

A Fair Summer Isle



Taking up knitting while living in south Texas might not have been the smartest thing I've ever done...but I was determined to knit some nice warm weather items for my children. When I couldn't find a dress I loved for my baby girl, I decided to design one. This is definitely a beginner's level project—I know, because I'm a beginner who's been knitting for less than a year! Before this project I

had never a) knit in the round, b) knit a fair isle pattern, or c) touched a crochet hook. There are great books or web tutorials that can teach you how simple these techniques are.

Size: 6 months

Finished Measurements:

Chest: 20 inches

Length: 18 inches

Materials:

ONLine Linie 12 Clip worsted weight yarn (100% cotton)

Two (2) skeins sky blue (126) – main color (MC)

One (1) skein yellow (159) – color 1 (C1)

>1 skein each of peachy pink (199), yellow green (133), dusty purple (205)

Two (2) Size US7 (4.5mm) circular needles (alternate: 1 circular needle, 1 straight needle (size US7) and stitch holder)

Two (2) stitch markers

Size G/6 (4mm) crochet hook (optional)

Tapestry needle

Gauge: 20 stitches and 26 rows = 4 inches / 10mm in stockinette stitch

KNIT IN THE ROUND

Skirt

With C1, cast on 200 stitches; join in a round

Rounds 1: Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round; K100; place a stitch marker at the halfway point; K100

Rounds 2-6: Continue in garter stitch (purl one round, knit one round), starting with a purl round

Shift to MC

Round 7: After the stitch marker marking the start of the round, decrease with a SSK. Knit to the second stitch marker. Slip the stitch marker to the right needle, then decrease with a K2tog.

Rounds 8-56: Repeat round 7, decreasing after each stitch marker. (100 sts at the end)

Bodice

Rounds 1-26: Knit in the fair isle pattern (see chart below), front and back. Note: rounds 1 and 26 will use the MC only. It is recommended that the stranding is not carried from front to back in the middle section of the fair isle pattern, due to the large number of stitches between the colors.

*Leave the first 50 stitches (up to the stitch marker) on the first circular needle (N1) and shift the second 50 stitches to the second circular needle (N2) (alternately, place the 2nd 50 stitches on a stitch holder). At this point the front and the back will be worked separately to start the armholes. The stitch markers may be removed at this point.

FRONT

Armholes

Row 1: Slip 1 st from N2 to N1, P, slip st back to N2; P across; slip 1 st from other side of N2 to N1, P, slip st back to N2 (this helps keep the stitches from separating when the new yarn is added for the back).

Row 2: SSK, K to last 2 st, K2tog

Row 3: K1, P to last st, K1

Row 4-9: Repeat rows 2-3 (3x)

Row 10: K across

Row 11: K1, P to last st, K1

Row 12-13: Repeat rows 2-3

Row 14-15: Repeat rows 10-11

Neck Shaping

NOTE: all binding off will be done knitwise, even on purl rows

Row 1: K12, add new yarn, BO16, K12

(After this point, the directions will be written in each row treating the 2 sides of the neck separately; directions for each half will be separated by a slash (/)).

Row 2: K1, P last st, K1 / K1, P to last st, K1

Row 3: K across / BO3, K across

Row 4: K1, P to last st, K1 / BO3, P to last st, K1



Row 5: K across / BO2, K across
Row 6: K1, P to last st, K1 / BO2, P to last st, K1
Row 7: K across / BO1, K across
Row 8: K1, P to last st, K1 / BO1, P to last st, K1
Rows 9-10: Repeat rows 7-8

Shoulder Straps

Row 1: K5 / K5
Row 2: K1, P3, K1 / K1, P3, K1
Rows 3-6: Repeat rows 1-2 (2x)
Row 7: Repeat row 1

*Hold stitches on N1 for 3 needle bind off (alternately, shift the front shoulder strap stitches to the stitch holder and the live stitches for the back to the circular needle).

BACK

NOTE: The back has an opening to allow easy fitting over a baby's head; a button will be added later.

Armholes

Add new yarn.
Row 1: P across
Row 2: SSK, K to last 2 st, K2tog
Row 3: K1, P to last st, K1
Rows 4-7: Repeat rows 2-3 (2x)

Neck Opening

Row 8: SSK, K20, add new yarn, K20, K2tog
(After this point, the directions will be written in each row treating the 2 sides of the neck separately; directions for each half will be separated by a slash (/)).
Row 9: K1, P to last st, K1 / K1, P to last st, K1
Row 10: K across / K across
Row 11: K1, P to last st, K1 / K1, P to last st, K1
Row 12: SSK, K across / K to last 2 sts, K2tog



Row 13: Repeat row 11
Row 14: K across / K across
Row 15: K1, P to last st, K1 / K1, P to last st, K1
Rows 16-19: Repeat rows 14-15 (2x)

Neck Shaping

Row 1: K across / BO10, K across
Row 2: K1, P to last st, K1 / BO10, P to last st, K1
Row 3: K across / BO3, K across
Row 4: K1, P to last st, K1 / BO3, P to last st, K1
Row 5: K across / BO2, K across
Row 6: K1, P to last st, K1 / BO2, P to last st, K1

Shoulder Straps

Row 1: K5 / K5
Row 2: K1, P3, K1 / K1, P3, K1
Rows 3-6: Repeat rows 1-2 (2x)
Row 7: Repeat row 1

Finishing

If using the stitch marker, place the front stitches onto one of the needles and the back stitches on the other of the same circular needle (ensure when the needles are held together with the points facing towards the right, that the stitches are lined up so the wrong sides of the knitting face each other, and the right and left shoulder straps are not crossed). Use the straight needle to bind off the shoulder strap stitches with a 3-needle bind off. Weave in ends. Sew a button in the top corner of the right-hand opening in the back neck, and add a loop of yarn on the right hand opening.

Optional: With C1, crochet 2 rounds of single crochet around the neck and the armholes edges. A buttonhole can also be crocheted in place of the loop of yarn.

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A Fair Summer Isle Chart

