



New Year's Eve – 2012 Dress KAL Pattern

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The challenge begins! Tash from Knitsch Yarns has set the rules:

"The rules: *Knit a dress. It can be any weight, it must reach past one's bottom, and it must be finished by the end of 2012."*

I would love to knit a dress, so in the spirit of the challenge, I've designed a pattern for a dress that I want to make for myself, and I'm offering it as a free pattern to anyone who wants to join in!

(Note: I have not finished knitting this dress yet, so there is a chance of finding errors in the pattern. I welcome any corrections! Also, I wrote it at 5:30am during a sleepless night, up with a baby.)



Features of my dress, called **New Year's Eve** (because it will be the perfect dress to wear next New Year's Eve when I finally finish it that day!!):

- Customizable to your body – try it on as you knit, and you choose the size of the shoulders, armholes, waistband, length etc
- A cute peek-hole in the front
- Stretchy stitch used in the top section
- Firm waist-control area
- Fun zig-zag chevron skirt
- Skirt is fashionably shorter at the front (which also means less knitting!)
- I've used some of my favourite stitches that feature in my books

Difficulty: Intermediate - basic lace, and knitting in the round needle techniques.

Sizes: XS [S, M, L]

Finished Measurements

To fit chest: 70-75 [80-85, 90-95, 100-105] cm

Length: as long as desired, or as length of yarn dictates.

MATERIALS

4ply Sock Yarn, approximately 300g-400g. I'm just guesstimating here, and of course it depends on the length you want.

You can use different colours or all the same, up to you. My plan is to do the top section in one colour, then a stripy waistband, and then the skirt will be striped chevrons in two or more colours.

4mm straight needles or a 100cm 4mm circular needle

GAUGE

14 sts top section pattern = 5cm in pattern, not blocked.

PATTERN NOTES

sl – Slip a stitch onto the other needle without knitting it

yo – Yarn Over

pss0 – Pass Slipped Stitch Over

kfb – knit in the front and back of the stitch to increase 1

I've included photos of what the stitches should look like.

Back top:

On straight needles or working back and forth on circular needles, cast on 98 [112, 126, 140] stitches.

Row 1: knit

Row 2 and alt rows: sl1, (purl, purl through the back loop) to end

Row 3: *sl1 purlwise, k1, yo, pssso both the k1 and yo. Repeat from * across

Row 5: k1, *sl1 purlwise, k1, yo, pssso both the k1 and yo. Repeat from * across to last st, k1



Repeat rows 2-5 until the length reaches the point where you want the bottom of the armhole to be. Set aside.

Front top:

Wind some of your yarn into a separate small ball because you are about to cast on two pieces at the same time, so you'll need two balls going.

On straight needles or working back and forth on circular needles, cast on 50 [56, 64, 70] stitches. Repeat this with your other ball of yarn. Make sure you don't get mixed up and knit across all the stitches! You are working two separate pieces for each side of the front top section, and these will be joined up eventually.

For each section:

Row 1: knit

Row 2 and alt rows: sl1, (purl, purl through the back loop) to end

Row 3: *sl1 purlwise, k1, yo, pssso both the k1 and yo. Repeat from * across

Row 5: k1, *sl1 purlwise, k1, yo, pssso both the k1 and yo. Repeat from * across to last st, k1

Repeat rows 2-5 several times, then sew the shoulder seam (as skinny or wide as you like). Now try it on. Continue working the fronts as separate pieces until you are happy with the depth of the peek-hole.

Next row: work across both sections to join them together.

Continue working pattern until front length matches back length, making sure to end on the same row of the pattern. Try it on again and see how many stitches you want to add under the arms. As a guide for XS, I cast on 14st on one side of either the front or back (depending on where the yarn is located), then work across that section, then cast on another 14st, then work across the next section. You will work all of these stitches onto one circular needle.

Note that Row 2 and alt rows will now change to knit all stitches in the round.

Using your circular needle, work around the back and front section (keeping pattern correct), and you have now joined to work in the round.

Continue pattern in the round. I found it easier to use two circular needles - one for knitting onto each round, plus then it is easier to try on - just knit half a round so one needle is holding the front stitches and one needle is holding the back stitches. The points will be at each side.

Carry on until you reach the point where you want to begin the waistband. I've decided around about this point here. Isn't the stitch so pretty?!



Peekhole & Armhole Finishing:

Make a small loop at the top for a button. Sew an awesome button on the corresponding edge.

If desired, crochet around the armhole edges. (or you can cast on around the edge, then cast off). Note that I haven't bothered.

Waistband:

In contrasting yarn, knit 2 rounds. (sizes XS and M only: increase two stitches evenly in the first round).

Corrugated Rib Pattern:



*p2 contrast colour, k2 main colour. Repeat from * around.

Continue until you are happy with the waist length.

Knit 1 round in contrasting yarn.

Knit 1 round in contrasting yarn, but also decrease evenly across the round: size XS 2st, S 4st, M 3st, or Size L increase 6st.

Skirt:

Rounds 1-5: using a new contrast colour, purl

Round 6: using another colour, *k2tog, k2, kfb in each of next 2 sts, k3, sl1, k1, pssso.

Repeat from * around.

Round 7: knit

Rounds 8-11: repeat rounds 6&7 twice more.

Round 12: using the first colour, repeat round 6.

Continue working in the round until the skirt is the desired length at the front, ending on Round 5. Mark where you want the left and right front openings to be, and when you work your way to the first point, cast off until you reach the second point. You will now work back and forth instead of in the round. Continue the row, keeping pattern as established.

Pattern will now be:

Rows 1,3,5: using a new contrast colour, knit

Rows 2,4: purl

Row 6: using another colour, *k2tog, k2, kfb in each of next 2 sts, k3, sl1, k1, pssso. Repeat from * around.

Round 7: purl

Rounds 8-11: repeat rounds 6&7 twice more.

Round 12: using the first colour, repeat round 6.

Continue pattern, but cast off 11 stitches (one pattern segment) at the beginning of Row 5 and 6 (in the Row 5 colour). This will create a staggered edging. Repeat as many times as you want.

Work until yarn is about to run out, or garment reaches desired length, ending on Row 5. Cast off.

Wear with pride! You just knitted a dress!!

ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Belinda Too lives in New Zealand and has published two knitting books called 'Blendy Knits Socks' and 'Blendy Knits Again', and also licensed Nickelodeon patterns - all of which are available at www.blendyknits.com. You can find 'Blendy' on Ravelry and Twitter.

