



Fiona Baby Sundress

A knitting pattern by Staci Perry, www.verypink.com



In worsted-weight cotton, this summer sundress is a quick, cute knit. The heavily-pleated skirt gives the dress a princess ballgown feel, and the machine washable yarn makes it easy to care for.

Sizes: 0-3 months (3-6 months, 6-12 months, 12-24 months, Child Size 2)

To Fit Actual Chest Measurements of: 14-16" (16-17", 17-18", 18-20", 20-22")

Notes on Sizing:

- In my experience, babies don't always wear the size they should for their age. For a better-fitting dress, use the chest measurements above, and not the age chart.
- Be sure to check your gauge! Change your needle size, if necessary, to make sure you're getting 5 stitches per inch. It's the only way to get the correct size, as listed.
- This dress is designed with "negative ease" in the bodice. That means that the bodice is made to fit snugly, which helps to hold up the dress without relying solely on the shoulder straps.
- Most babies are born chubby and happy, then spend the next couple of years stretching longer without expanding much around the middle. You can get a lot of life out of this dress because of that! The bodice of the dress is stretchy enough to fit as they get older. Once the skirt is too short, she can likely still wear the dress over a pair of shorts or stretch pants.

Materials:

Yarn: Worsted-weight cotton in two colors for main color (MC) and contrasting color (CC).

- 0-3 months: 170 yards in MC, 60 yards in CC
- 3-6 months: 190 yards in MC, 65 yards in CC
- 6-12 months: 220 yards in MC, 70 yards in CC
- 12-24 months: 235 yards in MC, 75 yards in CC
- Child Size 2: 260 yards in MC, 80 yards in CC

(For the pink dress pictured in this pattern, I used Bernat Cottontots, widely available at craft and fabric stores. I used 1 skein of Sweet Cream for the CC, and 1 skein of Cheeky for the MC. Note - I JUST had enough of the pink yarn to finish the dress in the smallest size, knit without any modifications. I ended up with about 1 yard leftover!)

Needles:

- Size 7 US 16" circular needle (or longer cord if you prefer to use the magic loop method)
- Size 7 US double-pointed needles (DPNs)
- Cable needle

Additional Materials:

- Stitch marker
- Tape measure
- Tapestry needle for weaving in ends, attaching straps, and duplicate stitch motif

Gauge: 5 stitches per inch

Abbreviations:

BO - bind-off
CC - contrasting color
CN - cable needle
CO - cast-on
DPNs - double-pointed needles
K - knit
K2tog - knit two together
MC - main color
P - purl
PM - place marker

Video Part 1, sizing and gauge:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9cXnOK0wFs>

Video Part 2, getting started:

<http://youtu.be/o9cXnOK0wFs?t=3m51s>

Directions:

SKIRT

Using CC, CO 136 (152, 168, 184, 200) stitches on circular needles. PM, and join to work in-the-round. Work 5 rounds of seed stitch as follows:

Rounds 1, 3, and 5: *k1, p1*, repeat around all stitches

Rounds 2 and 4: *p1, k1*, repeat around all stitches

Video Part 3, changing colors:

<http://youtu.be/o9cXnOK0wFs?t=9m5s>

Break yarn, and switch to MC. Working in Stockinette Stitch (knitting every round), knit in MC until skirt is 8.25 (8.5, 9, 9.5, 10) inches long from CO edge.

Video Part 4, cabled pleats:

<http://youtu.be/o9cXnOK0wFs?t=13m5s>

PLEAT/DECREASE ROUND

Work decrease pleat 17 (19, 21, 23, 25) times around as follows:

- *Slip 4 stitches on to CN and hold in front of work
- Ktog the first stitch from the CN and the first stitch from the left needle
- Continue knitting together the first stitch from the CN with the first stitch from the left needle until all of the stitches on the CN have been worked*
- Repeat between *s to end of round. 68 (76, 84, 92, 100) stitches.

WAISTBAND

Switch to CC. K 1 round and then work 5 rounds of seed stitch, as you did for the bottom border. (Note - for a clean color break, it is important to knit 1 round before starting seed stitch! You will end up with a "muddy" color break full of purl bumps in the wrong color if you skip that first K round.)

BODICE

Break yarn, and switch to MC. Knit around in MC until work measures 2.5 (3, 3, 3.5, 4)" from last row of waistband.

Decrease round:

- 0-3 months: *k8, k2tog*, repeat between * 6 times, k6, k2tog - 61 stitches
- 3-6 months: *k8, k2tog*, repeat between * 7 times, k4, k2tog - 68
- 6-12 months: *k8, k2tog*, repeat between * 8 times, k4 - 76
- 12-24 months: *k8, k2tog*, repeat between * 9 times, k2 - 83
- Child Size 2: *k8, k2tog*, repeat between *10 times - 90 stitches

Break yarn, and switch to CC. K 1 round and then work FOUR rounds of seed stitch. BO loosely, in pattern.

STRAPS

Make 4 pieces of 3-stitch icord in CC as follows:

- Using DPNs, cast on 3 stitches
- WITHOUT TURNING WORK, slide stitches across needle and knit across
- Repeat this row until cord reaches 11"
- BO - k2tog, slide stitch from right needle to left needle, k2tog, break yarn and thread through last stitch

Video Part 5, duplicate stitch design:

<http://youtu.be/o9cXnOK0wFs?t=17m18s>

DUPLICATE STITCH DESIGN

I prefer to stitch a duplicate stitch design before attaching the straps. Use the heart chart below, or use any little cross stitch motif. There are a ton of free cross stitch motifs on the internet!

Video Part 6, making the straps and finishing work:

<http://youtu.be/o9cXnOK0wFs?t=21m12s>

FINISHING

- Attach straps 1.5" to 2.5" in from outside edge (armpit area). Be sure to attach about 1" of strap to dress for stability
- Weave in all ends
- If desired, steam-block the pleats all the way down the skirt to really show them off

