

Spring Robin



You know that spring isn't far away when you see the robins return. This pattern is a very quick and simple knit, worked in the round and in one piece. Wings are knit separately and seamed to body afterward. Pattern for the baby robin and instructions for the nest are also included.

Materials Required

Worsted weight yarn in the following colors and amounts:

- Color A (for breast) – about 50 yards
- Color B (for tail, head, and wings) – about 50 yards (a subtle color variation is recommended)
- Color C (for beak) – about 2 yards

Size 4 double pointed needles

Darning needle

Stuffing

Abbreviations

CO	cast on
dpn	double pointed needle
K	knit
P	purl
M1	make one stitch (see special note below)
st	stitch
sts	stitches
K2tog	knit two stitches together
PU	pick up (create) a new stitch from existing work
WT	wrap and turn (see special note below)
SSK	slip next two stitches knit-wise, place them back onto left needle, and then knit them together through the back loop

Special Notes

- The increases in this pattern (M1) are made by lifting the right “leg” of the next stitch (the right side of the stitch directly below the next stitch on your left needle), placing it on the left needle, then knitting it as you would any other stitch.
- Follow the wrap & turn (WT) rows as written in pattern. After knitting the number of sts specified, bring yarn to the front of your work, slip the next st on the left dpn to the right one, move yarn to the back of your work, and slip the stitch back to the left needle. Turn your work and purl the stitches back to the beginning of the needle. Then purl the number of sts specified on the other dpn, bring yarn to the back of your work, slip the next st on the left dpn to the right one, move yarn to the front of your work, and slip the stitch back to the left needle. Turn your work and knit the stitches back to the beginning of the needle. There’s a very good video on how to knit wrap & turns (or short rows) in the round at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14YwbnGfohM>

Body

With color A, CO 21 sts onto 3 dpns (7 on each) and work the following rounds:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) (M1, K7) 3 times
- 3) K all sts
- 4) (M1, K8) 3 times
- 5) K all sts

Short rows are now worked back and forth beginning at the juncture of the 1st and 3rd dpns. This will form the robin’s rounded breast:

- 1) 1st dpn: K4, WT, P4
3rd dpn: P4, WT, K4
- 2) 1st dpn: K5, WT, P5
3rd dpn: P5, WT, K5
- 3) 1st dpn: K6, WT, P6
3rd dpn: P6, WT, K6

Continue in this manner, increasing the number of stitches to knit/purl by one on each short row, until you have worked the K12, WT, P12 – P12, WT, K12 row. (This will require that some of the stitches on the 2nd dpn are wrapped as well.) Then work the following rounds:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, SSK, K1
- 3) K all sts
- 4) K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, SSK, K1
- 5) K all sts
- 6) K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, SSK, K1
- 7) K all sts
- 8) K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, SSK, K1
- 9) K all sts

At this point there are 19 sts remaining. Cut color A, and work the following rounds with color B:

- 1) K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, SSK, K1
- 2) K all sts
- 3) K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, SSK, K1
- 4) K all sts
- 5) K1, K2tog, K to last 3 sts, SSK, K1

Knit all remaining sts for 15 rounds. Measure off about 4 yards of color B, then cut. Roll into a ball and stuff inside of the robin for finishing the tail later. Thread a darning needle with a piece of scrap yarn, and slip all remaining live sts onto it.

Head

Stitches are now picked up in the original CO sts to form the robin's head. With color B, pick up the following sts:

- 1st dpn: PU the 4 sts to the right, and 3 sts to the left of the first CO st
- 2nd dpn: PU the next 7 sts
- 3rd dpn: PU the last 7 sts

- The 1st dpn should run straight across the bottom of the robin's head, and the 2nd and 3rd dpns should form an upside-down "V" which runs on each side of his head.

Knit across all sts on the 1st and 2nd dpns only. This will leave your working yarn in between the 2nd and 3rd dpns. Short rows are now worked back and forth beginning at this juncture:

- 1) 3rd dpn: K2, WT, P2
2nd dpn: P2, WT, K2
- 2) 3rd dpn: K3, WT, P3
2nd dpn: P3, WT, K3
- 3) 3rd dpn: K4, WT, P4
2nd dpn: P4, WT, K4

Continue in this manner, increasing the number of stitches to knit/purl by one on each short row, until you have worked the K8, WT, P8 – P8, WT, K8 row. (This will require that some of the stitches on the 1st dpn are wrapped as well.)

Knit all sts across all of the dpns until you're back at the juncture between the 2nd and 3rd dpns. **At this point, the 3rd dpn now becomes the 1st one.** Beginning with this dpn – work the following rounds:

- 1) K1, K2tog, K5, SSK, K1, K2tog, K5, SSK, K1
- 2) K all sts
- 3) K1, K2tog, K3, SSK, K1, K2tog, K3, SSK, K1
- 4) K all sts
- 5) K1, K2tog, K1, SSK, K1, K2tog, K1, SSK, K1

Switch to color C and work the following rounds to form the robin's beak:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) K all sts
- 3) (K1, K2tog) 3 times
- 4) K all sts
- 5) (K2tog) 3 times

Cut yarn and thread it into a darning needle. Thread into remaining live sts and pull tightly closed. Darn any holes. Stuff head (not beak) and body firmly, pushing out the robin's breast as you go. The stuffing should reach the point where color A ends, then extend about 1 inch into the color B section, tapering off gradually.

Place live sts from scrap yarn back onto 3 dpns and work the following rounds:

- 1) K3, M1, K7, M1, K3
- 2) K all sts
- 3) K all sts
- 4) K all sts
- 5) K4, M1, K7, M1, K4
- 6) K all sts
- 7) K all sts
- 8) K all sts

The remaining 17 live sts are now grafted together loosely with the Kitchener stitch. Since you have an uneven number, two of them (it doesn't matter which two) will need to be worked as one.

Wings

With color B, CO 12 sts onto 3 dpns (4 on each) and work the following rounds:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) (K1, M1, K2, M1, K1) 3 times
- 3) K all sts
- 4) (K2, M1, K2, M1, K2) 3 times
- 5) K all sts
- 6) (K2tog, K10) 2 times
- 7) K all sts
- 8) (K2tog, K9) 2 times
- 9) K all sts
- 10) (K2tog, K8) 2 times
- 11) K all sts
- 12) (K2tog, K7) 2 times
- 13) K all sts
- 14) (K2tog, K6) 2 times
- 15) K all sts
- 16) (K2tog, K5) 2 times
- 17) K all sts
- 18) K all sts
- 19) K all sts
- 20) K all sts

- 21) K2tog, K to last 2 sts, K2tog
- 22) K all sts

Repeat last two rounds until 4 sts remain. Cut yarn, thread through remaining live sts, pull tightly closed and secure. The K2tog stitches in the last section will cause the end of the wing to curve slightly upward. Flatten the wing and seam to body as pictured.

Nest

Cut several yards of yarn in various shades of brown and grey. Using your hands, mix the colors together and shape into a nest. With a large darning needle and yarn, baste first around the sides of the nest forming a loose donut shape. Then, flatten the sides between your thumb and index finger, and continue basting lengthwise with many long pieces of yarn until the nest holds its shape. You may need to add more yarn to the center.

Baby Robin

With pink yarn (or color A from the adult robin) CO 12 sts onto 3 dpns (4 sts on each) and K all sts for about 1½ inches. (If you're making more than one baby robin, you can make them different heights.) Then arrange sts so that there are 6 on two dpns only.

With color C, switch to smaller dpns (size 1 or 2 recommended), and work the following rows back and forth across one of the dpns:

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|-------------------|---------------|
| 1) K all sts | 5) SSK, K2tog |
| 2) P all sts | 6) P both sts |
| 3) SSK, K2, K2tog | 7) K2tog |
| 4) P all sts | |

Cut yarn, pull through remaining live stitch. Work rows 1-7 on the other dpn. Weave in loose ends. With the running stitch, baste a circle around the body about 1/2 inch down from the beginning of the beak. This is to differentiate the head from the body. Pull tightly and tie a knot to secure. Stuff a little pink yarn inside the head. Stuff body; the opening at bottom can be seamed closed, if desired. Eyes can be made with a large French knot.

