

# Better World Dress



## Materials Needed and Measurements:

- **Yarn:**
  - Fingering/Light Fingering weight yarn (3 or 4 ply).
  - Suggested yarns: Kokonki Cotton/Acrylic 4ply or Hobbii Dahlia Mixo.
  - Yarn type: Natural fibers like cotton or merino. (Avoid pure acrylic as it doesn't block properly).
  - Yardage: 1750–2625 yards (1600–2400 meters), depending on tension and size.
- **Crochet Hook:** 3.5 mm (E).
- **Other Materials:**
  - Stitch markers (optional, to help with counting).
  - Scissors.
  - Tapestry needle (for weaving in ends).
  - Measuring tape.
- **Gauge:** 12 stitches and 8 rows = 10 cm (4 inches).

- **Size:** The pattern is designed to be **one size fits all**.
- **Notes on Tension:** Use minimum tension for a flowing, drapey effect.

## Abbreviations:

- **ch:** chain
- **sc:** single crochet
- **dc:** double crochet
- **hdc:** half double crochet
- **sl st:** slip stitch
- **st(s):** stitch(es)
- **sp:** space

## Stitching Instructions for Making the Better World Dress Pattern:

### Bodice

- **Foundation Chain:**
  - Ch 140 (or a multiple of 10 to fit your bust circumference snugly but not tightly). Ensure the chain is not twisted, then join with a sl st into the first ch to form a circle.
  - **Tip:** If unsure of size, use a measuring tape to compare the foundation chain's circumference with your bust measurement.
- **Round 1 (Base Row):**
  - Ch 2 (counts as the first hdc), work 1 hdc into each ch around.
  - Attach with a sl st to the top of the beginning ch-2.
  - You should now have 140 hdc (or your foundation chain count).
- **Rounds 2-8 (Mesh Pattern for Bodice):**
  - Ch 2, *hdc in the next 9 sts, ch 1, skip 1 st*; repeat from *to* around.
  - Bond with a sl st to the top of the beginning ch-2.
  - **Key Notes:**
    - The skipped stitches (ch-1 spaces) will create a slight lace-like mesh pattern, ensuring the bodice is breathable.
    - Ensure the stitch count stays consistent with each round (e.g., 140 sts in total: 126 hdc + 14 ch-1 spaces for the initial count).
- **Fitting and Adjustments:**
  - After completing Round 8, place the bodice around your upper body to ensure it fits well and reaches your waistline.
  - If needed, add or subtract rounds for a longer or shorter bodice.

### Skirt

- **Attaching for Skirt Expansion:**
  - Ch 2 (counts as first dc), then work 2 dc into each st and ch-sp from the last round of the bodice.

- Merge with a sl st to the top of the beginning ch-2.
- **Round 1 (Increase for Flare):**
  - Ch 3 (counts as first dc), *dc in the next st, 2 dc in the following st*; repeat from *to* around.
  - Add with a sl st to the top of the beginning ch-3.
  - This round doubles the stitch count, creating a flared skirt effect.
- **Round 2:**
  - Ch 3, *dc in each dc from the previous round, skipping no stitches*; continue until the end.
  - Keep with a sl st to the top of the beginning ch-3.
- **Rounds 3-15 (Mesh Pattern for Skirt):**
  - Ch 3, *dc in the next 4 sts, ch 1, skip 1 st*; repeat from *to* around.
  - Join with a sl st to the top of the beginning ch-3.
  - **Optional for Extra Flare:** Every 4th round, add one extra dc into every 10th st to slightly increase the width.

## Hemline

- **Final Round:**
  - Ch 1, sc in the next st, ch 3, skip 2 sts; repeat from *to* around.
  - Align with a sl st into the first sc.
- **Optional Edging (Picot Hemline):**
  - Ch 1, sc in the first st, *ch 3, sl st into the first ch (forms a small point/picot), sc into the next st*; repeat around.
  - Integrate with a sl st into the first sc.

## Straps

- **Attach Yarn for Straps:** With the dress laid flat, attach yarn to the front of the bodice about 2 inches from the center on both sides.
- **Creating Straps:**
  - Ch 60 (or desired length based on your shoulder-to-back measurement).
  - Sl st into the back of the bodice directly opposite the starting point, ensuring the strap lies flat.
  - Repeat for the second strap.
- **Reinforcement:** Once both straps are attached, sc across the strap's length to reinforce and add durability if desired.

## Finishing

- **Weaving Ends:** Using a tapestry needle, weave in all loose ends securely.
- **Blocking the Dress:** Wet block the dress by soaking it in lukewarm water with a gentle detergent, then lay it flat on a towel to dry. Shape the dress to your desired dimensions, ensuring the mesh pattern is open and the hemline is even.

## Tips for Success

- **Gauge:** Continuously check your gauge, especially during the bodice and skirt rounds. The recommended gauge is 12 sts and 8 rows = 10 cm (4 inches).
- **Tension:** Keep your tension light and consistent for a flowing, drapey effect.
- **Yarn Choice:** For a summer dress, cotton yarn provides excellent breathability and structure.

Enjoy wearing or gifting your *Better World Dress*!