

## Build-a-Bear Mid-gauge machine knit Dress

Jan 31, 2022

Linda Corsover for Silverneedles MK Club Build-a-Bear project, for LK150 or 860 machines.

I used DAK to make the pattern, which uses Japanese notation to give knitting directions. I added dimensions, since DAK does not have that option.

This dress is knit with approximately 40-50g of sport weight washable yarn. It has a gathered skirt. The front bodice has extended shoulder pieces, which get sewn on to the back bodice so that you don't have to shape the back neck. The neck edge is not finished, just bound off, and rolls. I included a sleeve pattern, but I have not tried it out as I think the dress I made does not need sleeves. I striped the bodice every 4 rows, but ended up with a lot of ends to darn in, so I would recommend striping the skirt instead. Of course you can also add fairisle, tuck, etc.

Gauge: 6 stitches per inch and 7.75 rows per inch at T4 on a Silver Reed 860/160.

I have a ribber for my machine, and used T3 to rib 6 rows at the bottom of the hem.

BACK: If you decide to stripe the skirt, make sure the number of rows is divisible evenly for the stripes.

Skirt: Cast on 82 stitches for whatever bottom hem you want (I used a ribber cast on). Knit/Rib 6 rows and transfer the stitches to the main bed. Change to T4 and knit 25 rows, end up at R31.

Knit off on waste yarn (or do garter bar) and put 2 stitches on each needle until there are 41 or 42 stitches.

Bodice: RC000. Knit to R15 and 16 and on the carriage side bind off 3 stitches at each side for the underarm.

At R31, bind off. I used latch tool bind off to make sure the neck is loose enough to get the dress over the head.

FRONT:

The front skirt is done exactly the same as for the back. After you knit 2 together across the skirt, set RC000 and start on the bodice. Bind off the underarms as for the back. At R25, pull the center 16 stitches and one side of the neck out to hold. Continue shaping the neck, binding off 1 stitch on the neck side every row until you get to 6 stitches remaining.

Bind off the center 16 stitches. Then bind off 1 stitch on the remaining neck side every row until there are 6s remaining. Knit straight until R35. Bind off.

(The pattern schematic says a more complicated neck shape but I did it in a simple way)

FIFNISHING: Carefully block the bottom of the skirt only, steaming between the ribbing and the gathering ONLY, to keep the hem from rolling. I did not need to block any of the rest of the dress. Since the gathering pulls the top of the skirt in, it might be easier to block the skirt pieces while they are on the WY, before the gathering is done.

Sew the side seams. Sew the extended from shoulder pieces to the top of the back bodice. Sew in ends.

