

My Variation of the Lotus Blossom Tank

By My Merino Mantra



Here is my new favorite top, the Lotus Blossom Tank. The only part which resembles the Lotus Blossom Tank is the upper portion, which is ingenious, in my opinion. I completely changed the bottom to suit my taste, making up my own lace pattern. I also chose not to make the lace come up so far as in the original pattern. I find my version of the lower portion more suitable for most figures. I used a size 6 needle for a part of the lace bottom, but I may use a size 5 throughout next time.

The yarn is next-to-the-skin soft. Were it not for its inherent character, I may never have worked with it, given the cotton content, and my loathing of working with that fiber. This top fits like a dream. I couldn't be happier with it. Wasn't I smart to get enough yarn from Webs to make another top just like it?

Pattern: Lotus Blossom Tank by Sharon Shoji (with my modifications). See *Interweave Knits Summer*, 2006, for the original pattern

Yarn: Elsebeth Lavold Silky Tweed, (40% silk, 30% cotton, 20% extra fine merino, 10% viscose) color 09

Amount Used: 660 yards (605 meters), 8.82 oz. (252 grams)

Needles: KnitPicks Options size 6 (4 mm) for part of the lace, and size 5 (3.75 mm) for the remainder and the upper portion of the top

Modifications: I changed the Lotus Lace to my own version of lace for the bottom portion. I also chose to not make the lace come up so far onto the bodice, or use a garter ridge between the lace and stockinette. I used KnitPicks circulars 47-inch in size 5 for the edging of the armholes and neck, using the Magic Loop technique. Next time, I may crochet an edging instead of using a knitted garter edging. I also used a crochet hook to pick up stitches. My gauge was different than that given in the pattern.

My top WAS NOT 39 inches, finished, but rather 36 inches. My gauge in stockinette was 26 stitches / 4 inches, size 5 needles Please check your gauge!!!! I wanted a top smaller than the 39 inches in the pattern, but larger than the 33 inches given as the smallest size

My Top: For Finished Size 39 Inches (as stated in pattern, but not in actuality): CO 207, using size 6 needles. Follow chart for lace pattern. I used size 6 needles for 4 ½ inches, but I may just use size 5 needles throughout the next time. I worked 7 inches of this lace panel pattern, and then switched to stockinette for one row. Next row: Increase 7 stitches evenly around (about every 30 stitches). *Work in stockinette for 13 inches from cast on before the first BO, which is the Shape Front part. Follow original pattern from here.

For Size 33 ¾ Inches: CO 180. Finish lace panel, work one row of stockinette, then increase 6 stitches evenly around. Follow from * as above

For Size 44 Inches: CO 234. Finish lace panel, work one row of stockinette, then increase 8 stitches evenly around. Follow from * as above

For Size 48 Inches: CO 261. Finish lace panel, work one row of stockinette, then increase 3 stitches evenly around. You could even increase in the purl stitches before you get to the stockinette. Follow from * as above

Potential Problem: If working with cotton yarn, allow for negative ease. The smaller sizes of the pattern for the Lotus Blossom Tank go from 33" to 39", without any allowance for sizes in between.



Lace Panel Bottom for Top

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	•	•				•	•	
	•	•				•	•	

• - Purl on right side, knit on wrong side

△ - SK2P - Slip 1 st, k2tog, pss0

○ - Yarn over

□ - Knit on right side, purl on wrong side