Swan Valley Toddler Dress

Swans have always served as classic example of elegance and grace, and this toddler dress is classic grace personified. Reminiscent of the sweet baby dresses of the 50's and 60's, the Swan Valley Toddler Dress is knitted with Rowan Yarns' 100% cotton yarn, Cotton Glace. The yarn is silky and light, giving the skirt of this dress a beautiful drape. The colorway, chalk, reminds me of a gentle river on a summer afternoon adorned with a swan or two. I hope you enjoy knitting this darling little dress for your own sweet girl.



YARN
Rowan Cotton Glace, 827-chalk
1T - 4 skeins
2T - 4 skeins
3T - 5 skeins

NEEDLES AND NOTIONS
U.S. 4 circular (24" or longer)
U.S. 5
Tapestry needle
Yard holders
4 buttons - 3/8" to 1/2"

GAUGE
Gauge - 4" = 24 stitches x 34 rows (check gauge) straight stitch on US 5 needle

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS AND SIZES
Sizes 1T, (2T, 3T)
Around chest - 19", (21", 23")
Length from shoulder - 15" (16", 18")

ABBREVIATIONS
K - knit
P - purl
P2tog - purl 2 together
K2tog - knit 2 together
M1p - pick up running strand between st on left needle and picot, using left needle from back to front, purl the new stitch through the front loop
YO - yarn over

STITCH GUIDE
Rosette Stitch (stitch worked over multiples of 4):
Row 1 - p2tog but do drop stitches, k2tog same 2 stitches, slip both stitches from left needle together to end of row
Row 2 - knit
Row 3 - p1, p2tog but do drop stitches, k2 tog same 2 stitches, slip both stitches from left needle together to last stitch, p1
Row 4 - knit

INSTRUCTIONS
BACK
Picot Cast on
With size US 4 needles, cast on 3 stitches using a knitted cast on method.
*K2, bind off one stitch, slipping as if to purl, slip remaining stitch on right needle back to left needle, cast on 2 and repeat from * until 61 (65, 73) stitches are cast on [includes 1st cast on stitch and 60 (64, 72) picot stitches]
Row 1
K1, m1p (pick up running strand between st on left needle and picot, using left needle from back to front, purl the new stitch through the front loop) to the last stitch then k1
120, (128, 144)
Change to US 5 needles
Row 2 - purl RS
Row 3 - purl
Row 4 - knit
Row 5 - purl
Continue to work in straight stitch for 9" (10", 12"), ending with a WS row

WAISTBAND
Set-up row - change to US 4 and k2tog to end of row. 60 (64, 72) stitches remaining
Begin Rosette Stitch
Row 1 - p2tog but do drop stitches, k2 tog same 2 stitches, slip both stitches from left needle together to end of row
Row 2 - knit
Row 3 - p1, p2tog but do drop stitches, k2 tog same 2 stitches, slip both stitches from left needle together to last stitch, p1
Row 4 - knit
Repeat rows 1-3 again, **change to larger needle**, knit one row.
Purl 1 row

DIVIDE FOR BACK OPENING
Next row - knit 28 (31, 34) stitches and turn, leaving remaining stitches on a holder.
Work each side of neck separately.
Next row (WS) - K29, cable cast on 3 stitches, place remaining stitches on holder
Row 2 - work rosette stitch over 4 stitches, purl to end
Row 3 - knit to end
Row 4 - p1, work rosette stitch over 2 stitches, purl to end
Work these 4 rows until you have worked 13 total rows from the divide
At beginning of 13th row from divide, bind off 6 stitches, knit to end
Work rosette stitch over 4 stitches, purl to end
Next row - bind off 4 stitches, knit to end
Next row - p1, work rosette stitch over 2 stitches, purl to end
Next row - k2tog, knit to end
Next row - work rosette stitch over 4 stitches, purl to end
Work last 2 rows 3 times more

Work in pattern until armhole measures 3" ending on row 2 of rosette stitch

SHAPE NECK
Knit to last 7 stitches and turn, leaving remaining stitches on a holder.
Work in straight stitch, decrease 1 at neck edge on each row until you have 7 (8, 9) stitches on needle.
Work even until armhole measures 4 1/4", ending with right side facing.
Bind off

Mark positions for 3 buttons...*I mark button places with short pieces of waste yarn*
Bottom button 1 1/8" up from base of opening
Top button 3/8" below stitch holder
Space remaining button marker evenly between

LEFT SIDE OF DIVIDE
Rejoin yarn on the left side of the back so as to start with a WS row. Purl to last 6 stitches, work rosette stitch over 6 stitches **NOTE THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE DIVIDE IS 4 stitches and the left side is 6!**
Next row - knit to end
Continue to work in pattern to match right side of divide AT THE SAME TIME making buttonholes to line up with button markers (k1, k2tog, yo). Button holes are made on the RS

FRONT
Same as back until Divide For Back Opening
Work in straight stitch for 12 more rows, ending with WS

SHAPE ARMHOLES
Bind off 6 stitches, k to end
Next row - bind off 6 stitches, p to end
Next row - bind off 4 stitches, k to end
Next row - bind off 4 stitches, p to end
Next row - k2tog, k to last 2 stitches, k2tog
Next row - purl
Work last 2 rows 3 more times

Knit in straight stitch until armhole measures 3"

SHAPE NECK
Next row - Knit 13 (14, 16) place remaining stitches on holder
Next row - p2tog, p to end
Next row - knit
Repeat last 2 rows until 7 (8, 9) stitches remain
Bind off

OTHER SIDE OF NECK
Slip the 13 (14, 16) outside stitches from the holder to working needles, join yarn on the right side (neck edge) and k13, (14, 16)
Next row - purl to last 2 stitches, p2tog
Next row - knit
Repeat last 2 rows until 7 (8, 9) stitches remain
Bind off

Sew front and back shoulder seams together

Using smaller needle, pick up stitches from holder on back, 24 from neck, stitches from front stitch holder, 24 from neck and the stitches from holder on back. **If you need to, adjust number of stitches you pick up from the neck so total number of stitches are divisible by 4!** *For size 1T I had a total of 68 stitches*

Join yarn to work on wrong side and work row 1 of rosette stitch
Next row - k1, k2tog, yo (for buttonhole) knit to end
Next row - work row 3 of rosette stitch
Bind off

SLEEVES (same for right and left)
Using smaller needle
pick up and knit 56 stitches (28 on front and 28 on back)

Work row 1 of rosette stitch
Next row - knit
Next row - work row 3 of rosette stitch
Next row - bind off 4, knit to end
Next row - bind off 4, **slip stitch on RH needle back to LH needle** and work row 1 of rosette stitch to end
Next row - knit
Next row - work row 3 of rosette stitch
Bind off

FINISHING
Sew side seams
Weave in ends
Block
Sew on buttons
Take lots of pictures of your cutie-pie in her sweet new dress!