

Little Cotton Rabbits Sundress bodice / camisole top



This pattern contains instructions for an alternative bodice to any of the Little Cotton Rabbit dresses, including both the small and regular sizes and those included in the animal patterns. You can also use this bodice with the instructions in this pattern to make a vest/camisole style top.

*More knitting patterns are available at
<https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk>*

One of my favourite things about making knitted toys is coming up with new designs for their clothing and the idea for this little pattern supplement came about when I was working on designs for my bags, baskets and backpacks pattern.

This is a free supplement pattern that is intended to be used with any of the Little Cotton Rabbit dresses, either those included with an animal pattern or the separate dresses patterns. Instructions are given for both the regular sized 9 inch animal dresses and the small sized dresses that fit the 7 inch animals. You will need one of those patterns for the skirt part. I've also included instructions for a simple camisole/vest top that uses the same bodice instructions.

I hope you enjoy using these patterns to create a wardrobe of different outfits for your knitted animals.

Materials:

- Yarns: 4py/fingering weight yarn.
- A tiny button

Notions:

- A pair of 2.75mm (US 2) Knitting needles
- Tapestry needle
- Cable needle
- Crochet hook for button loop/collar

Yarn suggestions:

This pattern uses 2.75mm needles with 4ply/fingering weight yarn. I prefer to knit the clothing in 4ply cotton/cotton mix yarns. Cotton yarns are crisp and show off colour-work patterns nicely, they also block well and you can even lightly iron cotton knits to smooth out any wrinkles. Yarns I particularly like are Krea Deluxe organic cotton, BCGarn Alba, MillaMia Naturally Soft Cotton, Philidar Phil Coton 3, Drops Safran and DMC Natura Just Cotton, as all knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. Patons 4ply cotton and Sirdar 4ply cotton also come in a wide range of colours but are thinner, and Cascade Ultra Pima Fine has a wonderful range of colours but is a little thicker, so if using any of these you will need to check your gauge if the clothes are to fit. There is also a blog post here:

https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2020/06/choosing-yarns-for-the-little-cotton-rabbit-animal-patterns-part-2.html

which details some of my favourite yarns and what I like about them and it may be worth looking on [Ravelry](https://www.ravelry.com) to see what yarns others recommend.

Gauge:



Gauge for all bodices: 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch using 4ply/fingering yarn and 2.75mm (US size 2) needles

I hope you enjoy using this pattern. I have written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on [Little Cotton Rabbits blog](https://www.littlecottonrabbits.com).

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:

<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

Or the Little Cotton Rabbits Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/littlecottonrabbits/>

Lots of knitters who've already used the patterns hang out there and one of us will do our best to help you. You'll also find lots of other projects made from these patterns, please come and share yours.

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Abbreviations:

These increase methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<https://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

KF&B : KNIT FRONT AND BACK. Knit into both the front and the back loops of the stitch to make an extra stitch.

These decrease methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<https://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/decreases>

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

Please note that when the patterns mention cast on, I use a cable cast on.

For dresses with 30 stitches at the waist (7 inch animals):

Work the skirt section from any Little Cotton Rabbits 7 inch animal dress pattern or the 'Small dresses' pattern, up to and including the decrease row at the waist, and then work the alternative bodice as follows:

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

rows 2-5: work 4 rows of garter stitch, ie. Knit every row

row 6: K5, *Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left-hand needle, Cast off 4, K8, *Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left-hand needle, Cast off 4, K5

Now you have a total of 22 stitches on the needle, in 3 separate groups (6, 10, 6). The two cast off sections are the bottom of the two armholes (*fig. 1*)

* Crossing the 2 stitches in this way at the start of the cast off section strengthens and neatens the cast off and ensures that there will not be an ugly gap at the base of the finished strap.

row 7: K5, KF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 8 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the last of the cast on stitches back to the left needle and K2tog, K8, KF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 8 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the last of the cast on stitches back to the left needle and K2tog, K5 (*38 stitches*)

row 8: Cast off Knit-wise (*fig. 2*) and cut the work from the ball, leaving a 10 inch tail for creating a button loop.

To finish, follow the instructions included in any of the dresses patterns for making a button loop and seaming. The dress pattern below is from the 'Small dresses' pattern.



fig. 1



fig. 2



finished dress



For dresses with 36 stitches at the waist (9 inch animals):

Work the skirt section from any of the Little Cotton Rabbits 9 inch animal dress pattern or the 'Seasonal dresses' or 'Textured dresses', up to and including the decrease row at the waist, and then work the alternative bodice as follows:

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

rows 2-7: work 6 rows of garter stitch, ie. Knit every row

row 8: K6, *Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left-hand needle, Cast off 5, K10, *Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left-hand needle, Cast off 5, K6

Now you have a total of 26 stitches on the needle, in 3 separate groups (7, 12, 7). The two cast off sections are the bottom of the two armholes (*fig. 1 shows this step for the smaller sized dress*)

* Crossing the 2 stitches in this way at the start of the cast off section strengthens and neatens the cast off and ensures that there will not be an ugly gap at the base of the finished strap.

row 9: K6, KF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 11 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the last of the cast on stitches back to the left needle and K2tog, K10, KF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 11 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the last of the cast on stitches back to the left needle and K2tog, K6 (46 stitches)

row 10: Cast off Knit-wise and cut the work from the ball, leaving a 10 inch tail for creating a button loop (*fig. 4*)
To finish, follow the instructions included in any of the dresses patterns for making a button loop and seaming.

For dresses with 38 stitches at the waist (9 inch animals):

Work the skirt section from any Little Cotton Rabbits 9 inch animal dress pattern or the 'Seasonal dresses' or 'Textured dresses', up to and including the decrease row at the waist, and then work the alternative bodice as follows:

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

rows 2-7: work 6 rows of garter stitch, ie. Knit every row

row 8: K6, *Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left-hand needle, Cast off 6, K10, *Slip the next stitch onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K1, Slip the stitch on the cable needle back onto the left-hand needle, Cast off 6, K6

Now you have a total of 26 stitches on the needle, in 3 separate groups (7, 12, 7). The two cast off sections are the bottom of the two armholes (*fig. 1 shows this step for the smaller sized dress*)

* Crossing the 2 stitches in this way at the start of the cast off section strengthens and neatens the cast off and ensures that there will not be an ugly gap at the base of the finished strap.

row 9: K6, KF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 11 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the last of the cast on stitches back to the left needle and K2tog, K10, KF&B, turn the work so that the right side is facing you and cable cast on 11 stitches, turn the work again so that the wrong side is facing you, slip the last of the cast on stitches back to the left needle and K2tog, K6 (46 stitches)

row 10: Cast off Knit-wise and cut the work from the ball, leaving a 10 inch tail for creating a button loop (*fig. 4*)
To finish, follow the instructions included in any of the dresses patterns for making a button loop and seaming.



fig. 4



finished dress



finished dress

Vest / camisole top:

If you prefer, you can use the bodice instructions to make a simple little vest/camisole top. This can also be used with the shorts from any of the boy patterns to make a pyjama set, as pictured below (the small 7 inch sized Rabbit pattern is used on the left and regular 9 inch sized boy rabbit pattern on the right).



For small 7 inch sized animals:

Using 2.75mm (US 2) needles and 4ply/fingering weight yarn, cast on 45 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

rows 3-14: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 12 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Knit and Purl rows)

row 15: (K1, K2tog) 15 times (30 stitches)

Continue to work the bodice by following the instructions from **row 1** on Page 3. **But** instead of working the bodice in garter stitch (ie. all Knit rows) work it using stocking stitch (ie. starting with row 1 as a Purl row and working all following odd numbered wrong side rows in Purl).

For regular 9 inch sized animals:

Using 2.75mm (US 2) needles and 4ply/fingering weight yarn, cast on 56 stitches, leaving an 8 inch tail for seaming with later.

row 1: (right side) Knit

row 2: Knit

rows 3-18: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl, work 16 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Knit and Purl rows)

row 19: (K1, K2tog) 18 times, K2 (38 stitches)

Continue to work the bodice by following the instructions for the 'dresses with 38 stitches' at the bottom of Page 4 from **row 1** onwards. **But** instead of working the bodice in garter stitch (ie. all Knit rows) work it using stocking stitch (ie. starting with row 1 as a Purl row and working all following odd numbered wrong side rows in Purl).

To finish, follow the instructions included in any of the dresses patterns for making a button loop. Seam the back of the camisole from the bottom hem up to the decrease row and weave in all ends before trimming the excess.