Crochet Bobble Stitch Baby Dress: Free Pattern With a Flared Skirt, 3 to 12 Months

Crochet a yoke of bobbles from the neck down in rows, lap the two back edges and join, then work a full skirt in ten panels between raised front post ridges, and finish with a shell border. There are no seams and no buttons. In DK yarn on a 4 mm hook the 6 month dress is about 46.5 cm round the chest and 33 cm long.

This is our own design. A script re-works every row and round against the one before it, and checks the chest against published baby measurements, the neck opening against the size of a baby's head, and the skirt against its flare rule. The sizes are worked out from a planning gauge, so they are estimates: measure Row 1 before you go on.

Pick your size

Size	Baby's chest	Dress chest	Neck edge, opens to	Length	Hem	Yarn, about
3 months	16 in (40.5 cm)	about 44.5 cm	28 cm, opens to 47 cm	about 32 cm	about 94.5 cm	380 m
6 months	17 in (43 cm)	about 46.5 cm	31 cm, opens to 50 cm	about 33 cm	about 94.5 cm	410 m
12 months	18 in (45.5 cm)	about 50 cm	34.5 cm, opens to 53.5 cm	about 35 cm	about 100 cm	475 m

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The baby's chest is the body measurement from our baby clothing measurements (https://crochetbabygifts.com/baby-clothing-measurements/) page, which adds 1 to 2 inches of ease for a top, so the dress is 3.5 to 4.5 cm bigger round the chest than the baby, measured just under the arms. The length runs from the back of the neck to the tip of the shells. It reaches the Craft Yarn Council's tunic length for a child, the back waist length plus 15 cm. The skirt flares to about 2 times the chest at the hem.

The neck has to go over the baby's head, and a crochet neck edge hardly stretches. So the yoke is worked flat and the back stays open down to the underarms. At the underarm the two back edges are lapped over each other and joined, and when the dress is on the yoke holds them closed. Spread out, the neck opening goes round about 47 (50, 53.5) cm, and the heads it has to clear are 42.9 (45.8, 48.6) cm: the World Health Organization's head size at 3, 6 and 12 months that only about 2 babies in 100 are bigger than, taking the boys' figures because they are the larger. That leaves at least 2 cm to spare without counting on any stretch.

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 one colour, soft and machine washable, the amount in the size table. A cotton blend shows the bobbles and the ridges best.
- A 4 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letter near it.
- Two stitch markers, a blunt tapestry needle and scissors.

Nothing is sewn on: there are no buttons, snaps, beads or ties on this dress.

Gauge and abbreviations

Gauge: about 18 double crochet and 10 rounds to 10 cm (4 in) on a 4 mm hook, with single crochet rows about half a round tall. 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 Row 1: the neck edge should measure about 28 (31, 34.5) cm. If it is much longer or shorter, 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. RS / WS: right side / wrong side.
- sc: single crochet (UK: double crochet). dc: double crochet (UK: treble).
- bob: bobble (UK: 5-treble bobble). [Yarn over, insert the hook in the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through 2 loops] 5 times in the same stitch, then yarn over and pull through all 6 loops. It counts as one stitch.
- FPdc: front post double crochet (UK: front post treble). Yarn over, put the hook in from the front, round the post of the stitch below from right to left and out to the front again, and work a dc. It makes the raised ridge.
- inc: increase, 2 stitches in the same stitch: 2 sc in a single crochet row, 2 dc in a double crochet row or round.
- shell: (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in the same stitch.
- 3 (6, 12): the first number is for 3 months, the ones in brackets for 6 and 12 months. A single number is for every size.

The video

Nesiya_crochet's video makes a red bobble stitch frock on the same plan: a bobble yoke, a skirt divided by front post stitches that flare out, and a shell border. Her dress is one size and her counts and construction are her own, so use the video to see the stitches and follow the counts on this page.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-Q788iFL7c

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- How to make a bobble from 11:22. At 12:34 she shows why the bobbles are worked from the back: they pop out to the front.
- Leaving the armhole from 27:04.
- The front post double crochet that divides the skirt into panels, from 41:16.
- The shell border at the hem from 54:01.
- The sleeve edging from 1:00:53.

Video: Nesiya_crochet, "Crochet bobble stitch red frock complete tutorial for 1 year old baby" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-Q788iFL7c), 2026, 70 minutes. Her dress is one size, 12 to 18 months; the counts on this page are our own.

The pattern

The yoke is worked flat in rows from the neck down, which leaves the back open. Rows: ch 1 for a sc or bobble row, ch 2 for a dc row, which does not count as a stitch, then turn. The bobbles are worked on the wrong-side rows, so they push out to the right side. After the yoke the two back edges are lapped and the dress is joined into rounds. Rounds: join with a sl st in the first stitch, ch 2 (ch 1 before a sc), which does not count as a stitch, and do not turn.

1. Yoke

Chain loosely, or make the chain on a hook a size bigger: the neck edge has to go over the baby's head.

- Foundation: ch 51 (57, 63) loosely.
- Row 1 (RS): sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [50 (56, 62) sts]
- Row 2 (WS): [bob in next st, sc in next st] 25 (28, 31) times. [50 (56, 62) sts]
- Row 3 (RS): [sc 2, inc] 16 (18, 20) times, sc 2. [66 (74, 82) sts]
- Row 4 (WS): [bob in next st, sc in next st] 33 (37, 41) times. [66 (74, 82) sts]
- Row 5 (RS): [sc 3, inc] 16 (18, 20) times, sc 2. [82 (92, 102) sts]
- Row 6 (WS): [bob in next st, sc in next st] 41 (46, 51) times. [82 (92, 102) sts]
- Row 7 (RS): [sc 4, inc] 16 (18, 20) times, sc 2. [98 (110, 122) sts]
- Row 8 (WS): [bob in next st, sc in next st] 49 (55, 61) times. [98 (110, 122) sts]
- Row 9 (RS): [sc 5, inc] 16 (18, 20) times, sc 2. [114 (128, 142) sts]
- Rows 10–12: dc in each st. [114 (128, 142) sts]

In a bobble row, work the bobble into the sc below and the sc into the next stitch. In the sc rows after it, work one sc into the top of each bobble and each sc. The four bobble rows make

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148 (166, 184) bobbles, and the three dc rows below them make the yoke deep enough to reach the underarm.

2. Joining the yoke

Do not fasten off after Row 12. Ch 2 and turn, so the right side faces you. Lay the edge you are at over the other back edge, so that 4 stitches of each sit on top of each other.

- Rnd 13: dc 4 through both back edges, dc 13 (14, 16), ch 10 (10, 9) for the underarm, skip 25 (30, 33) sts for the sleeve, dc 30 (32, 36), ch 10 (10, 9) for the underarm, skip 25 (30, 33) sts for the sleeve, dc 13 (14, 16). [80 (84, 90) sts]
- Rnd 14: [dc 7 (13, 8), inc] 10 (6, 10) times. [90 (90, 100) sts]

Work the first 4 dc through both layers. The skipped stitches stay as they are: with their bobbles, they are the cap sleeves. In Rnd 14, work one dc into each underarm chain.

3. Skirt

- Rnd 15: [FPdc around next st, dc 8 (8, 9)] 10 times. [90 (90, 100) sts]
- Rnd 16: [FPdc around next FPdc, inc, dc to next FPdc] 10 times. [100 (100, 110) sts]
- Rnd 17: [FPdc around next FPdc, dc to next FPdc] 10 times. [100 (100, 110) sts]
- Rnds 18–31: repeat Rnds 16 and 17 7 times. [170 (170, 180) sts]
- Rnds 32–33 (32–34, 32–36): [FPdc around next FPdc, dc to next FPdc] 10 times. [170 (170, 180) sts]

Put a marker in the first FPdc of Rnd 15. Each FPdc goes round the post of the FPdc below it, so the ten ridges run straight down the skirt. Every second round each panel gains one stitch, the inc just after its ridge, and that is what makes the ridges fan out.

4. Shell border

- Rnd 34 (35, 37): [sc in next st, sk 1, (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next st, sk 2] 34 (34, 36) times. [34 (34, 36) shells]

Join with a sl st in the first sc and fasten off. The ch-2 at the top of each shell is the small opening along the hem.

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5. Edging

- Armhole edging: with the right side facing, join at the middle of one underarm chain, ch 1, sc in each ch and in each sleeve st round the armhole; join with a sl st in the first sc and fasten off. [35 (40, 42) sts]
- Neck edging: with the right side facing, join at the lower end of one back edge, ch 1, 1 sc in the end of each sc row and 2 sc in the end of each bobble or dc row up to the neck, sc in each st along the neck, then down the other back edge in the same way; fasten off. [88 (94, 100) sts]

Work the armhole edging on both armholes. Weave in every end back and forth through several stitches, then trim it. Turn the dress inside out and check that no strand or loop lies loose inside the yoke.

Made for a baby

- No buttons, beads or snaps. That is why the back of this dress laps over instead of buttoning.
- No cords or ties at the neck. Nothing on this dress hangs or ties.
- Weave every end in well. A one-colour dress has only a few ends, but a bobble yoke has deep pockets behind the bobbles where a stray strand is easy to miss. Loose threads inside baby clothes can wrap tightly round a finger or toe, a hair tourniquet, so turn the dress inside out and check the yoke and the skirt for long strands before each wear.
- Not for sleep. Take the dress off for naps and at night. A bobble yoke is thick and warm.

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

The 6 month dress takes about 410 m of DK. The amounts come from counting every stitch and allowing a published length of yarn per stitch for DK, with each bobble counted as five double crochet and each FPdc as a little more than one, plus tails. They are upper estimates, so check the metres on your ball band before you buy.

It is about 4,260 stitches, and the bobbles take the longest: there are 166 of them in the 6 month yoke.

Frequently asked questions

Why is the back open? A neck edge that fits a baby's neck is far smaller than the baby's head, and crochet hardly stretches. The open back lets the neck spread wide enough for the head, and the lap at the underarm keeps it closed while the dress is worn.

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Can I make it longer? Yes. Work more plain ridge rounds before the shell border. Each one adds about 1 cm.

Why are the bobbles on the wrong-side rows? A bobble pushes away from the side you are looking at. Worked with the wrong side facing, it pops out on the right side, the same way the video shows.

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