Crochet Baby Dress With a Round Yoke: Free Pattern, 3 to 12 Months

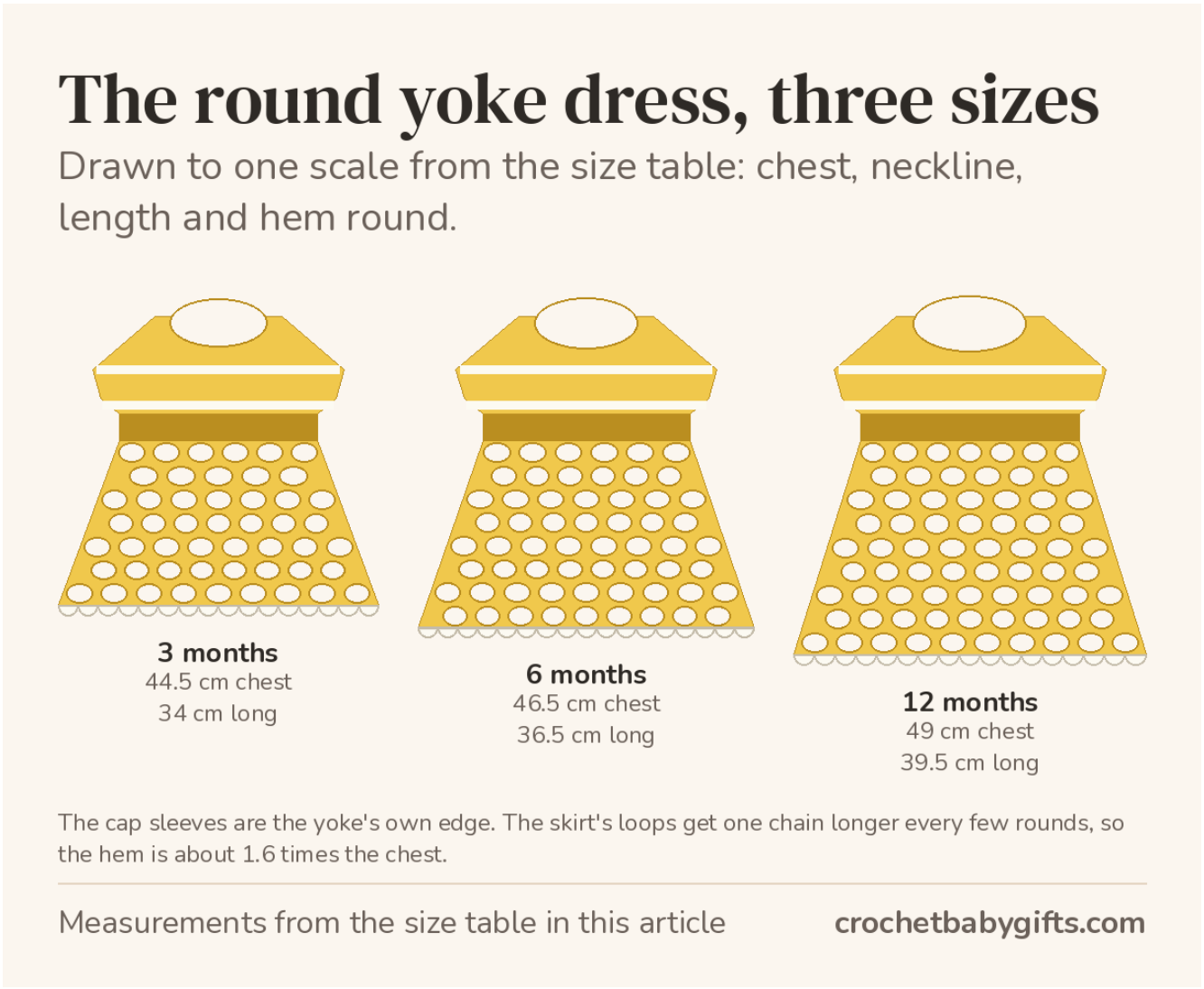
Crochet a round yoke from the neck down in double crochet, leave the sleeve stitches as cap sleeves, add a narrow waist band, then work a full lattice skirt and a white scalloped hem. There are no seams. In DK yarn on a 4 mm hook the 6 month dress is about 46.5 cm round the chest and 36.5 cm long.

This is our own design. A script checks every row and round against the one before it, the chest against published baby measurements and the neckline against the size of a baby's head. The sizes are worked out from a planning gauge, so the first thing to check is your own yoke against the size table.

Pick your size

Size	Baby's chest	Dress chest	Neckline, opens to	Length	Hem	Yarn, about
3 months	16 in (40.5 cm)	about 44.5 cm	34.5 cm, opens to 44.5 cm	about 34 cm	about 72 cm	150 m yellow, 30 m white
6 months	17 in (43 cm)	about 46.5 cm	36.5 cm, opens to 46.5 cm	about 36.5 cm	about 75.5 cm	165 m yellow, 35 m white
12 months	18 in (45.5 cm)	about 49 cm	40 cm, opens to 50 cm	about 39.5 cm	about 79 cm	185 m yellow, 35 m white

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The baby's chest is the body measurement from our baby clothing measurements (https://crochetbabygifts.com/baby-clothing-measurements/) page. That page adds 1 to 2 inches of ease for a top, so the dress is 3 to 4 cm bigger round the chest than the baby. The length runs from the back of the neck to the tip of the scallops.

The neckline has to go over the head. Crochet in double crochet hardly stretches, so this dress has a short opening at the back, closed with a crocheted loop over one large button. With the button undone the neck opens to about 44.5 (46.5, 50) cm, a little more than a large head at that age: 43 (46, 49) cm. That is the World Health Organization's head size that only about 2 babies in 100 are bigger than, for boys, whose heads run larger. No stretch is counted.

What you need

Every tool our patterns use is on the Crochet essentials (https://crochetbabygifts.com/essentials/) page.

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- DK (#3) baby yarn in yellow (A) and white (B), soft and machine washable, the amounts in the size table.
- A 4 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letter near it.
- One large flat button, about 3.5 cm (1 in) across, with no shank or decoration. Strong thread to sew it on.
- Two stitch markers, a blunt tapestry needle and scissors.

Gauge and abbreviations

Gauge: about 18 double crochet and 10 rounds to 10 cm (4 in) on a 4 mm hook. We have not measured this on the dress yet. It is a planning figure, and every size on this page is worked out from it.

The quick check is the end of Row 5: the top edge of the yoke should measure about 34.5 (36.5, 40) cm. If it is much bigger or smaller, change your hook by half a size.

US crochet terms throughout. The UK name is in brackets.

- ch: chain. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). sk: skip. sp: space.
- sc: single crochet (UK: double crochet). hdc: half double crochet (UK: half treble). dc: double crochet (UK: treble).
- inc: increase, 2 dc in the same stitch.
- V-st: (dc, ch 1, dc) in the same stitch. The two dc stand apart like a V.
- 3 (6, 12): the first number is for 3 months, the ones in brackets for 6 and 12 months.

The video

Medieval Minds' video makes a similar dress from the neck down. It is in Turkish, but the hands are easy to follow. Its stitch counts are not the ones on this page, so use it to see how a top-down yoke grows and where the sleeves are left, and use the rounds below for the numbers.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgFYnv4L1rI

Video: Medieval Minds, "Easy Crochet Baby Dress Pattern" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgFYnv4L1rI) (in Turkish), 2023, 39 minutes. A similar dress worked from the neck down; the counts on this page are our own.

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The pattern

The yoke starts flat for the back opening, then joins into rounds. Rows: ch 2, which does not count as a stitch, then turn. Rounds: join with a sl st in the first stitch, ch 2, which does not count as a stitch, and do not turn. Put a marker in the first stitch of the yoke rounds; the round starts at the centre back.

1. Yoke

- Foundation: Ch 64 (68, 74). Do not join.
- Row 1: dc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across. [62 (66, 72) sts]
- Row 2: [dc 4, inc] 12 (13, 14) times, dc 2 (1, 2). [74 (79, 86) sts]
- Row 3: dc in each st. [74 (79, 86) sts]
- Row 4: [dc 5, inc] 12 (13, 14) times, dc 2 (1, 2). [86 (92, 100) sts]
- Row 5: dc in each st. [86 (92, 100) sts]

Join the last stitch of Row 5 to its first with a sl st, without twisting. From here the yoke is worked in rounds, and the five rows above it are the back opening.

- Rnd 6: with white, [V-st in next st, sk 1] 43 (46, 50) times. [43 (46, 50) V-sts]
- Rnd 7: with yellow, [2 dc in next ch-1 sp] 43 (46, 50) times. [86 (92, 100) sts]
- Rnd 8: [dc 6, inc] 12 (13, 14) times, dc 2 (1, 2). [98 (105, 114) sts]
- Rnd 9: [dc 7, inc] 12 (13, 14) times, dc 2 (1, 2). [110 (118, 128) sts]
- Rnd 10: with white, [V-st in next st, sk 1] 55 (59, 64) times. [55 (59, 64) V-sts]
- Rnd 11: with yellow, [2 dc in next ch-1 sp] 55 (59, 64) times. [110 (118, 128) sts]

Carry the colour not in use up the inside at the centre back, or cut it and weave the end in.

2. Waist band

- Rnd 12: hdc 17 (18, 19), ch 6 for the underarm, skip 21 (23, 26) sts for the sleeve, hdc 34 (36, 38), ch 6 for the underarm, skip 21 (23, 26) sts for the sleeve, hdc 17 (18, 19). [80 (84, 88) sts]
- Rnds 13–15: hdc in each st. [80 (84, 88) sts]

In Rnd 13, work one hdc into each underarm chain. The skipped stitches stay as they are: they are the cap sleeves.

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3. Skirt

- Rnd 16: [ch 5, sk 3, sc in next st] 20 (21, 22) times. [20 (21, 22) loops]
- Rnds 17–18 (17–19, 17–19): [ch 5, sc in next sp] 20 (21, 22) times. [20 (21, 22) loops]
- Rnds 19–21 (20–23, 20–23): [ch 6, sc in next sp] 20 (21, 22) times. [20 (21, 22) loops]
- Rnds 22–25 (24–27, 24–28): [ch 7, sc in next sp] 20 (21, 22) times. [20 (21, 22) loops]
- Rnds 26–29 (28–31, 29–33): [ch 8, sc in next sp] 20 (21, 22) times. [20 (21, 22) loops]

Start each lattice round with a sl st into the middle of the first loop. The chain gets one longer every three or four rounds, which is what makes the skirt flare.

4. Scallop hem

- Rnd 30 (32, 34): with white, [(sc, hdc, 3 dc, hdc, sc) in next sp] 20 (21, 22) times. [20 (21, 22) scallops]

Join and fasten off.

5. Button and loop

On the left edge of the back opening, at the top, join yellow and ch 16, or as many chains as fit snugly round your button. Sl st into the same place, then work sc over the whole loop until it is covered. Fasten off.

Sew the button to the right edge, opposite the loop, with strong doubled thread through the fabric several times. Then pull the button hard, as if to pull it off. If it moves or the fabric gives, sew it again.

Weave in every end back and forth through several stitches, then trim it. Turn the dress inside out and check that there are no loose loops or strands inside.

Made for a baby

- No cords or ties. This dress closes with a short covered loop and nothing hangs from the neck.
- One button, sewn on hard. A button is a choking risk if it comes off. US rules for children under 3 test small parts in a cylinder 3.17 cm (1¼ in) across, so this pattern uses a flat button wider than that, sewn firmly and pulled before every wear. No beads or other small parts.
- Not for sleep. Take the dress off for sleep.
- Check the lattice. Loose threads inside baby clothes can wrap round a finger or toe, so check inside the skirt for long strands before each wear.

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The sources for each point are on our handmade baby gift safety checklist (https://crochetbabygifts.com/handmade-baby-gift-safety-checklist/#safety-sources).

Yarn and time

A 6 month dress takes about 165 m of yellow and 35 m of white. The amounts come from counting every stitch and allowing a published length of yarn per stitch for DK, so they are upper estimates.

It is about 1,860 stitches.

Frequently asked questions

Why is there an opening at the back? A neckline that fits a baby's neck is far smaller than the baby's head, and double crochet does not stretch much. The opening lets the neck open wide enough for the head, then closes neatly.

Which size should I make? Measure the baby's chest under the arms, or a top that fits, and pick the size with that chest. For a gift, the 6 or 12 month size is worn for longer.

Can I make it longer? Yes. Work more rounds of ch 8 loops before the hem. Each one adds about 1.5 cm.

Is there a dress with a square yoke? Yes. Our crochet baby dress with a square yoke (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-baby-dress/) has eyelets in the yoke, two cap sleeves and a skirt of shells, in the same three sizes.

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