



“Tess” Shirt/Dress Crochet Pattern

by, Melissa Bastow

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Difficulty level: Easy-Moderate

You'll need:

- 1 Hook (or whatever works best with the size of yarn you choose).
- 1-2 skeins of yarn in the color(s) you choose.
- Ribbon or buttons.

Crochet Slang:

CH = chain

SL ST = slip stitch

SC = single crochet

DC = double crochet

HDC = half double crochet

FDC = Fancy Double Crochet (I have no idea if this is really a stitch or what it's really called, but this is what I call it.)

How to make an FDC:



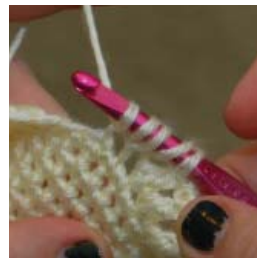
Yarn over hook.



Insert the hook into the SAME stitch you just finished in. Yarn over and pull up a loop.



Yarn over hook again.



Insert the hook into the NEXT stitch. Yarn over and pull up a loop.



Yarn over and go through all but last loop.



Yarn over and go through last two loops.

Before we get started:

You can make this pattern to be any size. How many actual stitches you do will be dependent on the thickness of yarn, how tightly you crochet and what size you're making. (I have used thick or thin yarn with tight-ish, even stitches.)

I suggest that you get a few measurements before starting, or borrow an article of clothing the approximate size you want to make. Then there won't be huge amounts of guessing....unless, of course, you're good at guessing.

IMPORTANT: When you are deciding which size to make you need to first decide if you want this to be worn as a dress first, and then as a shirt when the child grows, or if you want it to just be a shirt now and nothing else. If you want to have it "grow" with your child you will need to make it much wider than a current article of clothing. (I've included instructions on how to sinch it up once it's made so that the dress won't hang off your child in an ugly-ish way.) Just so you know, I have made the same size for my 7 year old to wear as a shirt and my 2 year old to wear as a dress so that they can share.

Directions:

We start with the bodice:

- CH as many as you'll want to go around the chest

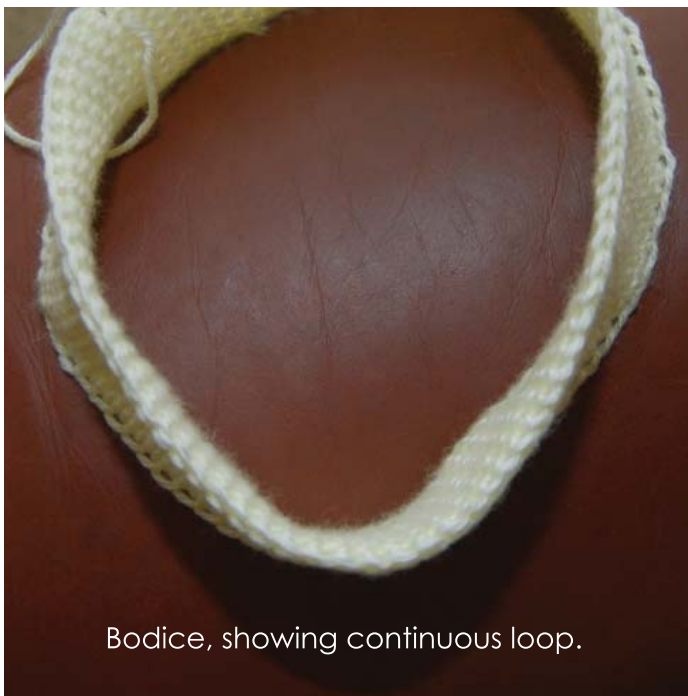
Make your chain a bit longer than seems necessary - the width will shrink a little as you crochet.

- Make sure your CH isn't twisted and start SC-ing in the beginning of the CH, so that it makes a continuous loop.

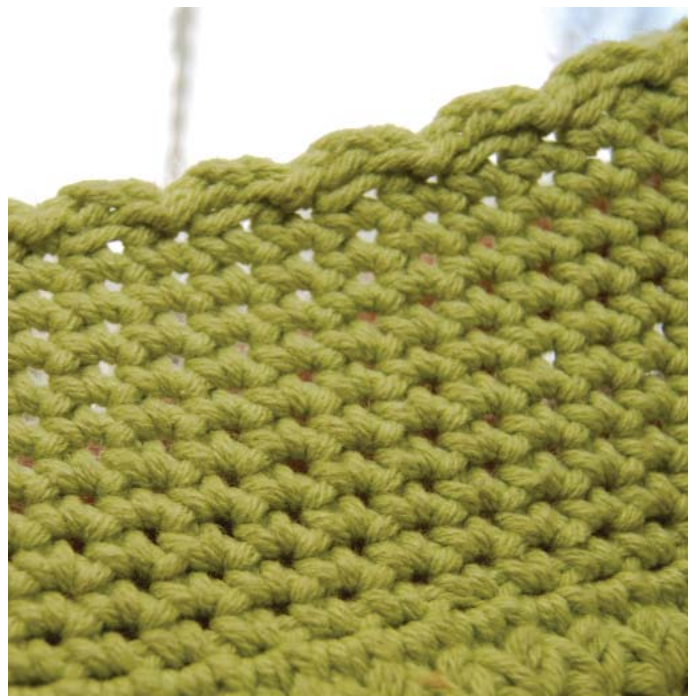
- SC around and around your loop. Make sure your stitches are even and tight-ish.

Do as many rows of SC as looks good - remember that the shirt is high waisted, but your opinion is the one that counts and eyeballing is an art. (I usually do about 1 to 2" tall.)

- Make sure you are ending in the back and SL ST
- (CH 4, skip a stitch, SL ST) around and tie off



Bodice, showing continuous loop.



Now we do the bottom:

- Attach the yarn to the bottom of the bodice - - the bottom is the side that was your beginning chain. Make sure you attach in the back.

- CH 2

- (FDC, CH 1) in each stitch around.

When you get to the end of the row, SL ST to the CH 2 you started with.

- CH 2

- (FDC, CH 1) around (The FDC's will go in the tops of the FDC's of the previous row - no stitches in the CH spaces.)

- SL ST into CH 2 from beginning.

Repeat double dotted directions for lots and lots of rows.

If you're making a two-toned shirt, you will want to switch colors at the point of your choosing. I usually switch at about 2/3 to 3/4 the length I want for my finished shirt. But you can change when, and if, you want.

Keep in mind that the thicker your yarn, the less stitches and rows you'll need. (The same thing goes for size, but I don't really need to explain how a smaller shirt has less stitches, right?)

For the very last row:

- CH 1

- (SC in top of next stitch, 3 DC in top of next stitch) across.

- SL ST in CH 1

- Tie off, and trim.



Straps:

- Leaving a long yarn tail, make a CH long enough that if you pull the bodice up to fit comfortably under the armpits the CH will reach from the front of the bodice, over the shoulder, and touch the back of the bodice. If you are making a “growing” dress you will want these to be longer than necessary. (Write down the number of CH's you made, so you can repeat it for the second strap.)

- Start in second CH from hook, SC across.

- Tie off and use the yarn tails to "sew" the straps to the top of the bodice. Just make sure the back stays in the back and that the straps are evenly spaced.



To tighten up the dress in the back so that it will hang better, you can make one of these lovelies:

- CH 5 (if you're using thin yarn, you might want to CH a few more)
- Turn, HDC across (4 stitches total), CH 1
- Repeat the previous row about 15 times or until it reaches a proper length
- SC on last row, and tie off.
- Sew a button onto one end with a needle and thread



This will wrap around the straps in the back, and when buttoned sinch up the dress a bit.

Weave ribbon around bodice, tie bows, sew on cute buttons or add flowers to decorate. You can decorate as little or as much as you wish.

Congrats, you're finished!





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