

SOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

- *The Knitting Experience: The Knit Stitch*, by Sally Melville. Published by XRX Books, 2002, USA.
- *Fashion, A History from the 18th to the 20th Century*, the Collection of the Kyoto Costume Institute. Published by Taschen, 2006, Germany.
- *Gene Marshall: Girl Star*, by Mel Odom. Published by Hyperion, 2000, USA.
- *Knitwit: 30 Easy and Hip Projects*, by Amy R. Singer. Published by HarperCollins, 2004, USA.
- *Stitch and Bitch and Son of Stitch and Bitch*, both by Debbie Stoller. Published by Workman, 2004, 2007, USA.
- *Sweaters for Men*, by Alice Starmore. Published by Pavilion, 1990, UK.
- *Knitting from the British Islands*, by Alice Starmore. Published by Bell & Hyman, 1983, UK.
- *The 30s Family Knitting Book*, by Jane Waller. Published by Duckworth, 1981, UK.
- www.knitty.com Knitting website edited by Amy R Singer.
- For a very useful conversion chart showing knitting needle sizes go to www.fibergypsy.com/common/needles.shtml This table is invaluable when working from vintage or European patterns as it lists the most common equivalents for US, Old US and old UK needle sizes.

SHOPPING GUIDE

Doll Suppliers:

Cherished Friends www.cherishedfriends.com

Two Daydreamers www.twodaydreamers.com

Vogue Collectibles Inc www.41vogue.com

E TOYS AND COLLECTIBLES by ecamarab on eBay

Accessories:

Shoes, *Jennifer Sue* www.jenniferdolls.com

Repro vintage jewelry (as worn by Valia) from vintage*jewels on eBay

Buttons, closures and fittings www.tinyzipper.com

TRICOT TREATS

knits go glam



A Thirties-inspired Evening Gown for Valia and other 11-12 inch dolls

LET'S GET KNITTING

These instructions were designed for a right-handed knitter. As a southpaw myself, I know how unfair life can be in this respect! Many lefties will have little trouble with the pattern, especially if, as I was, you were taught to knit by a righty. But help is at hand in Sally Melville's book *The Knitting Experience: The Knit Stitch*, or visit two really useful online resources:

<http://knitty.com/ISSUEwinter03/FEATmirror.html>
<http://learn-to-knit.com/learntoknit/index.htm>

Before you start, be sure to check your tension to make sure you're getting the right number of stitches for the width and the correct number of rows for the length. It sounds as boring as a very boring thing indeed, but if you miss out this step you could easily end up with a maxi dress for the fuller figure when a knee-length petite was required. Or a knicker-revealing shocker when you'd really wanted a demure cover-up. If your sample is too big, try switching to a size smaller needles and if too small... well you get the idea.

INSTRUCTIONS

To knit the Thirties-inspired pink dress as modelled by Valia.

This dress is suitable for fashion dolls about 11"-12" tall. The dress is worked on two needles throughout. You'll need 1/4 oz 3-ply fingering yarn and a set of US #1 (2.25 mm) needles. You can alter the length of the dress by increasing or decreasing the number of rows knitted where the pattern says to knit 28 rows over 26 stitches, see below and use your doll as a guide as you go. Working to a tension of 9 sts x 13 rows gives a 1" square.

Standard knitting abbreviations are used throughout. The dress modeled by Valia was knitted in a 3-ply silk-and-cashmere mix. It's a fairly easy pattern once you get the hang of it, an experienced knitter should be able to complete the dress comfortably in an evening.

Note: Stockinette stitch means knit one row, purl one row; Seed stitch is * k 1, p 1, rpt from* across; on the next row k the p sts and p the k sts; and "inc" means "increase in next stitch"

This dress is worked in one piece. Beginning at the top, cast on 16 sts and work seed st for 2 rows.

Side increase: K 1, inc, k to last 2 sts, inc, k 1. P back. Repeat these 2 rows until there are 34 sts on needle, ending with a p row.

Next row: K 4, k 2 tog, * k 6, k 2 tog, repeat from * twice, k 4. P back.

Next row: K 4, k 2 tog, k 4, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 4, k 2 tog, k 4. (26 sts). P back.

Work stockinette for 4 rows.

Row 1: K 3, inc, k 6, inc, k 4, inc, k 6, inc, k 3. (30 sts).

Row 2: and all even rows: P.

Row 3: K 4, inc, k 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 4. (34 sts).

Row 5: K 5, inc, k 6, inc, k 8, inc, k 6, inc, k 5. (38 sts).

Row 7: K 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 10, inc, k 6, inc, k 6. (42 sts).

Row 9: Inc in 1st st, k 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 12, inc, k 6, inc, k 6, inc in last st. (48 sts).

Row 10: P.

Work 4 rows in stockinette ending in a p row.

Row 15: K 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 12, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog. (42 sts).

Row 16: and all even rows: P.

Row 17: K 6, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 10, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 6. (38 sts).

Row 19: K 5, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 8, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 5. (34 sts).

Row 21: K 4, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 4. (30 sts).

Row 23: K 3, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 4, k 2 tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 3.. (26 sts).

Row 24: P.

Work 28 rows on these 26 sts in stockinette ending in a p row.

Row 53: K 3, inc, k 6, inc, k 4, inc, k 6, inc, k 3. (30 sts).

Row 54: and all even rows: P.

Row 55: K 4, inc, k 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 4. (34 sts).

Row 57: K 5, inc, k 6, inc, k 8, inc, k 6, inc, k 5. (38 sts).

Row 59: K 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 10, inc, k 6, inc, k 6. (42 sts).

Row 61: Inc in 1st st, k 6, inc, k 6, inc, k 12, inc, k 6, inc, k 6, inc in last st. (48 sts).

Work 2 rows of seed st and bind off loosely in seed st. Sew seam up back to where side increase ended. Steam lightly and let dry, you might put the skirt over a tube during drying to hold the shape.

If you're making this gown in cashmere yarn, a gentle wash in Woolite will greatly improve the softness and texture before presenting it to your favorite doll.