

# Betsy's Goose



Betsy's Goose is a realistic looking Canada Goose, with instructions also provided for a slightly rounder white goose. Made in one piece and knit in the round. Finished size is about 15 inches from tip of tail to bill, and 5 inches wide.

## Materials Required

Yarn – app. 150 yards total of worsted weight in brown, black, and white for Canada Goose, or white and orange for white goose (Red Heart Super Saver recommended)

Size 4 double pointed needles

Darning needle

Stuffing

2 wooden match-sticks or other straight sticks to stabilize the legs

Scrap yarn to embroider eyes (if desired)

## 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.
- The instructions regarding yarn color are for the Canada Goose. White geese are worked entirely in white yarn with orange bills, legs, and feet. The bodies of the two geese are worked the same except for the tail end. Instructions are given for both when you get to that point.
- The wrap & turn (WT) rows are worked on dpns 1 and 3 only for the goose’s breast, and on all three dpns for his head. After knitting the number of sts specified on the first needle, 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. Then turn your work and purl the stitches back to the beginning of the needle. Then purl the number of sts specified on needle 3, 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. Then turn your work and knit the stitches back to the beginning of the needle. There’s a very good video on how to do knit wrap & turns (or short rows) in the round at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14YwbnGfohM>

## Body

With brown yarn, CO 36 sts onto 3 dpns (12 on each) and work the following rounds:

- |        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 1-2)   | K all sts                  |
| 3)     | (M1, K6) repeat to end     |
| 4-5)   | K all sts                  |
| 6)     | (M1, K7) repeat to end     |
| 7-8)   | K all sts                  |
| 9)     | (M1, K8) repeat to end     |
| 10-11) | K all sts                  |
| 12)    | (M1, K9) repeat to end     |
| 13-14) | K all sts                  |
| 15)    | (M1, K10) repeat to end    |
| 16-17) | K all sts                  |
| 18)    | (M1, K11) repeat to end    |
| 19-23) | K all sts                  |
| 24)    | (K2tog, K10) repeat to end |
| 25-26) | K all sts                  |
| 27)    | (K2tog, K9) repeat to end  |
| 28-29) | K all sts                  |
| 30)    | (K2tog, K8) repeat to end  |
| 31-32) | K all sts                  |
| 33)    | (K2tog, K7) repeat to end  |
| 34-35) | K all sts                  |
| 36)    | (K2tog, K6) repeat to end  |
| 37-38) | K all sts                  |
| 39)    | (K2tog, K5) repeat to end  |
| 40-41) | K all sts                  |
| 42)    | (K2tog, K4) repeat to end  |
| 43-44) | K all sts                  |

Measure off about 3 yards of yarn (5 yards for the white goose), cut, and stuff inside for working the end of the goose later. Thread a darning needle with a piece of scrap yarn and slip all of the remaining live sts onto it, removing the dpns as you go.

## **Breast**

Stitches are now picked up in the original cast on sts to shape the goose's breast. Using white yarn, and beginning just to the right of the first CO st, PU 1 st for every CO st. There should be 36 sts total – 12 on each dpn.

1) K all sts

Short rows are now worked back and forth across the 1st and 3rd dpns to shape the rounded breast:

2) Needle 1: K1, WT, P1  
Needle 3: P1, WT, K1

3) Needle 1: K2, WT, P2  
Needle 3: P2, WT, K2

4) Needle 1: K3, WT, P3  
Needle 3: P3, WT, K3

Continue in this manner, increasing the number of stitches to knit/purl by one on each short row, until all of the sts on needles 1 and 3 (except the first one on each dpn) have been wrapped. Then work the following rounds on all three dpns:

1) K all sts  
2) (K2, K2tog) repeat to end  
3-4) K all sts  
5) (K1, K2tog) repeat to end  
6-7) K all sts (18)

## **Neck, Head, and Bill**

Switch to black yarn and K all sts for three inches. Without cutting the black yarn, add white yarn and K all sts for 4 rounds. Work one round in black.

Short rows are now worked to shape the goose's head. Knit all sts on needle 1, then work the short rows according to the instructions below beginning at the juncture between the 1st and 2nd dpns:

1) Needle 2: K1, WT, P1  
Needle 1: P1, WT, K1

2) Needle 2: K2, WT, P2  
Needle 1: P2, WT, K2

3) Needle 2: K3, WT, K3  
Needle 1: P3, WT, K3

Continue in this manner, increasing the number of stitches to knit/purl by one on each short row, until all of the sts (except the first one on needles 1 and 2) have been wrapped once. This includes the 6 sts on needle 3. Knit across needles 2 and 3, then work the following rounds on all three dpns:

1) (K1, K2tog) repeat to end

Switch to orange yarn at this point if knitting a white goose.

2-4) K all sts

5) (K2, K2tog) repeat to end

6-7) K all sts

8) (K1, K2tog) repeat to end

9-11) K all sts

Cut yarn, thread it into a darning needle and thread through the remaining live sts, removing dpns as you go. Secure end. Flatten out the bill. Stuff the head, neck, and front half of body very firmly.

### **Tail**

Place the 30 sts from scrap yarn back onto 3 dpns (10 sts on each). Work the following rounds:

1) (K2tog, K3) repeat to end

2-4) K all sts (K only 1 round for white goose)

5) (K2tog, K2) repeat to end

6-8) K all sts (K only 1 round for white goose)

Switch to black yarn.

9-10) (Canada Goose only) K all sts

At this point you will finish stuffing the body firmly. The tail will not be stuffed at all.

11) (K2tog, K1) repeat to end

12-13) K all sts

14) (K2tog, K2) repeat to end

15-16) K all sts

17) (K2tog, K1) repeat to end

18-19) K all sts

Cut yarn, thread it into a darning needle and thread through the remaining live sts, removing dpns as you go. Secure end. Flatten out the tail.

## Legs and Feet

With black yarn, CO 9 sts onto 3 dpns (3 on each) and work the following rounds:

- 1-3) K all sts
- 4) (K1, K2tog) repeat to end

K all sts for 1 inch, then work the following rounds:

- 1) (M1, K2) repeat to end
- 2) K all sts
- 3) (M1, K3) repeat to end
- 4) K all sts

Divide all sts onto two dpns (6 on each)

- 5) (SSK, K2, K2tog) repeat on 2nd dpn
- 6) (SSK, K2tog) repeat on 2nd dpn
- 7) K all sts
- 8) (K2tog) repeat on 2nd dpn

Cut yarn, thread it into a darning needle and thread through the remaining live sts, removing dpns as you go. Secure. Flatten out the foot. With the help of a knitting needle, stuff legs (not feet), and insert a wooden match or other straight stick down through the open end. This is to stabilize the leg and help support your goose when he is sitting. Seam the open end of each leg to the middle of your goose's belly about 1 inch apart.

Embroider eyes, if desired.

Have fun!

