

VINTAGE KNITS

Dolly's Chemise

From "Weldon's Practical Knitter, Twenty-Fourth Series " (published 1893)

Project #12 from "[My Year of Weldon's](#)"



"Dolly's Chemise" from Weldon's Practical Knitter Twenty-Fourth Series (1893) and republished in Weldon's Practical Needlework Volume 8.

The Twenty-fourth series features "clothing for dolls, including dresses, undergarments, socks, hoods, infants' cloths, &c." and I'm going to make a few things for a 14-16" doll.

The original pattern calls for "1 oz. of white Andalusian wool and a pair of No. 12 steel knitting needles. A smaller garment can be fashioned by substituting Shetland Wool, and a larger one by using Andalusian Wool with No. 11 needles."

Yarn: I used Knitpicks “Bare” merino wool sock weight yarn, which I hand-dyed using Lac (a natural dye). It’s pale pink, nice for a dolly’s garments. I used less than 50 yards.

Needles: US #2/2.75 mm

Gauge: 6.5 sts/ 10 rows= 1” in stockinette stitch.

The chemise was designed to fit a 14” to 16” doll. The chemise measures 12 ½” long.

Abbreviations:

K: knit

P: purl

St(s): stitch(es)

DC: double crochet

K2tog: knit 2 stitches together

M1: Make one stitch by picking up bar between 2 stitches and knitting through the back loop

YO: yarn over

Instructions:

Front and Back (knit 2 alike):

Cast on 46 stitches.

Row 1: K2, *p2, k2; repeat from * to end.

Row 2: P2, *k2, p2; repeat from * to end.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 of ribbing until 18 rows are worked. Work body of garment in stockinette stitch:

Row 1: K

Row 2: P

Row 3: K2, k2tog, k to 4 sts from end, k2tog, k2.

Row 4: P

Row 5: K

Row 6: P

Work Rows 3-6 twice more; 40 sts on needle. Work 50 rows (6.5") in stockinette stitch.

Shape Sleeves:

Row 65: K2, m1, k9, (p2, k2) 4x, p2, k9, m1, k2.

Row 66: P12, (k2, p2) 4x, k2, p12.

Row 67: K2, m1, k10, (p2, k2) 4x, p2, k10, m1, k2.

Row 68: P13, (k2, p2) 4x, k2, p13.

Row 69: K2, m1, k11, (p2, k2) 4x, p2, k11, m1, k2.

Row 70: P14, (k2, p2) 4x, k2, p14.

Row 71: K2, m1, k12, (p2, k2) 4x, p2, k12, m1, k2.

Row 72: P15, (k2, p2) 4x, k2, p15.

Row 73: K2, m1, k13, (p2, k2) 4x, p2, k13, m1, k2.

Row 74: P16, (k2, p2) 4x, k2, p16.

Row 75: K16, (p2, k2) 4x, p2, k16.

Row 76: P16, (k2, p2) 4x, k2, P16.

Repeat last 2 rows three times.

Shoulders:

Row 83: K2 for the shoulder, turn work, p12. Work 8 more short rows in stockinette stitch, then bind off the 12 sts.

Attach yarn where you divided for the shoulder and bind off 26 sts across front of chemise; k11.

Work 9 more rows in stockinette stitch, then bind off the 12 sts.

Finishing:

Sew the shoulders, and sew up the side seams as far as the armhole.

Crochet Edging for Neck and Armholes:

NOTE: Probably due to my lack of skill as a crocheter, I wasn't happy with my edging as worked following the original instructions. To achieve an edging that looks like the engraving, I opted to work a simple picot border. Both sets of instructions are given below.

ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS:

*1 dc in a stitch of the knitting, 5 chain, 1 dc in the 4th chain from the needle, skip 2 sts of the knitting and repeat from *; join evenly at completion of round.

SIMPLE PICOT EDGING:

*Chain 3, insert hook in 3rd chain from the hook, yo, draw yarn through loop on hook, skip 2 sts of the knitting and repeat from *; join evenly at completion of round.

Finishing: Weave in ends, block gently.

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