# BUILD BOOK

PRINCESS ANNA'S TRAVELING OUTFIT

Transatlantic Crochet



### **PRESENTATION**

I have been a fan of the Frozen franchise since the movie came out in 2013. I loved the refreshing take on a story of true love, and as a Scandinavian nerd, I loved the art style and costume designs. However, it wasn't until 2018 that I thought of cosplaying any of the characters.

I made my first crochet cosplay in 2017 - essentially by accident and without much forethought. When that cosplay worked out well, I was inspired to try something even more ambitious. After making Anna's ballgown from Elsa's coronation, I decided to make a more practical outfit of hers.

This outfit is made of lots of little pieces with lots of small details - which is exactly the kind pf project I wanted to push myself to do. I began working on this project in October 2020 and completed it in March 2021.





Designing the cape, October 2020

### WHY CROCHET?

Making crochet cosplays is essentially my brand, at this point.

I have been crocheting non-stop for about the last 9 years as it helps with anxiety and kept my hands busy. At this point, all of my friends and family had all the hats, scarves and jumpers they would ever need - so I had no one to really crochet for.

Working on a big project like a cosplay provided me with hours and hours of crocheting time. It kept me especially sane during lockdown and quarantine during 2020

But for more than just practical reasons, I also try to be a spokesperson for crochet, and love introducing people my own age or younger to it. A lot of stigma surrounds fiber arts like crochet and knitting: that it's only for old ladies, only good for baby blankets and doilies, and so on. even before I started cosplaying, I did my part to rebrand crochet as something that could be fun and modern.

# REFERENCES





### SKIRT AND MITTENS

- Brand:
- Ice Yarns Baby Summer
- Fiber Content:
- 50% Cotton, 50% Acrylic
- Colours:
- Blue, baby blue, green, gold
- Weight:
- 50 gr. / 1.76 oz. per ball
- Yarn Thickness:
- 3 Light: DK, Light, Worsted
- Price per ball:
- 1.12 USD
- I chose a cotton blend as this piece would be in contact with skin, and this style came in bolder colours

### CAPE AND BONNET

- Brand:
- Ice Yarns Elite Baby
- Fiber Content:
- 100% Antipilling Acrylic
- · Colour:
- Fuchsia
- Weight:
- 50 gr. / 1.76 oz. per ball
- Length:
- 125 m. / 136 yds. per ball
- Yarn Thickness:
- 3 Light: DK, Light, Worsted
- Price per ball:
- 0.62 USD
- I would have preferred a wool blend for this outerwear but this was the only range with the colour I needed









### CAPE AND BONNET

- Brand:
- Ice Yarns Lorena
- Fiber Content:
- 50% Cotton, 50% Acrylic
- Colour:
- Purple
- Weight:
- 100 gr. / 3.53 oz. per ball
- Yarn Thickness:
- 2 Fine: Sport, Baby
- Price per ball:
- 2.25 USD
- This yarn was used for the colourwork on the edge of the cape, bonnet and in part of the skirt

- Brand:
- Ice Yarns Lambkin
- Fiber Content:
- 100% Micro Fiber
- · Color:
- Ecru
- Weight:
- 200 gr. / 7.05 oz. per ball
- Yarn Thickness:
- 6 SuperBulky: Bulky, Roving
- Price per ball:
- 0.62 USD
- This yarn was used to replicate the fur trim on the cape and bonnet





### SHIRT

- Brand:
- Ice Yarns Natural Cotton Air
- Fiber Content:
- 100% Cotton
- Colour:
- Baby Blue
- Weight:
- 100 gr. / 3.53 oz. per ball
- Yarn Thickness:
- 2 Fine: Sport, Baby
- Price per ball:
- 1.25 USD
- I used this yarn for the shirt as it is very breathable - a must for a fitted piece like this

### **BOOTS AND BODICE**

- Brand:
- Ice Yarns Favourite Wool
- Fiber Content:
- 50% Wool, 50% Acrylic
- Color:
- Black
- Weight:
- 100 gr. / 3.53 oz. per ball
- Yarn Thickness:
- 4 Medium: Worsted, Afghan, Aran
- Price per ball:
- 1.75 USD
- This is one of my favourite yarns it is very resistant and hardy,
   making it a good choice for the
   boots.







The only ready-made items in this cosplay are a pair of generic black tights, a vest worn underneath the shirt to prevent chafing and my winter boots.

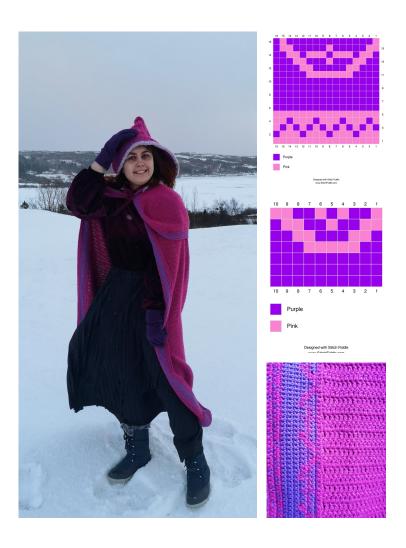
I bought the wig second hand and restyled it myself, as it was in need of some TLC.

As for her makeup, Anna has a very natural look. After a base of foundation and concealer, I added a very natural eye shadow, lashings of blush and a pink lipstick. I use a brown eyeliner on the outer half of my eyes and some mascara.

I have naturally green/blue eyes so do not use contacts.



### MAKING THE CAPE



The first piece I made was the cape. Early on, I wanted the patterns I created to be versatile - so they could be used beyond the scope of this one cosplay.

In the case of the cape, this translates to the top and bottom layers being separate, and connected with snaps - and the addition of a hood (also detachable with snaps).

The hood was a personal choice on my end as wearing just a bonnet is not actually very practical: a lot of cold wind can easily go down the exposed neck. It makes more sense for her to have a hood, as was suggested in some of her concept art.

To mimic the design around the edge of her cape, I used crochet colourwork: using multiple strands of yarn to create a colourful pattern.

I sewed on some (manufactured) pompoms around the edge of the top cape using strands of yarn, and fitted a nordic-inspired clasp I bought online.

I even took it for a spin in the Icelandic snow!

### **MAKING THE BONNET**

The second piece I made was the bonnet, using the same yarns as for the cape.

To get an idea for the structure, I used a vintage crochet pattern for a Quaker bonnet. The original pattern was far too small for my 21st century head, but I used the same shaping techniques to achieve the result.

I hesitated as to how to best attach the bonnet to my head. After experimenting with a ribbon (which did not fit nicely under the braids) I opted to simply pin it in place with hair slides.



### MAKING THE SKIRT



Next came the skirt, that I was actually looking forward to - as I planned on making it a wearable, every day piece. I began with an elastic waistband - during covid my waistline has been up and down and I wanted this cosplay to accommodate that. This does make for a super comfy skirt.

Then I added two pockets, both big enough to fit a mobile phone in. All skirts deserve more pockets and I prefer to carry my own belongings at cons, so this was a natural choice.

The colourwork was quite ambitious. I designed the exact schematic to follow using the embroidery reference shown earlier, but did not properly tidy up my ends initially - leading to the interior of the skirt looking like a horrifying cat's cradle.

I did manage to clean it up and now you'd never know!

### MAKING THE SHIRT

I gave myself the challenge to make the shirt as closefitting as possible, to prevent crumpling under the bodice.

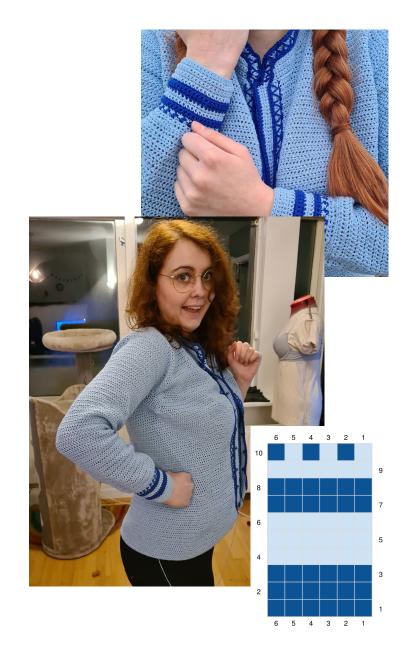
This was a first for me, making a piece so exact - and it took a lot of trial and error.

Luckily I had obtained a tailor's dummy (called M-Anna-quin) at this point and was able to measure the pieces more easily. I learned a lot from designing this piece, about gauge and how human arms work!

I have a rather large frame and this was the first time a shirt had ever fit me so well - so now I need to make a few more.

It closes with both snaps and hooks and eyes, to prevent the illusion of the fabric being tugged and keeping the centre embroidery straight.

The design is a mix of colourwork and embroidery for the more finicky pieces.

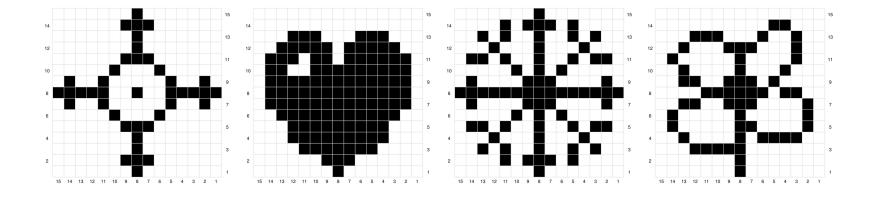


# MAKING THE MITTENS

The mittens were a no-brainer to make, as I had already designed a gloves pattern - the principal is very similar.

To keep the pattern interesting, I published the pattern with a series of possible designs, not just Anna's.





### MAKING THE BODICE

The bodice was quite the endeavor - which I did not expect.

Still cocky from finishing the shirt, I went about the bodice in the same way - but neglected to actually try it on with the skirt. It was only after I had embroidered it that I wore it and found it was a good 20 cm too long.

So I started over. I finished the second one in half the time and already knew how best to do the embroidery, having practiced on the first one.

The embroidery is a mix of crocheted appliqué and crochet embroidery (surface crochet).

The bodice has a corset back - this is not cannon but I prefer this look, and it is more adjustable this way.



Realising the bodice was too long

### MAKING THE BOOT COVERS

The name of the game with this cosplay is practicality and comfort above all else: this is why I chose to create boot covers instead of crocheting a pair of boots.

While this would be possible, they would not be practical - and I want to be able to wear this outfit in the winter here in Iceland!

I made a first set of boot covers for another cosplay, as a warm-up for these ones. A zip at the back closes the cover snugly around the boot to prevent slipping.

The embroidery is all surface crochet embroidery yet again.





## SOME FUN STATS



The cape took 110 hours and contains 1.2 kg of yarn!

The skirt took 108 hours and contains 1.8 kg of yarn!

The mittens and bonnet each took 8 hours and used less than a ball of yarn.

The shirt took 99 hours and contains 600g of yarn!

The boots took 34 hours and about two balls of yarn.

The bodice took 82 hours and about 500g of yarn

# THANK YOU FOR READING

ALL PHOTOS ARE
THE PROPERTY OF
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CROCHET UNLESS
STATED OTHERWISE