Nova Dress

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This 2015 version of the pattern is available as a free download via Ravelry.

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Information

Size
2 [4, 6, 8, 10] years
- shown in 2 years

Finished Measurements
Chest: 22½ [24½, 26½, 28, 29½] inches
Length: 17 [20, 22, 24, 28] inches

Yarn
Spud and Chloë Fine [80% wool, 20% silk; 248 yards /227 meters per 65 gram hank]
Color 7804 Cricket (C1): 2 [2, 2, 2, 3] hanks
Color 7806 Calypso (C2): 1 [2, 2, 2, 3] hanks

Needles
US 3/3.25 mm 24 inch circular needle
US 2/2.75 mm 24 inch circular needle
US 3/3.25 mm double-pointed needles
US 2/2.75 mm double-pointed needles

Notions
6 [6, 8, 8, 8] buttons (approx. 1 cm diameter)
5 stitch markers of one color
1 stitch marker of another color (beginning of round marker)
4-5 stitch holders or lengths of scrap yarn
Wool needle

Gauge
24 sts and 36 rows = 4 inches in stockinette stitch using larger size needles.

Abbreviations
Notes

C1	Color 1
C2	Color 2
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together (decrease)
m	marker
M1	insert left needle from front to back under the strand running between the stitches and knit into the back of the strand
p	purl
pm	place marker
sl m	slip marker
ssk	slip, slip, knit (decrease) - slip 2 stitches, one at a time as if to knit, slip both stitches back on the left needle and knit them together through the back loop
sts	stitches

Pattern Notes
Row gauge
It is especially important to pay attention to the row gauge in this pattern, as this will affect the length and fit of the finished dress. Adding extra rows to accommodate a different row gauge is quite possible, but will require pre-planning to ensure the sleeves and body stripes line up.

Making stripe transition as smooth as possible
Slip the first stitch on the second row of the new color. And when changing from one color to the other, bring the new strand up behind the other and make sure the float that travels up behind the work is snug, but not too tight.

Binding off
For the optimal fit in the neckline, the stitches along the raglan (ie. the button band) are best bound off loosely, and the stitches along the shoulders and neck tightly.



Instructions

Body
Using smallest size circular needle and C1 cast on 180 [190, 200, 214, 228] sts. Join in the round being careful not to twist. Place marker for beginning of round as well as after 90 [95, 100, 107, 114] sts.
Round 1: Knit all sts.
Round 2: Purl all sts.
Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 three more times for a total of 4 garter ridges.

Change to larger size circular needle and knit the next round.
Change to C2 and continue in stockinette stitch always knitting 6 rounds of each color before changing to the other.

At the same time
Knit the following decrease round every 8 [9, 10, 10, 11] rounds a total of 11 [11, 11, 12, 13] times.
Decrease Round: K1, ssk, knit until 3 sts before marker, k2tog, k1, sl m, k1, ssk, knit until 3 sts before end of round, k2tog, k1.
After completing the decreases there are 136 [146, 156, 166, 176] sts on needle.

Continue in pattern until work measures 12¾ [15¼, 16¾, 18, 22] inches and you have a total of 19 [23, 25, 27, 33] stripes including the garter hem, ending with a 6 row stripe of C1.
Bind off the 4 [4, 5, 5, 6] sts before and the 4 [4, 5, 5, 6] sts after both markers. These 8 [8, 10, 10, 12] sts are underarm sts which will be sewn together with the corresponding sts from each sleeve at the end.
Break both strands of yarn and let work rest on the circular needle.

Sleeves
Using smallest size double-pointed needles and C1 [C1, C2, C1, C1] cast on 28 [32, 34, 38, 40] sts. Join in the round being careful not to twist, place marker for beginning of round.
Round 1: Knit all sts.
Round 2: Purl all sts.
Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 once more.
Change to larger size double-pointed needles and knit the next round.
Change to C2 [C2, C1, C2, C2] and continue in stockinette stitch, working 6 rounds of each color before changing to the other.

At the same time
Knit the following increase round every 4 [5, 5, 6, 6] rounds a total of 9 times.
Increase Round: K1, M1, knit to 1 stitch before end of round, M1, k1.
Continue in pattern until work measures 8½ [10½, 11½, 12½, 13¾] inches and you have a total of 13 [17, 18, 19, 21] stripes including the garter stitch cuff, ending with a 6 row stripe of C1. There are now 46 [50, 52, 56, 58] sts on the needle.
Bind off the 4 [4, 5, 5, 6] sts before and the 4 [4, 5, 5, 6] sts after the marker.
These are the underarm sts for the sleeve.
Break both strands of yarn * and slip the remaining sts from the double-pointed needles onto the right tip of the circular needle holding the body sts.
Knit a second sleeve following the instructions above up until the *.

Yoke
Pick up the body and first sleeve resting on the circular needle. Slip the next 55 [60, 63, 68, 71] sts of the body from left hand needle onto the right hand one, so there are 5 sts left on the left needle before the 8 [8, 10, 10, 12] bound off underarm sts, place the beginning of the round marker, and knit the next 5 sts using C2.
Knit the sts of the second sleeve still on the double-pointed needles onto the circular needle, place marker, knit the next 60 [65, 68, 73, 76] sts of the body (back), place marker, knit the sts of the first sleeve, knit 5 sts of the body sts (front), place marker, knit to beginning of round marker.
There are now 196 [214, 220, 238, 244] sts on the needle.

Decrease Round: K1, k2tog, knit to 3 sts before next m, ssk, k1, *sl m, k1, k2tog, knit to 3 sts before next m, ssk, k1. Repeat from * around.
Next Round: Knit all sts.
Maintaining stripe sequence, repeat these 2 rounds another 3 times, then repeat the Decrease Round once more.
There are now 156 [174, 180, 198, 204] sts.

Dividing Yoke
Remove the beginning of round marker and turn the work. You will now be working back and forth instead of in the round.
First you will work the front flap sts separately, and then the shoulders and neck of the dress separately.



Front Flap
Row 1: Purl to marker, remove marker and slip shoulder and neck sts to a stitch holder or a length scrap yarn (or let them rest on the circular needle if you feel you can keep track of which is which).
Row 2: K1, k2tog, Knit to last 3 sts, ssk, k1.
Row 3: Purl all sts.
Maintaining stripe sequence, repeat Rows 2 and 3 until you have 23 [27, 31, 33, 39] completed stripes and 26 [31, 22, 27, 30] sts on the front flap.
Change to C2.

For size 4 years only
Work another 4 rows as above: 27 sts.

All sizes
Work neckline shaping as follows:
Row 1: Purl all sts.
Row 2: K1, ssk, k2, turn.
Row 3: Sl1, purl to end of row.
Row 4: K3, ssk, k4, turn.
Row 5: Sl1, purl to end of row.
Row 6: K7, ssk, knit to 3 sts before end of row, k2tog, k1.
Row 7: P4, turn.
Row 8: Sl1, k to end of row.
Row 9: P3, p2tog, p4, turn.
Row 10: Sl1, k to end of row.
Break both strands of yarn.

Button Band & Garter Edging for Front Flap
With C1 and the left tip of the circular needle and starting at the bottom of the right raglan opening, pick up 17 [20, 23, 26, 29] sts along the right side of the flap, pm, k1 off the sts on the needle, pm, knit until 8 sts remain on needle, k2tog, knit to the last stitch on the needle, pm, k1, pm, pick up 17 [20, 23, 26, 29] sts along the left side of the flap.

For size 2 and 4 years
Row 1: *Knit to m, M1, sl m, k1, sl m, M1. Repeat from * once more, knit to end of row.
Row 2: K4 [5, -, -, -], yo, k6 [7, -, -, -], yo, k6 [7, -, -, -], yo, k2, sl m, k1, sl m, k to m, sl m, k1, sl m, k2, yo, k6 [7, -, -, -], yo, k6 [7, -, -, -], yo, k4 [5, -, -, -].

For size 6, 8 & 10 years
Row 1: *Knit to m, M1, sl m, k1, sl m, M1. Repeat from * once more, knit to end of row.
Row 2: K4, yo, k- [-, 6, 7, 8], yo, k6 [7, 8], yo, k- [-, 6, 7, 8], yo, k2, sl m, k1, sl m, k to m, sl m, k1, sl m, k2, yo, k- [-, 6, 7, 8], yo, k- [-, 6, 7, 8], yo, k- [-, 6, 7, 8], yo, k4.

All sizes
Change to smaller size needle.
Row 3: *Knit to m, M1, sl m, k1, sl m, M1. Repeat from * once more, knit to end of row.
Bind off all sts (see Pattern Notes for tip).

Shoulder and Back
Row 1: Purl all sts.
Row 2: K1, k2tog, knit to 3 sts before next marker, ssk, k1, * sl m, k1, k2tog, knit to 3 sts before next m, ssk, k1. Repeat from * once more.
Repeat Rows 1 and 2 while maintaining the stripe sequence until you have 24 [28, 32, 34, 40] completed stripes on the needle, ending on a C2 stripe.

For size 4 years only
Pick up C1 and repeat Rows 1 and 2 once more.

All sizes
Break both strands of yarn.

Button Band and Garter Edging for Shoulders and Neck
With C1 and the left tip of the circular needle and starting at the bottom of the right raglan opening, pick up 17 [20, 23, 26, 29] sts along the right side of the raglan, pm, k1 off the sts of the needle, pm, knit to first back raglan m, sl m, k to second back raglan m, turn
Slip first stitch, purl to first back raglan m, remove marker, turn.
Knit to one stitch before second back raglan m, remove marker, k2tog, knit to last stitch on the needle, pm, k1, pm, pick up 17 [20, 23, 26, 29] sts along left side of the raglan.
Row 1: *Knit to m, M1, sl m, k1, sl m, M1. Repeat from * once more, knit to end of row.
Row 2: Knit all sts.
Row 3: *Knit to m, M1, sl m, k1, sl m, M1. Repeat from * once more, knit to end of row.
Bind off all sts (see pattern notes for tip).

Finishing
Sew the underarm sts from each sleeve together with the corresponding underarm sts from the body.
Sew the ends of the garter button bands to the bottom of the raglan openings. Start with the shoulder side bands, then the flap sides, making sure the flap side are on top.

Sew on buttons. Weave in ends. Wash and dry flat.

