

## Shades of Summer Dress - 1 -

### *~ Shades of Summer Dress ~*



This cute and flirty summer dress is knit from top down and is completely seamless. The bodice is knit in seed stitch, while the rest of the dress is knit in stockinette stitch mostly.

This dress here is shown in size 3-4T. Contrast color yarn used is Silkience from Ella Rae, and main color is Cotton Joy (#706) formerly distributed by Needful yarns and at present can be obtained from Diamond Yarns distributors. The dress measures 17 inches from the underarm.

#### *Sizes available:*

**3-6 months (15-16"),**  
**6-12 months (17-18"),**  
**1-2T (19-20"),**  
**2-3T (21-22"),**  
**3-4T (22-23"),**  
**4-5T (23-24"),**  
**5-6T (24-25")**

## Shades of Summer Dress - 2 -

### Materials:

**Contrast yarn:** 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3 balls of dk cotton yarn (about 110 yards per 50g ball);

**Main yarn:** 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5 balls of dk cotton yarn (about 140 yards per 50g ball);

3.5 mm circular needles (60 and 80 cm) or size to obtain gauge;

4.0 mm circular needles (40 or 50 cm) or size to obtain gauge;

6 stitch markers;

a few decorative buttons (optional)

**Gauge: 23 sts per 4 inches** (skirt) **and 21 sts per 4 inches** (bodice)

**Please take your time to check your gauge!**

### Note on gauge and yarn:

*Bodice gauge is most important. The pattern was designed with cotton yarn in mind. I have taken into the account the stretchiness of the cotton, thus about 2 inches of negative ease are in the design of the bodice. If however, you want to knit your project in wool, I would recommend going up a size.*

### Abbreviations:

**k**=knit;

**p**=purl;

**kfb**= knit into the front and back of the stitch, thus increasing the stitch number by one;

**pfkb** = purl into the front of the stitch, then knit into the back of the stitch, 2 sts made out of 1;

**m1DR** = pick up the loop on the row below the first stitch on the left needle, knit it;

**m1DL** = pick up the loop 2 rows below the first stitch on the right needle and knit it;

**Slipm** = slip marker from left needle to the right.



## Shades of Summer Dress - 3 -

### Method:

### Bodice:



The bodice is worked in seed stitch. It is knitted in 4 sections with an odd number of stitches in each section.

#### Seed stitch:

\*k1, p1\*, repeat \*\*  
to last stitch, k1

Using 4 mm needles, cast on 60 (68, 76, 84, 92, 100, 108) sts. Place marker and join for knitting in the round, be careful not to twist your stitches.

**Rnd 1:** purl and place markers every 15(17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27) sts.

**Rnd 2:** knit and start raglan increases.

**Raglan increase rnd:** from the beginning of the round, (kfb, knit to 1 stitch before next marker, kfb, slipm) x4.

*Essentially, you increase into a stitch before and after each stitch marker. Number of stitches is increased by 8.*

**Rnd 3:** purl

**Rnd 4:** knit and do raglan increases as above.

**Rnd 5:** purl

**Next you will start seed stitch** and continue with raglan increases (from the beginning of the rnd):

**Rnd 6:** [kfb, \*(k1, p1)\*, repeat \*\* to 2 stitches before the marker, k1, pfb, slipm] repeat 4 times.

**Rnd 7:** [k1, \*(k1, p1)\*, repeat \* to 2 stitch before the marker, k2, slipm] repeat 4 times.

**Rnd 8:** [Kfb, \*(P1, K1)\* repeat \* to 2 stitches before the marker, p1, kfb] repeat 4 times.

**Rnd 9:** [k1, \*(p1,k1) \* repeat to marker] repeat 4 times.

Repeat Rnds 6 to 9 till you have 29 (31, 33, 35, 37, 41, 45) sts in each section, ending with either rnd 7 or 9.

## Shades of Summer Dress - 4 -

Markers divide the bodice into four sections. Two of the sections are going to form armholes (sections 1 and 3), and the other two are going to be front and back of the bodice (sections 2 and 4).

**Rnd A:** Work increase round as in existing pattern.

**Rnd B:** (from the beginning of the rnd):

**Section 1:** purl

Section 2: work in established seed stitch

**Section 3:** purl

Section 4: work in established seed stitch

**Repeat rnds A and B** one more time for sizes 3-6 months and 6-12 months; and two more times for all the other sizes. At this point each section should have 33 (35, 39, 41, 43, 47, 51) sts.

**Next round:**

**Section 1:** bind off purlwise

Section 2: work in established seed stitch

**Section 3:** bind off purlwise

Section 4: work in established seed stitch

Cast on 3 (4, 6, 9, 11, 11, 11) sts, seed stitch across 33 (35, 39, 41, 43, 47, 51) sts, cast on 4 (5, 7, 10, 12, 12, 12) sts, then seed stitch across next set of 33 (35, 39, 41, 43, 47, 51) sts. Place marker and join for knitting in the round once more.

*It is not a typo to have different stitches for each underarm. This is done so that you can keep the*

*seed stitch pattern going, which does require an odd number of stitches.*

You should have 73 (79, 91, 101, 109, 117, 125) sts total at this point.

Knit the bodice in seed stitch for about 1.5 inches (size 3-6 months and 6-12 months), 2 inches for (size 1-2T, 2-3T, and 3-4T), and 2.5 inches for all other sizes.

The following rounds are worked as follows:

**Rnds 1, 3:** purl

**Rnd 2:** knit

**Rnd 4:** knit and evenly increase by 5 (5, 5, 1, 5, 3, 1) sts. Total number of stitches 78 (84, 96, 102, 114, 120, 126).

**Rnds 5, 6, 8:** knit

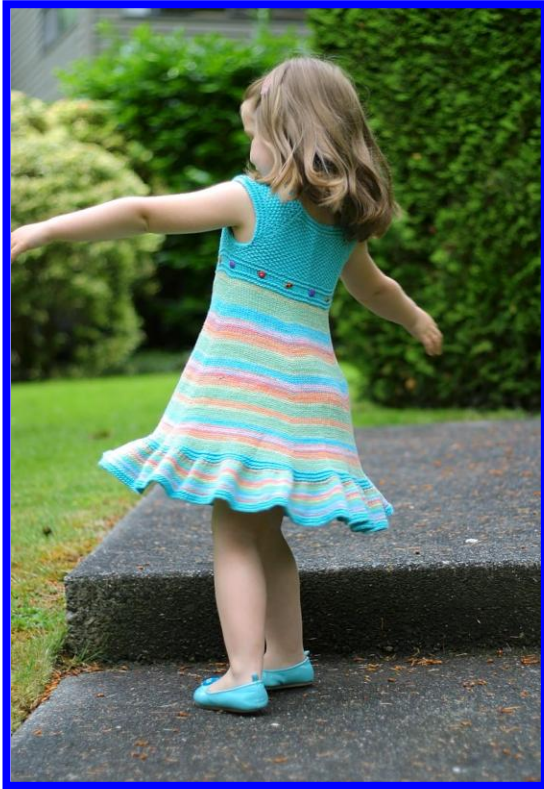
**Rnds 7, 9:** purl

**Note:** Rnds 4-6 is a place where you can sew on decorative buttons (as I have done), sew on beads, or introduce eyelets for a ribbon.



## Shades of Summer Dress - 5 -

### Skirt:



Change to main color and 3.5 mm needles. Knit the following round and place markers every 13 (14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21) sts. This will divide the dress into 6 segments.

Knit next 2 rounds.

The following round is an increase round.

**Increase rnd:** [Work to one stitch before marker, m1DR, k1, slipm, k1, m1DL] repeat 6 times, knit to the end of round. (12 sts increased).

**Note:** My favorite method of increasing is to knit into the stitch below (**Directional lifted increases**; good tutorial video can be viewed [here](#)). I like this method because it creates less visible increases. You can use

any other method you like.

**Rnds 1-7:** knit.

**Rnd 8:** Increase rnd  
(8th round is always an increase round)

Continue knitting and repeating rnds 1-8 till the dress measures the desired length minus 3 inches (2 inches in case of sizes 3-6 months and 6-12 months).

And just to give you an idea, the size 3-4T at this point measured 13 inches from the underarm.

My suggested lengths are 8.5 (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) inches from the underarm.

Once the dress is that length or your desired length minus 2-3 inches, change back to contrast color.

Work next few rnds as follows:

**Rnds 1, 3, 5:** purl

**Rnd 2, 4:** knit

Change back to main color and knit one round.

**Next round:** \*kfb\*, repeat \*\* to the end of the rnd. You have doubled the number of stitches on your needles.

Knit for ~2.5 inches (1.5 inches for 2 smallest sizes).

Change to contrast color and knit one round.

Work next 4 rounds in garter stitch (i.e. purl a round, knit a round, purl a round, knit a round).

Bind off purl wise.

## Shades of Summer Dress - 6 -

### Finishing:

Since the cotton yarn tends to stretch easily, I highly recommend going over the armholes and neckline with a crochet hook. Work one round of single crochet. It will keep the bodice tight and much neater looking.

Weave in any loose ends.

You can leave the dress as is at this point or sew on any decorative buttons or appliques.

### Acknowledgments:

♥♥♥ Heartfelt thanks and my deepest gratitude go to my wonderful group of testers, whose hard work and most valuable input made this pattern possible.



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