The pattern for my House Gown is based on one produced by Minerva in 1930, the Alora No. 3300 evening gown. [You can find the original pattern here](#).

How this got started:
I wanted to knit an evening gown but I had no excuse to make one and nowhere fancy to go anyway. The way I saw it, that just freed me from the constraints of needing to focus too much on fit, materials or appropriateness. I call this a House Gown because I don't intend to wear it outside the house, and designed it with a generous amount of ease through the skirt and bodice. My thought was that if I'm going to spend a full six months knitting a garment, I want to be able to wear that garment, swanning around my house drinking bubbly wine, for years to come. That's actually a challenging requirement for me because my body is constantly changing shape. I like to work out, run, lift weights, and I don't throw clothes out until they're at least two sizes too big or two sizes too small, because there's a good chance that within a year or so I'll be able to fit in them again. So I wanted this dress to be adjustable to accommodate that without losing the sleek elegance of the original design.

Deviations from original design:
Drawstring added:
The original pattern does not call for a belt, just seaming the skirt directly to the bodice. It does, however, suggest a grosgrain ribbon to act as a belt and disguise that seam. I decided to add a drawstring between the skirt and the bodice instead, incorporating the belt directly into the garment, giving it more structure around the wearer and allowing for adjustable sizing.

Knit in round:
The original pattern called for the front and back of the bodice, and all three skirt panels, to be knit flat and seamed together later. In my early trials I did knit the bodice this way, ultimately using the bodice front as a swatch. I got maybe ⅓ into knitting my first skirt panel (flat) before I realized I had about 30 stitches more than I needed, and that purling was going to be very time consuming so I frogged the panel and rewrote the pattern completely. Based on my own measurements, including height, I rewrote the pattern to be done in the round, so I'd only need to knit the skirt once and not seam it together at all. This also made it easier to accommodate my dynamic 21st century body.

A note on sizing:
The original pattern lists only one size. That size may or may not have made sense in 1930, but it does not make sense for me. I also knew that I wanted a generous fit on the finished garment, because I wanted to swim around in a sea of fabric and my personal style goals are a little more Morticia Addams than Ginger Rogers (all respect to Ms. Rogers). You can really do whatever you want when you've already decided this garment is unlikely to ever leave your house. I loved that it had an open back in the original design, and exaggerating the sizing emphasized that. I did add two small i-cords at the shoulder seams to help hold the garment closed at the neckline, so the fit isn't exactly square but it does align with my initial design goals. The back has a beautiful, open drape as a result of the generous sizing.

Volume:
Laid flat and unseamed, both the skirt and the bodice on this garment have about 7" of ease. The belt was built with about 4" of ease. The excess fabric on the skirt is gathered into one pleat at the back, and much (but not all) of the excess fabric on the bodice is gathered in this same way. I put this here for a couple of reasons. First, as I said before I want this garment to work for me for many years to come because I am unlikely to spend another six months knitting one garment (she says now, not believing herself). If many years down the road, four inches of ease isn't enough, I have three more available in the pleat. I'd have to take the garment apart, including the crochet border, rebuild a belt, reseam it all together, and then put the crochet border back, but that's still less work than starting from scratch. Am I likely to ever do that? Probably not, but I have the option to at least.

Beading:
There are between six and 10 small gold beads placed at the end of each i-cord. They're decorative. They serve no purpose except that I like them, and I think they add a finished element where one could otherwise easily not exist.

Sizing:
The garment I knit is size Medium, which could be considered a 2018 size 8. All sizes have 4" of ease in the belt, but 7" of ease in the skirt and the bodice. The excess fabric is gathered into a pleat at the back.
Finished waist measurement: 37"

Stitch pattern:
This whole dress is knit in the same overall lace pattern. It is an easy to memorize four row repeat.

Gauge:
Both this garment, and the original 1930 pattern, call for a gauge of 8 sts per inch.
The original pattern called for Minerva Boucle Yarn, which Detective Google tells me was likely sold in 1 oz, 85 yard balls of likely a rayon or rayon blend. Considering that the finished Medium written in my pattern used 4,268.32 yards (or 2.43 miles) of thread, Minerva really had a racket going selling 85 yard balls for an evening gown.

Needles and hook:
This garment is knit on U.S. Size 4 needles (3.5 mm) throughout.
The bodice is held on a 24" circular needle.
The skirt is held on a 36" circular needle.
The crochet border is added using a size US 1, (English 3.0, 2.25 mm) steel crochet hook.
The belt is knit on size US 0 DPN (2.0 mm)
The drawstring is knit on size US 1 DPN (2.25 mm)
The ties at the back are knit on size US 3 DPN (3.25 mm)
A tapestry needle is required for seaming and weaving in ends.

Yarn:

This garment is made using Knit Picks Curio, a 100% cotton, #10 crochet thread, sold in 100 gram balls with 721 yards per ball. A laceweight, sturdy thread that is very easy to work with and never splits. It sells for $3.99 per ball. (Total cost for this project in size Medium, $23.94 before labor, the cost of which makes this garment ~*~*~*~pRiCeLeSs*~*~*~*~).

<mark>Small:</mark>
<mark>Medium:</mark> 593 grams finished, (six balls)
<mark>Large:</mark>

Notions:

Up to two dozen moveable stitch markers are helpful for the increase rows on the skirt.
At least five regular stitch markers - three will be used to designate the thirds of the skirt, which can help let you know where you are in each row, two are used to visually mark off the stitch patterns at the start and end of each row. Used all together these will help keep you from frogging your garment because you missed an increase or knit a row incorrectly.
Row counter

A note on increase rows:

There are at least 800 hundred of live stitches on the skirt before casting off at the hem. Frogging that would be enough to turn this project into a permanent UFO. Plus, the stitch pattern is a little fussy and it can be easy to gain or add extra stitches over the course of 20 rows or more. I suggest carefully making increase rows by doing a little extra homework before you start, it will add time to that row but hopefully save you frustration and rework in the long run.

1. When you get to each increase row first count the number of stitches that are currently on your needles.
2. Review the chart to see the number of stitches that should be on your needles when the increase row is complete.
3. Now subtract the total number of stitches you want from the total number of stitches you have. That is the total number of stitches you want to increase.
4. Try to round that as close to a number divisible by four as possible. That is the total number of increases you want to add to this row.
5. Divide the total number of stitches you currently have, by the total number of increases you want to add to the row. That is how many stitches you want approximately between each increase. This will help keep your increases even throughout the garment.
6. Each increase adds 4 stitches to the garment, and can be done most invisibly by adding two stitches on either side of the S1, K2TOG, PSSO part of the repeat. **(Pick up the thread before the slipped stitch, knit front and back adding two, S1, K2TOG, PSSO, pick up the thread before the next stitch, knit front and back adding two, K1, P1, K1 [all in one stitch]).**
7. Count out those stitches between each increase and place a moveable stitch marker there. Place a moveable stitch marker where each increase will occur in pattern in this row.

8. Begin knitting after all the moveable stitch markers are in place. Add increases in the appropriate places.

PLEASE NOTE: This is the first pattern I've ever written and it's probably not the easiest project you could start with. I've tried my best to put an accurate stitch count for each size in this but there's a good chance my math is off. **I welcome corrections on this sizing.** If your size is not listed here, or you have questions about the design, fit, written pattern or sizing, please feel free to email me directly at lindsay.welbers@gmail.com.

Bodice:

Tip: If you knit this in the round using a circular needle, after you cast off for the armholes you will be working the front and two back sections separately for a total of 120 rows. Keep all stitches live on the needle while working the remaining sections. That makes it simple to seam the shoulders together using kitchener stitch when you are finished.

Cast on 260 stitches. Join in round paying careful attention not to twist the work.
Set up row: Place row counter at the join, this is the right side center marker, knit 130 stitches, place marker, this is the left side center marker, knit remaining stitches.
Row 1 - *K1, P1, K1 (all in one stitch), slip next stitch, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over*
Row 2 - Knit
Row 3 - *Slip first stitch, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over, K1, P1, K1 (all in one stitch)*
Row 4 - Knit
Continue for 13 rows.
Row 14: Increase 4 sts at each pattern marker. 268
Continue for 10 rows.
Row 24: Begin back decrease. K 55 (63, 71) bind off 8, knit to end of row.
Cut the yarn and move the beginning of the row to the right back beginning at the next row. You are now knitting flat. We will begin decreasing stitches at the beginning of some rows for the back, but we will add stitches for the bust at the front. 260
Row 25: As you purl, move row counter to the beginning of the work, which is now the back right side, and place a stitch marker at the side seam.
Continue for 4 rows.
Row 30: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * do this twice (8 total decreased), K 98 sts in patt, inc 4, K 4, inc 4, K 42, inc 4, K 4, inc 4, K 98 260
Row 31: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * do this twice (8 total decreased), purl to end of row 252
Continue for 5 rows
Row 36: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * do this twice (8 total decreased), K to end of row 244
Row 37: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * do this twice (8 total decreased), purl to end of row 236
Continue for 2 rows.

Row 40: Begin armhole decreases. K 60, cast off 4, K 94 (122, 134), cast off 4, K 60 (Front and back are now separate.) 236

Right back: Continue knitting in pattern for 2 rows.
Row 42: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * 4 total decreased, 56
Row 43: Purl
Row 44: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 52
Rows 45-51: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 52: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 48
Rows 53-57: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 58: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 44
Rows 59-61: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 62: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 40
Rows 63-69: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 70: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 36
Rows 70-75: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 76: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 32
Rows 77-120: Continue in pattern with no decreases. Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Leave stitches live on the circular needle while you work the remaining back and front sections.

Left back: Rejoin yarn on the purl side by the armhole. Purl remaining sts.
Row 42-120: Continue in pattern as established on previous side. Decreases will take place on the purl side for this row, and are made by P2Tog, p2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd. Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Leave stitches live on the circular needle while you work the remaining front section.

Front:
Row 41: Rejoin yarn at right armhole, purl across (154 total sts)
Row 42: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 150 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Row 43: At beginning of row *P2Tog, p2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * purl to end of row (4 total decreased, 146 total sts).
Row 44: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 142 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Row 45: At beginning of row *P2Tog, p2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * purl to end of row (4 total decreased, 138 total sts).
Row 46: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 134 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Row 47: At beginning of row *P2Tog, p2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * purl to end of row (4 total decreased, 130 total sts).
Row 48: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 126 total sts). Continue in patt to end

Row 49: At beginning of row *P2Tog, p2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * purl to end of row (4 total decreased, 122 total sts).
Rows 50-55: Continue in patt with no decreases
Row 56: Cast off for neckline. K 58 in patt, cast off 8, K 58 in patt
Begin working front straps and neckline.

Right front:
Row 57: Purl
Row 58: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 54 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Row 59: Purl
Row 60: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 50 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 61-69: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 70: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 46 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 72-75: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 76: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 42 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 77-81: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 82: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 38 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 83-87: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 88: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 34 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 89-93: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 94: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 30 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 95-99: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 100: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 26 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 101-109: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 110: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd* (6 total decreased, 20 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 111-120: Continue in pattern with no decreases. Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Leave stitches live on needle while you finish the left front.

Left front:
Row 57: Rejoin yarn on the purl side by the neckline. Work 58 sts in patt. Decreases for this section will be made at the start of the purl rows, which begin at the neckline.
Row 58: Knit 58 sts in pattern

Row 59: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 54 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Row 60: Knit in pattern
Row 61: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 50 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 63-68: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 69: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 46 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 70-74: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 75: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 42 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 76-80: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 81: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 38 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 82-86: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 87: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 34 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 88-92: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 93: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 32 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 94-98: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 99: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 28 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 100: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 101: At beginning of row *P2Tog, P2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, * (4 total decreased, 24 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 102-109: Continue in pattern with no decreases
Row 110: At beginning of row *K2Tog, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd, K2Tog, pass 1st stitch over 2nd* (4 total decreased, 20 total sts). Continue in patt to end
Rows 111-120: Continue in pattern with no decreases. Cut yarn leaving a long tail. Leave stitches live on needle while you finish the left front.

Using kitchener stitch, sew right straps together, and left straps together.

Skirt:

Cast on 260 stitches. Join in round paying careful attention not to twist the work.
Place row counter at the join. This is your center back and the start of your row.

Set up row: Knit 4, place marker, K82, PM, K88, PM, K82, PM, K4
Now there are markers on either side of your center to help you visually see where you are in the stitch pattern; and markers at each third of the skirt to help you visualize where you are in the skirt.

Row 1 - *K1, P1, K1 (all in one stitch), slip next stitch, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over*
Row 2 - Knit
Row 3 - *Slip first stitch, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over, K1, P1, K1 (all in one stitch)*
Row 4 - Knit
Continue in this pattern for 21 rows.

Increase row: K 40 sts in pattern, increase 4, K 40 sts in pattern, increase 4, K 50 sts in pattern, increase 4, K 50 sts in pattern, increase 4, K 40 sts in pattern, increase 4, K 40 sts in pattern, increase 4 - (Increased 24 stitches, 284 total)

Continue in pattern for 17 more rows

Increase row: K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4 - (Increased 32 stitches, 316 total)

Continue in pattern for 17 more rows

Increase row: K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 28 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt - (Increased 48 stitches, 364 total)

Continue in pattern for 27 more rows

Increase row: K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 28 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt, inc 4, K 24 sts in patt - (Increased 60 stitches, 424 total)

Continue in pattern for 27 more rows

Increase row: K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt, inc 4, K 32 sts in patt - (Increased 48 stitches, 472 total)

Continue in pattern for 27 more rows

Increase row: K 26 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 30 sts in patt, inc 4, K 26 sts in patt - (Increased 60 stitches, 532 total)

Continue in pattern for 27 more rows

Increase row: K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 46 sts in patt, inc 4, K 46 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt - (Increased 48 stitches, 580 total)

Continue in pattern for 27 more rows

Increase row: K 38 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4,

K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 38 sts in patt - (Increased 60 stitches, 640 total)

Continue in pattern for 31 more rows

Increase row: K 56 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 48 sts in patt, inc 4, K 56 sts in patt - (Increased 48 stitches, 688 total)

Continue in pattern for 31 more rows

Increase row: K 38 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 36 sts in patt, inc 4, K 38 sts in patt - (Increased 72 stitches, 760 total)

Continue in pattern for 31 more rows

Increase row: K 40 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 34 sts in patt, inc 4, K 40 sts in patt - (Increased 84 stitches, 844 total)

Continue in pattern for 24 more rows

Cast off skirt: Knit 281 stitches in patt, cast off 282 stitches, knit 281 stitches in patt

You are now knitting the train and the train is knit flat.

Train:
Row 1: Cast off 32 stitches at the beginning of the row.
Row 2: Cast off 32 stitches at the beginning of the row.
Rows 3-12: Cast off 8 stitches at the beginning of every row.
Row 13-28: Cast off 4 stitches at the beginning of every row.
Row 29-34: Cast off 8 stitches at the beginning of every row.
Row 35: Cast off remaining stitches.

Belt:
Cast on 28 sts across three size 0 DPN.
Join in round. K 27, P1, K 27, P1
Continue in this pattern for 37". Bind off.
Turn belt inside out. It should now lay flat.

Drawstring:
Place 20 gold beads on the thread.
Using size 1 DPN, cast on 3 stitches to begin i-cord.
Place 10 beads on 10 stitches across three or four rows as you work the i-cord.
Continue i-cord for 50" in length.

Place remaining 10 beads on 10 stitches across three or four rows as you work the i-cord.
Bind off.

Back ties:
Place 6 gold beads on the thread.
Using size 3 DPN, cast on 3 stitches to begin i-cord.
Place 6 beads on 6 stitches across two rows as you work the i-cord.
Continue i-cord for 10" in length.
Bind off.
Make two.

Blocking:
Block all pieces into desired shape. Blocking wires can be helpful for both the skirt and the bodice, as well as blocking the belt straight and flat.

Seaming:
Weave in all ends.

Bodice:
Using a tapestry needle and the same thread as used throughout
Gather excess 4" of width into a single 2" pleat at the center back of the bodice. Pin bodice to the belt using plenty of safety pins. It will move as you work the garment, but the safety pins should help to minimize that. The bodice should now be the same width as the belt.
Be sure to make sure the wrong side of the bodice is facing you as you seam it to the belt.
Seam across the width of the belt attaching stitches to the knit stitch on the belt. Place tack stitches along the upper edge where the pleat meets the top of the back to help keep it lying flat.

Skirt:
Gather excess 4" of width into a single 2" pleat at the center back of the skirt. Pin bodice to the belt using plenty of safety pins, line the pleats up at the bodice and skirt. It will move as you work the garment, but the safety pins should help to minimize that. The skirt should now be the same width as the belt.
Be sure to make sure the wrong side of the skirt is facing you as you seam it to the belt.
Seam across the width of the belt attaching stitches to the knit stitch on the belt.

Feed the drawstring through the belt.

Crochet border:
Note: Skipping this is not recommended because the border helps the neckline and back to hold its shape. Otherwise this dress wants to grow and grow.
Across the back and neckline, and on either side of the armholes chain the following border:
Ch 5 *skip 2 sts, 1 double crochet in next st following, ch 2*

Back ties:
Using a tapestry needle, anchor both back ties to the shoulder seams, leaving beading on the hanging end.

Finishing:
Put on garment. Pop bubbly wine. Swan about your house like a fancy lady. (Or a fancy gent, your gender expression is not mine to dictate.)