if desired)
- Six strand embroidery floss for embroidering the smocking
- 1/4 inch buttons

Gauge: 8sc = one inch

FLO = Front Loop Only

BLO = Back Loop Only

Picot = ch3, sc in the third ch from the hook

FPTrc (front post triple crochet): Yarn over twice on the hook; insert the hook from front to back around the post of the designated stitch. YO and pull loop through, (YO and pull through two loops on the hook)twice.

FPTrcI (front post triple cluster): work FPTrc around the post of the second sc of row 1. Work the stitch until you have two loops remaining on the hook, then work another FPTrc around the post of the fourth sc from your first FPTrc, work until three loops remain on the hook, yo, then pull the yarn through all three loops.

Link stitch = Ch3, dc in third ch from the hook.

Smocking panel: Chain a multiple of four chains...for a Bleurette bodice, I chained 52.

Note: This is a little fiddly to work the first time, especially if you are not used to post stitches. I suggest you might want to practice the post stitches with a larger yarn, to get the hang of it, and for your first dress you might want to use a lighter colored thread; its easier to see the stitches.

1: Ch52, sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, ch3, turn. (ch3 counts as first dc of the next row). 51 sc

2: Dc in each sc across, ch1, turn. 51 dc

3: Sc in first three dc, work FPTrc around the post of the second sc of row 1. Work the stitch until you have two loops remaining on the hook, then work another FPTrc around the post of the fourth sc from your first FPTrc, work until three loops remain on the hook, yo, then pull the yarn through all three loops. This is a Split FPTrCl. It looks like an inverted 'V.' *Skip the next dc on row 2, work sc in the next three dc, work FPTrc around the post of the sc you just worked the last leg of your FPTrCl. Work the stitch until you have two loops remaining on the hook, then work another FPTrc around the post of the fourth sc from your last FPTrc, work until three loops remain on the hook, yo, then pull the yarn through all three loops.* Repeat from * across the row, sc in the last three dc, ch3, turn.

4: Dc in each st across, ch1, turn. 51 dc

5: Sc in first dc, FPTrc around the first FPTrCl two rows below, *skip next dc, sc in the next three dc, work FPTrc around the same cluster as your last FPTrc. Work the stitch until you have two loops remaining on the hook, then work another FPTrc around the next FPTrCl two rows below, work until three loops remain on the hook, yo, then pull the yarn through all three loops.* Repeat from * across the row, working a final FPTrc as your final post stitch, sc in the last dc, ch3 turn.

6: Dc in each st across, ch1, turn. 51 dc

7: Sc in first three dc, work FPTrc around the first FPTrc two rows below. Work the stitch until you have two loops remaining on the hook, then work another FPTrc around the next FPTrCl two rows below, work until three loops remain on the hook, yo, then pull the yarn through all three loops. *Skip the next dc, work sc in the next three dc, work FPTrc around the same cluster as your last FPTrc. Work the stitch until you have two loops remaining on the hook, then work another FPTrc around the next FPTrCl two rows below, work until three loops remain on the hook, yo, then pull the yarn through all three loops.* Repeat from * across the row, sc in the last three dc, ch3, turn.

Repeat rows 4,5,6,7 until your smocking panel is as wide as you want. End with one of the FPTrCl rows. For Bleuette I ended the smocking panel after row 11.

For the bodice, continue as follows:

12: Sc in next nine sc, work five links, skip next eight sts, sc in the next 17 sts, work five links, skip next eight stitches, sc in last nine stitches.

13: Sc in the next seven sts, sc next two sts tog. Work two sc in each link, for a total of 10 sc across the armhole opening. Sc next two sc tog, sc in the next 13, sc next two sc tog. Work two sc in each link for a total of 10 sc across the armhole opening. Sc next two sc tog, sc in the last seven sc.

14: Sc in the next six, sc next two sc tog. Sc in the next 10, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next 11, sc

next two sc tog. Sc in the next 10, sc next two sc tog, sc in the last six.

15: Sc in the next five, sc next two sc tog. Sc in the next 10, sc next two sc tog, sc in the next 9, sc next two sc tog. Sc in the next 10, sc next two sc tog, sc in the last five.

Or you can end the bodice at round 13, then work a contrasting trim of picot stitches for a boatneck look.

Turn the work so you are working down one side of the bodice, ch4, skip two rows, sc in the next row. Work three more evenly spaced buttonhole loops, the last one should be at the bottom of the bodice.

Turn the work so you are working across the bottom edge of the bodice. At this point you can crochet a decorative edging and then attach a fabric skirt, or crochet a skirt for your dress.

Bodice bottom edge trim if attaching fabric skirt:

1: (Sc in the next two sts, two sc in the next) across, ch1, turn.

2: In the FLO, [(sc, 2dc) in the next st, skip the next two sts] across. Fasten off leaving a long tail to sew the fabric skirt to the bodice.

After you have finished crocheting the bodice, use all six strands of the embroidery floss to embroider the smocking pattern. Make two straight stitches at each intersection of the triple crochet post stitches



On the left, crochet before 'smocking'; on the right, embroidered smocking stitches

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!

Crochet Skirt:

1: (Four dc in first st, dc in the next st) around, ch1, turn.

At this point, you can use your favorite stitch pattern for the skirt. One that I like and use a lot is the moss stitch, which alternates sc and dc; then for subsequent rows, you work a sc in each dc and a dc in each sc. It gives a nice textured stitch and is easy to do.

Work however many rows gives you the length you like, then finish the skirt with a same or contrasting trim by working [(sc, 2dc) in first st, skip the next st] around. Or a picot edge, or a lacy edge, or whatever you like :-)

Sleeves:

1: Join with a sc in the fifth stitch of the underarm, sc in the next three sts, work five dc in each link across the top of the armhole, sc in the next four stitches of the underarm and join to the first sc. Ch1, do not turn. 33 sts

2: Sc in the next four sc, dc in each dc across the top of the armhole, sc in the last four sc, join. Ch1, do not turn. 33sts

3. Repeat round 2. At the end of the round, join, ch2 (which does not count as the first dc)

4-6: Dc in each stitch around, join, ch2, do not turn.

7: (Dc in the next st, dc next two sts tog) around, join, ch1. 22 dc

8: Sc in each st around, join, ch1, turn.

9: Sc in each st around, join, fasten off.

Sleeve lace: Join contrasting color in the back loop of the first sc. Ch2

10: (Dc, picot) in the BLO of each st around. Finish off.

If desired, join a second contrasting color in the first unused loop of round 9 and work (sl st, ch1) trim around the sleeve.