

# American Girl and Bitty Baby Shell Lace Nightgown or Dress

Dawn's Dream Designs  
unique knitting designs  
by Dawn Adcock

A doll nightgown or dress knit in one piece, with simple shell stitch and easy scalloped garter edge. Quick to make for a loved little girl in your life!

**Instructions for 18" Doll, with revisions for 16" Bitty Baby size in parentheses (...)**

## Materials

**Yarn:** Bulky weight brushed acrylic yarn, 160 (130) yds. Samples knit with Lion Brand Jiffy, 2 skeins for 18" size, 1 skein for 16" size doll gown.

**Needles:** Size 10 US 16" circular, Size 8 US double points (Size 9 circular, Size 7 double points for Bitty Baby size)

## Notions:

Stitch marker  
Yarn needle

**Size:** About 16" long for large gown, 12" for Bitty Baby gown (but once on the doll, some of the length is taken up as it rounds out width-wise)

## Abbreviations

\* **Asterisks:** repeat only instructions given between asterisks stated amount of times.

**K2tog:** Right slanting decrease-Knit 2 stitches together

**SSK:** Left slanting decrease-Slip a stitch as if to knit, slip the next stitch as if to knit, insert left needle into fronts of these 2 sts (now on right hand needle) and knit them together.

**P3tog:** Purl 3 stitches together

**YO:** yarn round over needle, creating an eyelet increase stitch.



## **Instructions**

Cast on 64 sts loosely on the size 10 circ needle (size 9 circular needle for small gown) Or use larger needle for looseness if needed.

### **Scalloped bottom edge:**

Join the cast on sts, being careful not to twist, placing marker at join to indicate beginning of round. Work 2 garter ridges (knit 1 round, purl 1 round, knit 1 round, purl 1 round), then do the scalloped gatherings as follows: Drop the next stitch (the first stitch of the round) off the left needle, and unravel it all the way down to the cast on edge. Now, take the right hand needle and go from front to back under the fabric, then wrap the working yarn around the needle in the back, and bring the newly formed loop back around to the front and to the top edge, gathering up the horizontal straight strands formed when you dropped and unraveled the stitch, and place this new loop onto the left hand needle, ready to knit it. Knit this loop as a regular stitch, gathering up the bottom into the scallop as you do so. Now, Knit the next 7 stitches, then repeat the drop-stitch gather as just done. Continue around doing a scallop gather between every 7 stitches. You'll end the round by knitting 7 stitches.

### **Skirt section:**

Rds 1-3: Knit

Rd 4-Shell Pattern round: K2, \* YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO, K3 \* repeat between \*\* till last stitch, Knit 1. (There will be a 3 knit stitch column between each purl shell section.)

Repeat these 4 rounds for pattern, 10 (8) times total [40 (32) rounds after doing scalloped garter edge], ending after completing shell pattern round. [9 1/2" (7") approximate total length].

### **Waistline section:**

Change to Size 8 (7) double pointed needles, and work waistline decrease rounds (all decreases are done on the knit columns, making the 3 knit stitch columns into 1 knit stitch columns, to cinch in the waistline):

Dec Rnd 1: \*K2tog, K6\* to last stitch, don't knit this last stitch, just leave it on the left hand needle and begin the next round with it. Move marker for beginning of round after next dec.

Dec Rnd 2: SSK the last stitch of the previous round with the first stitch of the next round to decrease 1 stitch, (placing the marker to the front of this knit stitch for beginning of round now) K5, \*SSK, K5\* to end. (48 sts total)

Rnd 3: K 1 round even, (no decreases)

### **Upper Body:**

Continue in pattern, having just one knit stitch between each purl shell as follows:

Rd 1-Shell Pattern round: \*K1, YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO\* repeat to end of round

Rds 2-4: Knit

Continue in pattern for 5 (4) repeats on the body section [15 (12) purl shell pattern repeats total from bottom], BUT ENDING AFTER DOING ONLY 1 KNIT ROUND AFTER A PURL SHELL PATTERN ROUND (Ending after working a Rnd 2).

### **Divide at underarm for front and back:**

Knit across front 22 sts, then increase 1 (by knitting into the front and back of next stitch), Knit 1 (25 stitches worked for front). Turn work. Work back and forth on these 25 stitches for front, leaving back stitches on needles (or stitch holder), unworked.

Purl 1 row

Do Purl Pattern Row (\*K1, YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO\* 4 times to last stitch, K1)

Purl 1 Row

Knit 1 Row

Purl 1 Row

### **Neck opening:**

K1, YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO, K2, Bind off center 9 sts, K1 (after the 1 stitch on your needle from binding off the center stitches, so you'll have 2 knit stitches on right hand needle) YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO, K1.

(Leave first 8 stitches on extra needle, or stitch holder to be worked later.)

**Work Left side:**

P6, P2tog (7 sts)

Knit 1 row

Purl 1 row

K1, YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO, K1

Purl 1 row

Knit 1 row. Leave these 7 stitches on extra needle or stitch holder, breaking working yarn.

(\* See finishing note at end if you don't wish to do a three needle bind off to finish the shoulders)

**Work Right side:** Join yarn on inside of neck edge on other front side, with the wrong side facing you, ready to start a Purl row.

P2tog, P6 (7 sts)

Knit 1 row

Purl 1 row

K1, YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO, K1

Purl 1 row

Knit 1 row. Leave these 7 sts on extra needle or stitch holder, breaking working yarn.

[You will have worked 18 (15) total purl shells sections from bottom edge to top of the front total now-it's a good idea to count them on both sides of front to make sure they match at this point!]

**Work back:** With right side of work facing you, join new yarn on right side of back.

Knit across back 22 sts, then increase 1 (by knitting into the front and back of next stitch), Knit 1 (25 stitches worked for back). Work back and forth on these 25 stitches for back.

Purl 1 row

Pattern Row: \*K1, YO, P1, P3tog, P1, YO\* 4 times, to last stitch, K1

Purl 1 row

Knit 1 row

Purl 1 row

Repeat last 4 rows

Repeat Pattern row

Purl 1 row

**Finish off top edges/join front to back as follows:**

TURN GARMENT INSIDE OUT, SO THAT THE WRONG SIDES ARE FACING OUT

Do a 3 Needle Bind Off to join the front shoulder edges to the back as follows:

Knit 1 stitch from back together with 1 stitch from the front (the edge stitches from the front and the back shoulders) repeat with the next stitch from the back and the front, then bind off one stitch. Repeat until front 7 stitches are joined and bound off. Continue binding off across the back neck stitches by binding off 11 center stitches. Then again do the Three Needle Bind Off with the 7 stitches from the other front edge shoulder.

Finish off the ends, being sure to neaten up the front neck edge with the tail of the joined on strand to make the beginning of the bound off neck stitches flow nicely around the curve of the edge. Edges of neck and armholes are left unfinished since they roll slightly for a neat enough edge. If you prefer, work a crocheted edge around openings for a more finished look.

**\*FINISHING NOTE:** If you don't wish to do the Three Needle Bind Off at the top edges, it's simple to just bind off each edge of the front shoulders (the 7 stitches on hold on each side), then bind off all the stitches on the back top (just bind off all 25 back stitches), and then sew the front shoulders to the sides of the back, leaving the 11 center back neck stitches as the back neck opening. The choice is yours, which ever you prefer. I use the Three Needle Bind Off so that the edges are perfectly matched stitch for stitch, and the garment is completely seamless.

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