

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cherishedfriends.com)

*Two Daydreamers* [www.twodaydreamers.com](http://www.twodaydreamers.com)

*Vogue Collectibles Inc* [www.41vogue.com](http://www.41vogue.com)

*E TOYS AND COLLECTIBLES* by *ecamarab* on eBay

### Accessories:

Shoes, *Jennifer Sue* [www.jenniferdolls.com](http://www.jenniferdolls.com)

Repro vintage jewelry from *vintage\*jewels* on eBay

Buttons, closures and fittings [www.tinyzipper.com](http://www.tinyzipper.com)

# TRICOT TREATS

*knits go glam*



A Forties-inspired shirtwaister dress for Fashion Royalty 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

### Materials

*1/2 oz. fingering yarn, No. 1 "Boye" dp needles, 4 markers (use loops of yarn in a contrasting color), 2 snaps & beads*

The dress is worked on 2 needles to waistline, on 4 needles for skirt. All ribbing is k 1, p 1. To gauge the tension, 9sts and 13 rows of stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl one row) should make a 1" by 1" square. If your square is too small use a larger needle size, if too big try a smaller needle.

Cast on 23 sts. 1st 3 rows: K 3, rib to last 3 sts, k 3.  
Row 4: K 3, p to last 3 sts, k 3.  
Row 5: K 4, \*inc, place marker, k 1, inc\*; rpt from \* to \* once, k 3, rpt from \* to \* twice, k 4; 31 sts on needle.  
Row 6: K 3, p to last 3 sts, slipping markers, k 3.  
Row 7: \*K to within 1 st of marker, inc, sl marker, k 1, inc; rpt from \* three more times, k to end of row; 39 sts on needle.  
Rpt rows 6 & 7 till there are 14 sts in front of 1st marker, ending with row 6.

Now knit 36 sts, removing markers. (14 sts of left front & 22 sts of left sleeve). Turn & (p 2 tog) 11 times on the 22 sleeve sts. Rib 2 rows on these 11 sts & bind off loosely in ribbing; break yarn. With needle with 14 sts on it, attach yarn & k 45 (23 sts of back & 22 sts of right sleeve.) Turn & work right sleeve as for left sleeve. With needle with 37 sts on it, k remaining 14 sts (right front), 51 sts on needle.

Next row: K 3, p 10, p 2 tog, p 21, p 2 tog, p 10, k 3. Keep 1st and last 3 sts in garter st & work sts between in stockinette st for 11 rows, dec 1 st

under each sleeve again on the 4th row, 47 sts on needle. Dec for waistline: K 3, p 2 tog, \*p 1, p 2 tog, rpt from \* to last 3 sts, k 3; 33 sts on needle.

Divide sts on 3 needles as follows: With 1st needle bind off 3 sts (1 st on needle); k 5, (6 sts of left front on needle); with 2nd needle k 15 sts of back; with 3rd needle k 9 sts of right front.

Rnd 1 & all uneven rnds: K around 3 needles, beg with 6 sts on 1st needle.  
Rnd 2: K 1, inc, k 8; k 5, inc, k 8, inc, k 4, 34 sts  
Rnd 4: K 2, inc, k 8; k 7, inc, k 8, inc, k 5, 38 sts  
Rnd 6: K 3, inc, k 8; k 9, inc, k 8, inc, k 6, 42 sts  
Rnd 8: K 4, inc, k 8; k 11, inc, k 8, inc, k 7, 46 sts

Now knit each rnd till piece measures 3 1/2" from 1st rnd, ending at side. Work 2 rnds in seed st & bind off in seed st. Sew sleeve seams & sew bound off border under other border. Sew snaps & beads on.

Pin flat, steam lightly & let dry. Skirt may be steam blocked over a tube (I use the card tube from kitchen roll) if desired. If blocked on a tube, do not put the tube past the last increase row, about 3". Steam lightly before putting on tube and let dry.

Belt: Cast on 3 sts, work in seed st for 3 1/2" and bind off in seed st. Sew snaps at each end so belt will overlap.

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

## ABBREVIATIONS

dec – decrease	psso – pass slip st over k st
dp – double point	sl – slip (from 1 needle to the other)
inc – increase or increase in next st	rib – work in ribbing
k – knit	st(s) – stitch(es)
p – purl	tog – together
beg – begin or beginning	yo – yarn over

\* Asterisk – instructions following the asterisk are to be repeated as many times as indicated.

Read to the end of each sentence before starting the row.

## TIP

Gently wrap doll's hands in a tiny scrap of foil before dressing in knitwear to avoid catching delicate thumbs and fingers in the yarn.