Little girl's romantic summer coat

A unique masterpiece with total fascination guarantee! Crocheting this piece is a lot of fun as you work with a variety of colors, patterns and shapes. Thanks to its shape the coat can be worn by your kid for several years: as a long coat for a 1.5 year old or as a jacket with ¾ sleeves for a 7 year old.
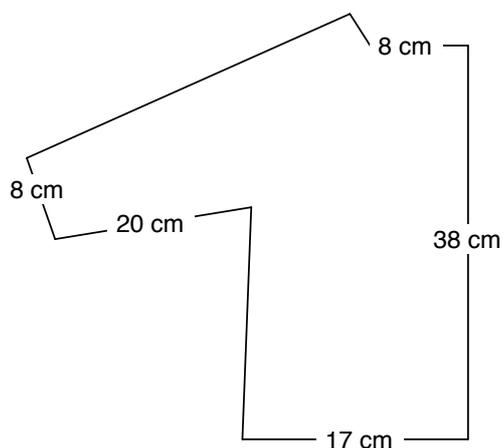
SKILL LEVEL: *experienced*

FINISHED SIZE
Instructions are given for a single size which is equivalent to 12 – 24 months or 86 -92 cm. However, as mentioned above, the coat can fit a much older kid.
Hints for other sizes: use a thicker yarn and/or a larger hook to have a larger size or a thinner yarn and/or a smaller hook for a smaller size. Alternatively, you can request the calculation for your desired size from me – I'll make it for you at no extra cost!:

FINISHED GARMENT MEASUREMENTS

The measurements are shown for the right half of the coat without the shell edges. One layer of shells adds 3 cm to the length; 3 layers of shells add 6 cm.

MATERIALS

Versailles supersoft yarn (50 g / 196 meter per skein) or any soft yarn of comparable density). 1 skein each

  ❑ white with pastel parts
  ❑ multi-color
  ❑ lilac
  ❑ rose
  ❑ apricot
  ❑ mint
  ❑ light blue
  ❑ light yellow

Crochet hook 3.5 mm or another size needed to obtain gauge.

Optional: 4 (5) [6] matching buttons.

GAUGE

22 stitches = 10 cm
6 rows of dc = 5 cm

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

  o   chain stitch (ch st)
  ●   slip stitch (sl st)
  | single crochet (sc)
  † half double crochet (hdc)
  † double crochet (dc)
  ‡ tripple crochet (tc)
  ⌛ 5-fold popcorn dc

GENERAL NOTE:
When working in rounds, use a sl st to join each row into a round.

In the beginning of a row, use 1 ch st in place of a sc, use 3 ch st in place of a dc and 4 ch st in place of a tc.
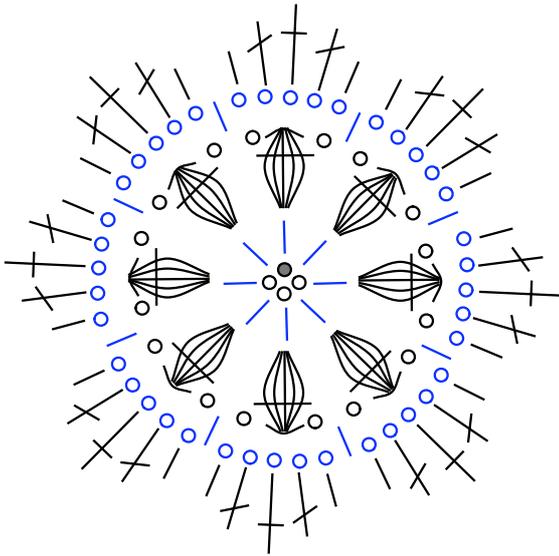
In some diagrams, adjacent rows are shown in different colors to facilitate the understanding of the patterns.

The front and back of the coat are crocheted as a single piece. The sleeves are crocheted separately up to the armhole shaping. Then, at the breast level, all parts are crocheted as a single piece till the end.

MAIN PART
Start working on the main part by making a stripe of flowers. The remainder of the main part below the flower stripe is crocheted in the downward direction. The remainder of the main part above the flower stripe is crocheted in the upward direction.

Crochet 12 flowers (2 of each color except white and multi-color) according to the diagram on page 3. The initial chain and the first 2 rows are done with the corresponding color; the remaining 2 rows are done in white.

Explanation to the diagram:

Row 1: chain 3 and join them into a ring with a sl st
Row 2: 8 sc into the ring
Row 3: (a 5-fold popcorn dc, chain 2) into each st

A *5-fold popcorn dc* is done as follows: Work 5 dc in the same stitch, drop loop from hook, insert hook from front to back in the top of the first dc of group and pull dropped loop through stitch (see the picture).
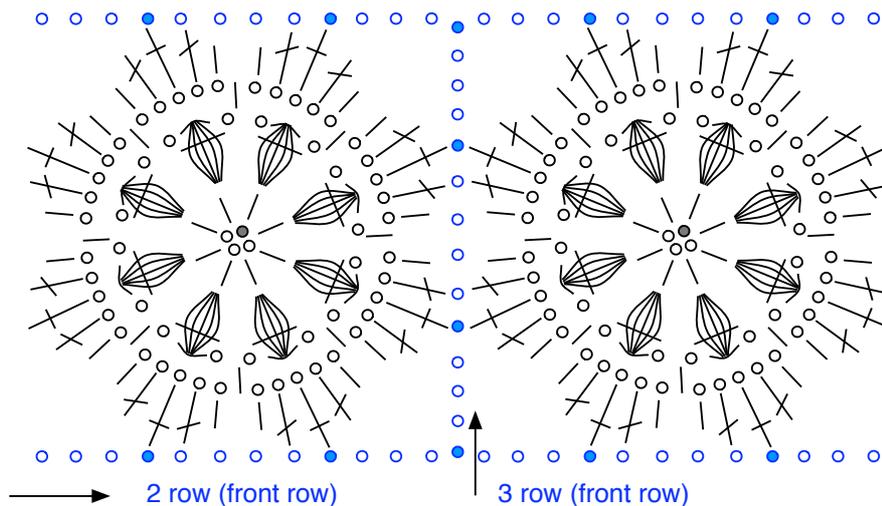
Row 4: (sc, chain 5) into each ch-2 space
Row 5: (sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc) into each ch-5 space

1 row (front row)

2 row (front row)   3 row (front row)

The flowers are joined into a stripe by working a chain of stitches with sl st into flower petals' middle stitches as shown in the diagram below. First, the flowers are joined horizontally and, then, vertically. In the vertical chains, both flowers are joined with a single sl st.

The length of the resulting stripe should be 145 st (12 flowers x 12 ch. st +1 edge st.).

3

Continue by working towards the bottom of the coat.

Row 1 (white): sc in each ch st (=145 st). Do not turn the work!
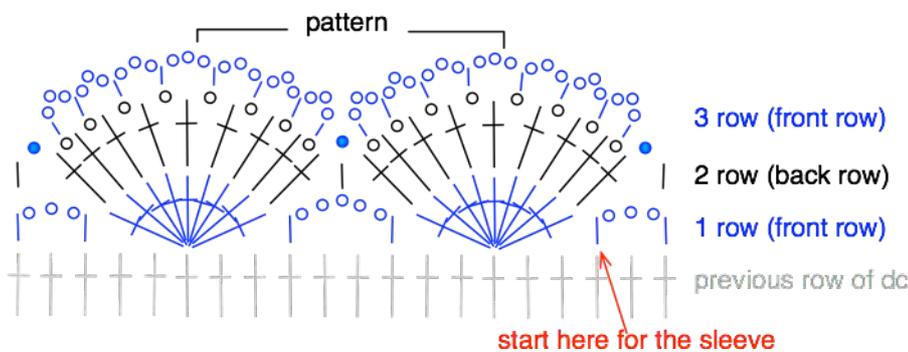Row 2 and 3 (lilac): dc in each st of the previous row, turn the work.
Rows 4-7: Repeat row 2 and 3 with the rose and with the light blue color (=145 st).

Join the mint color and work a layer of shells according to the diagram. Note that the right and the left sides of the diagram show how to start and how to end the row whereas the middle part shows the repeating pattern. You should have the total of 16 shells (9 st x 16 +1 edge st = 145 st)

Working behind the shells, work a row of (dc, ch 2, skip 2 st) into the back loops of the row, previous to row 1 of the shells (see photo).

Work 2 more layers of shells in light yellow and in apricot, respectively. Remember to shift each row of shells so that the middle of the new shell appears exactly between the 2 shells of the previous row (see photo).

3 row (front row)
2 row (back row)
1 row (front row)
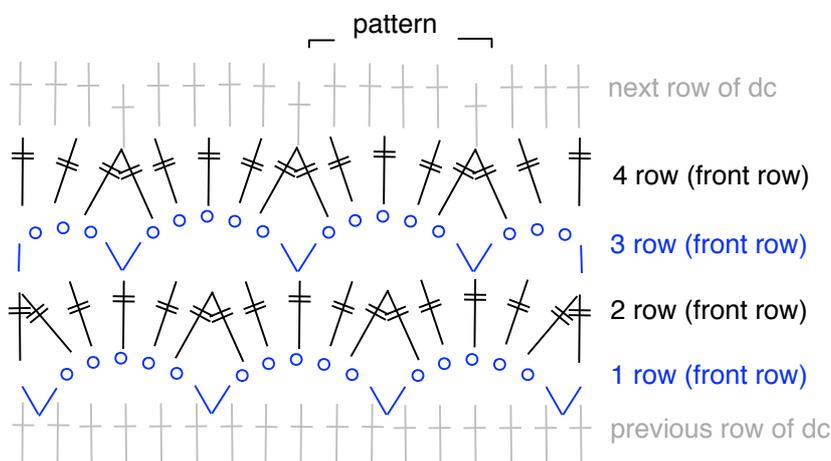previous row of dc
start here for the sleeve

Now, continue working towards the top of the coat.
Row 1 (white): * sc in each of 11 ch st, skip 1 ch st; repeat from * till the end of the row (=133 st). Do not turn the work!
Row 2 and 3 (lilac): dc in each st of the previous row, turn the work.
Rows 4-7: Repeat row 2 and 3 with the rose and with the light blue color (=133 st).
Rows 8-11: proceed according to the diagram below, with rows 8 and 10 in mint and rows 9 and 11 in light yellow. Each row is a front row, i.e., you should not turn the work. Note that the right and the left sides of the diagram show how to start and how to end each row whereas the middle part shows the repeating pattern.

pattern

next row of dc
4 row (front row)
3 row (front row)
2 row (front row)
1 row (front row)
previous row of dc

Explanation to the diagram:

Row 1: 2 sc are made in between the 2 dc of the previous row. Make sure to insert the hook between the two dc and not into the stitch itself (see the photo).

Row 5 (the first row after the pattern): each 4th dc is made in between the pair of joint dc and not into the stitch itself (see the photo).

Rows 12-13 (light blue): the same as rows 2-3.

4

Rows 14-15 (rose): the same as rows 2-3.
Row 16 (lilac): the same as row 1.

Starting from the next row, the main part and the sleeves are crocheted as a single piece.

SLEVES

Crochet 6 flowers (1 of each color) the same way you did for the main part. For the first sleeve, join the lilac, the rose, and the apricot flower into a stripe according to the diagram. The length of the ring should be 36 st (3 flowers x 12 ch st) on the bottom and 42 st (3 flowers x 14 st) on the top.

Join the stripe into a ring by joining each pair of flowers with a vertical chain of stitches. For the second sleeve, do the same with the other 3 flowers.

From this point, both sleeves are crocheted identically. Work in rounds (joining each row into a ring with a sl st).

Continue by working towards the bottom of the sleeve.

Row 1 (white): sc in each ch st (=36 st). Do not turn the work!
Row 2 (lilac): dc in each st of the previous row. Do not turn the work!
Rows 3 and 4: Repeat row 2 with the rose and with the light blue color (=36 st).

Make 3 layers of shells like for the main part (one layer has the length of 4 shells). Since you work in rounds, you do not need to adjust the pattern at the beginning or at the end of the row. Therefore, start at the point specified in the diagram.

Now, continue by working towards the top of the sleeve.

Row 1 (white): sc in each ch st (=42 st). Do not turn the work!
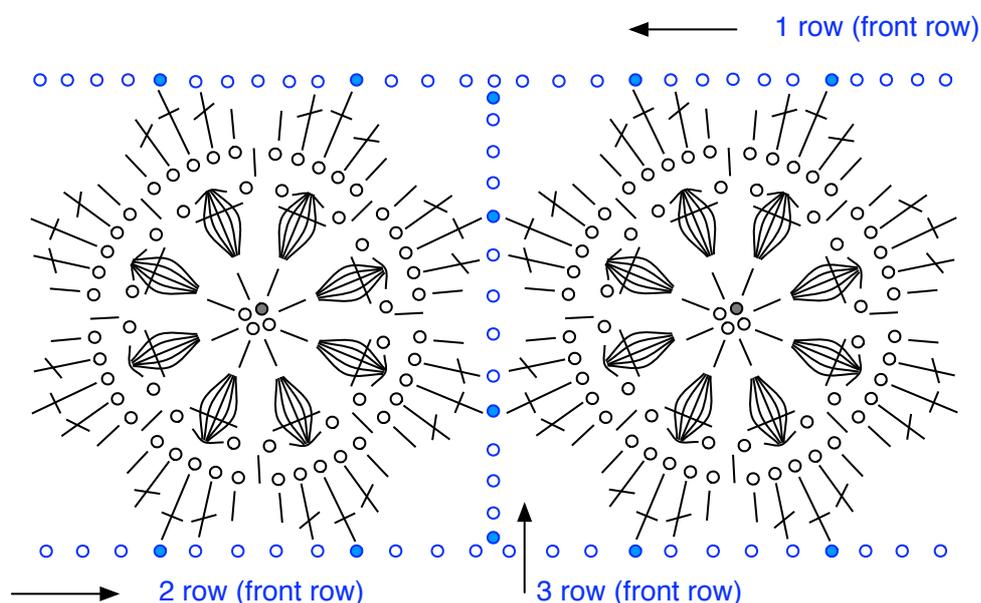Row 2 (lilac): dc in each st, 2 dc in the last st (=43 st). Do not turn the work!
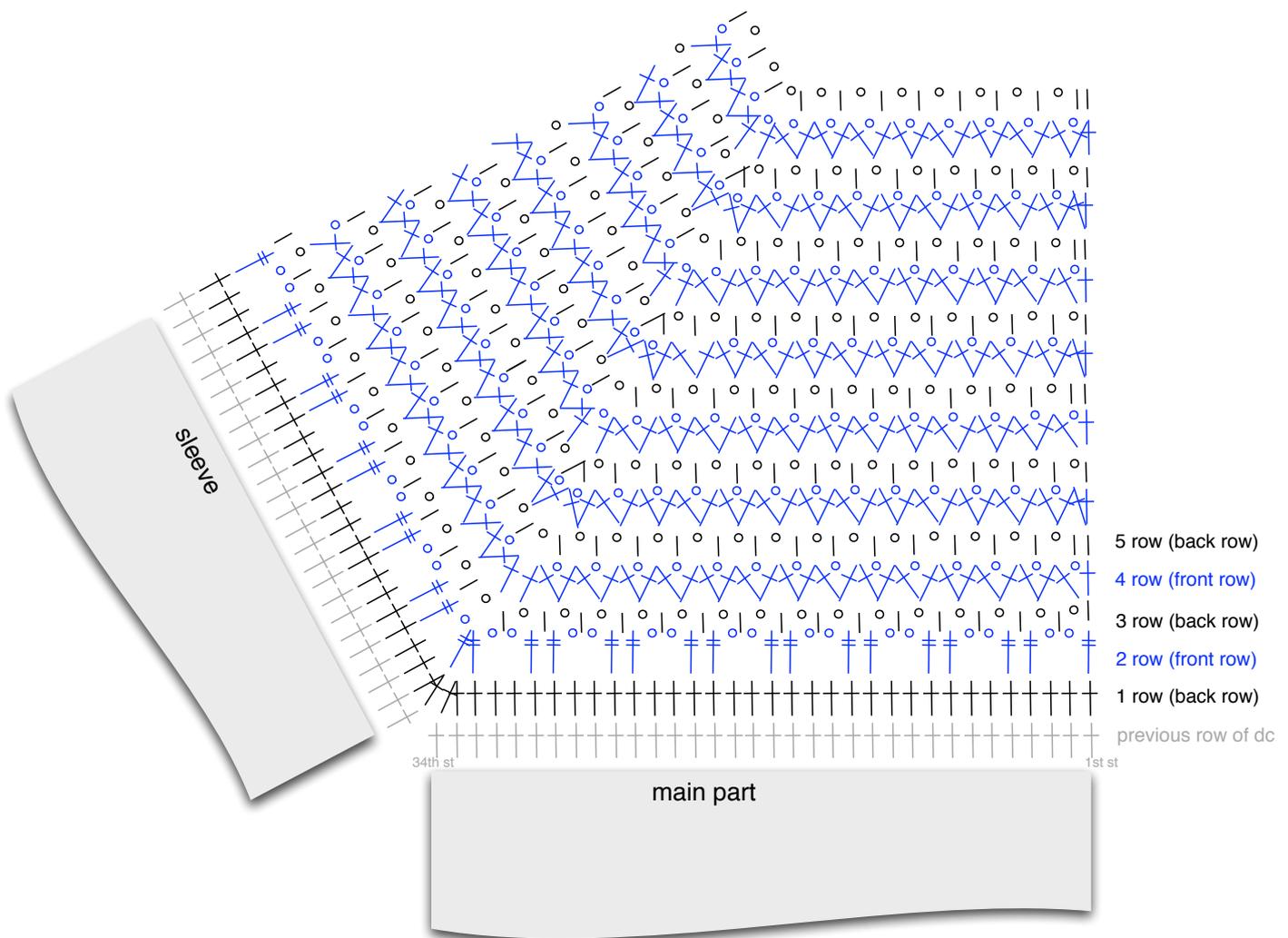Rows 3 and 4: Repeat row 2 with the rose and with the light blue color (=45 st).
Rows 5 and 6: work row 1 and 2 of the diagram, with row 1 in mint and row 2 in light yellow. Since you work in rounds, you do not need to adjust the pattern at the beginning or at the end of the row.
Rows 7 and 8 (light blue): dc in each st, 2 dc in the last st. Turn the work.
Row 9 and 10: Repeat rows 7 and 8 with the rose color.
Row 11: Repeat row 7 with the lilac color (=50 st).

1 row (front row)

2 row (front row)   3 row (front row)

sleeve

5 row (back row)
4 row (front row)
3 row (back row)
2 row (front row)
1 row (back row)
previous row of dc

34th st

1st st

main part

JOINING MAIN PART WITH SLEEVES

Fold the main part to form the back and the front parts, marking the positions for attaching the sleeves at the 34th dc from the beginning and from the end of the last row. The diagram shows the remaining rows at the example of the right-hand front and the front half of the right sleeve.

Row 1 (lilac): work a back row of dc (see row 1 in the diagram below) joining the parts as follows: left-hand front, left sleeve, back, right sleeve, right-hand front.
Row 2 (light yellow): see the diagram.
Row 3 (rose): see the diagram.

Starting from row 4, all even rows are done as front rows with white color and all uneven rows as back rows in multicolor.

The total number of rows depends on the desired size of the neck opening.

EDGE SHELLS:

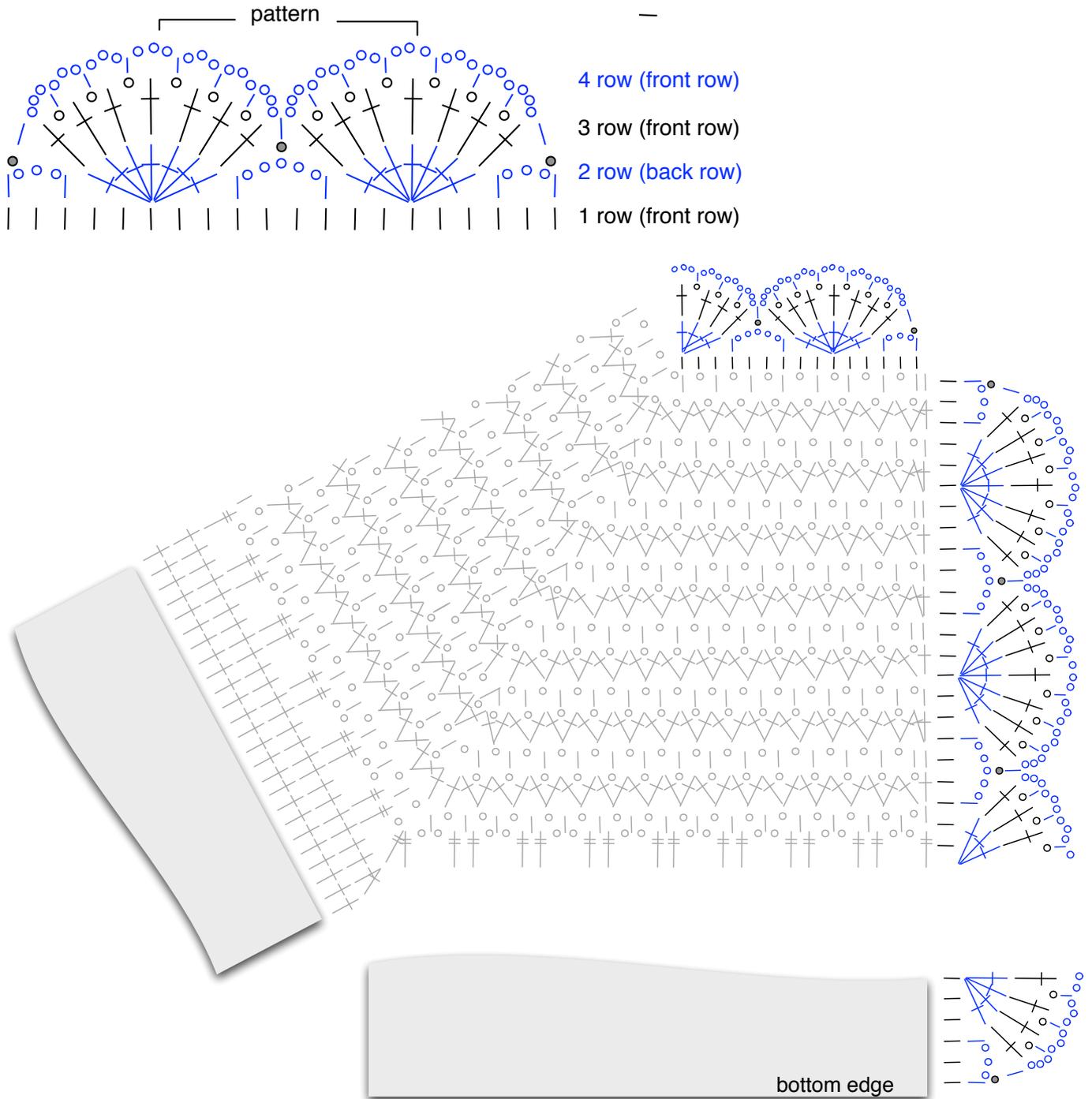The opening of the coat (i.e., both side edges in front and the neck edge) are decorated with a layer of shells. Attach the rose color to the side edge of the right-hand front just above the bottom shells and proceed according to the diagram as follows:

Row 1: sc along the edge, the neck opening and the other edge around as follows: 1 sc along a sc or a ch st, 2 sc along a dc and 3 sc along a tc. Turn the work!

Row 2: According to the diagram. However, first you need to estimate at which position to start the pattern. The goal is to have the end of the top shell right at the upper end of the edge, as shown in the diagram on the next page. Since the shell pattern has the length of 9 st (+1 st for the first and the last shell), you need to count down the edge to find the position of the first shell at the bottom. Do the same for the neckline to assure the symmetry on the right and on the left front parts.
Row 3: according to the diagram. Fasten off.
Row 4 (multi-color): according to the diagram as a front row.

pattern

4 row (front row)

3 row (front row)

2 row (back row)

1 row (front row)

bottom edge

CORD WITH FLOWER ENDS

Twist a cord from 8 strands of any color of your choice. The length of the finished cord should be about 1 meter. Pull the cord through the spaces of the last dc row around the neckline. Crochet 2 flowers according to the diagram and attach them to the ends of the cord.

If you wish to attach buttons, distribute the desired number along the edge so that you can use the chain spaces in the opposite shell edge as button holes.