

Songbird



Materials Required

DK or light worsted weight yarn in the following amounts:

- Color A (back, tail, top of head, wings) 20 yards
- Color B (breast, bottom of head) 10 yards

Size 2 double pointed needles

Size 2 straight needles (optional)

Darning needle

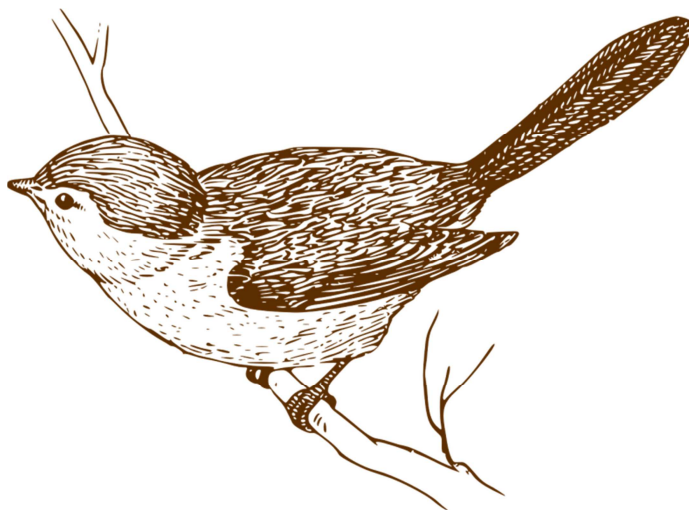
Stuffing

Abbreviations

CO	cast on
dpn	double pointed needle
K	knit
P	purl
st	stitch
sts	stitches
M1	make one stitch (see special note below)
M1R	make one stitch that leans to the right (see special note below)
M1L	make one stitch that leans to the left (see special note below)
K2tog	knit two stitches together
P2tog	purl two stitches together
SSK	slip two sts K-wise, place them back onto left dpn, then K them tog through back loop
PU	pick up (create) a new stitch from existing work
WT	wrap and turn (see special note below)
X	the number of times to work instruction in parentheses

Special Notes – Please Read First!

- The body of your songbird is worked flat with the intarsia method of colorwork in order to make his breast a different color. It can be knitted on dpns or straight needles. At most there will be 27 sts on one needle at a time.
- Suggested color changes are included in the pattern, but they can be eliminated completely to make a one-color bird, or altered for a different color head, tail, wings, etc. as desired.
- Anytime the stitch count changes (increases or decreases) in a row, the new stitch count will be seen in parenthesis at the end of the row.
- M1 = make one stitch: Lift the right “leg” of the next stitch (the right side of the stitch directly below the next stitch on your left needle), place it on the left needle, then knit it as you would any other stitch.
- M1R = make one stitch that leans to the right: Lift the strand between the stitches from back to front, then knit the lifted loop through the front.
- M1L = make one stitch that leans to the left: Lift the strand between the stitches from front to back, then knit the lifted loop through the back.
- WT = wrap and turn: After knitting the specified number of stitches, bring yarn to the front of 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. This “wraps” the stitch. Turn your work and purl the number of stitches indicated. Bring yarn to the back of 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. This wraps the second stitch. Turn your work and knit the number of stitches indicated. Note: Picking up and knitting the wraps in this pattern is optional.



Body

Work begins at neckline. Begin by preparing a second ball (just 6-8 yards) of color A. Using the long-tail method of casting on, CO 21 sts in the following colors and amounts all on the same needle (pic 1).

- Color A: 7 sts
- Color B: 7 sts
- Color A: 7 sts



(1)

Then work the following rows back and forth, slipping the first st of each row purl-wise on the P side, and knit-wise on the K side. When changing colors, be sure to bring the new color over the old one to prevent a gap from forming between them.

1)	Color A: Slip 1, P6 Color B: P7 Color A: P7		5)	Color A: Slip 1, P6 Color B: P9 Color A: P7	
2)	Color A: Slip 1, K6 Color B: K7 Color A: K7		6)	Color A: Slip 1, K6 Color B: M1, K9, M1 Color A: K7	(7 sts) (11 sts) (7 sts)
3)	Color A: Slip 1, P6 Color B: P7 Color A: P7		7)	Color A: Slip 1, P6 Color B: P11 Color A: P7	
4)	Color A: Slip 1, K6 Color B: M1, K7, M1 Color A: K7	(7 sts) (9 sts) (7 sts)	8)	Color A: Slip 1, K6 Color B: M1, K11, M1 Color A: K7	(7 sts) (13 sts) (7 sts)

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| 9) | Color A: Slip 1, P6
Color B: P13
Color A: P7 | 18) | Color A: SSK, K4 (5 sts)
Color B: K2tog, K7, SSK (9 sts)
Color A: K4, K2tog (5 sts) |
| 10) | Color A: Slip 1, K6
Color B: K12, WT, P11, WT, K12
Color A: K7 | 19) | Color A: Slip 1, P4
Color B: P9
Color A: P5 |
| 11) | Color A: Slip 1, P6
Color B: P13
Color A: P7 | 20) | Color A: SSK, K3 (4 sts)
Color B: K2tog, K5, SSK (7 sts)
Color A: K3, K2tog (4 sts) |
| 12) | Color A: Slip 1, K6
Color B: K12, WT, P11, WT, K12
Color A: K7 | 21) | Color A: Slip 1, P3
Color B: P7
Color A: P4 |
| 13) | Color A: Slip 1, P6
Color B: P13
Color A: P7 | 22) | Color A: SSK, K2 (3 sts)
Color B: K2tog, K3, SSK (5 sts)
Color A: K2, K2tog (3 sts) |
| 14) | Color A: Slip 1, K6
Color B: K12, WT, P11, WT, K12
Color A: K7 | 23) | Color A: Slip 1, P2
Color B: P5
Color A: P3 |
| 15) | Color A: Slip 1, P6
Color B: P13
Color A: P7 | 24) | Color A: SSK, K1 (2 sts)
Color B: K2tog, K1, SSK (3 sts)
Color A: K1, K2tog (2 sts) |
| 16) | Color A: SSK, K5 (6 sts)
Color B: K2tog, K9, SSK (11 sts)
Color A: K5, K2tog (6 sts) | 25) | Color A: Slip 1, P1
Color B: P3
Color A: P2 |
| 17) | Color A: Slip 1, P5
Color B: P11
Color A: P6 | 26) | Color A: Slip 1, K6 (7 sts) |

Only one strand of color A will be used from row 26 on. Cut the unused ball of color A (the one you didn't use for row 26) and color B. Arrange the 7 live sts onto 3 dpns, join in the round, and K all sts for 13 rounds. Cut yarn and thread through live sts. Pull closed and weave in loose end.

Your work at this point will look like this (pic 2). Use the CO tails and a darning needle to align the top edge, making it appear straighter and without gaps between the colors (pic 3).



(2)



(3)

With one hand, hold the edges together along the back of your songbird, and seam closed (pic 4). The tail should remain unstuffed and be flattened (pic 5); *do not leave it in a tubular shape*.



(4)



(5)

The body of your songbird can be stuffed now or later after the head is knitted; either way is fine.

Top of Head

With color A and 2 dpns, PU 14 sts in original color A CO sts – 7 on each side of the seam (pic 6). Then work the rows below back and forth. As with the body, slip the first st of each row purl-wise on the P side, and knit-wise on the K side. After a few rows all sts can be arranged onto a single dpn for easier knitting (pic 7).



(6)



(7)

- 1) Slip 1, P13
- 2) Slip 1, K13
- 3) Slip 1, P13

On the following row, 2 sts will be wrapped 3 times each. This will shape the head and change the direction of your work. Follow the instructions for row 4 exactly as written:

- 4) Slip 1, K11, WT, P10, WT, K10, WT, P10, WT, K10, WT, P10, WT, K12
- 5) Slip 1, P13
- 6) (SSK) 2X, K6, (K2tog) 2X (10 sts)
- 7) Slip 1, P9
- 8) (SSK) 2X, K2, (K2tog) 2X (6 sts)
- 9) Slip 1, P5
- 10) SSK, K2, K2tog (4 sts)
- 11) Slip 1, P3
- 12) SSK, K2tog (2 sts)
- 13) P2tog (1 st)

Cut yarn, thread through remaining st, weave in loose end on P side.

Bottom of Head

With color B and 1 dpn, PU 7 sts in original color B CO sts (pic 8). Leave a tail of 8 -10 inches for seaming the top of head to the bottom later. Then work the rows below back and forth, slipping the first st of each row as before:



(8)



(9)

1)	Slip 1, P6	
2)	Slip 1, K6	
3)	Slip 1, P6	
4)	SSK, K3, K2tog	(5 sts)
5)	Slip 1, P4	
6)	SSK, K1, K2tog	(3 sts)
7)	Slip 1, P2	
8)	Slip 1, K2tog	(2 sts)
9)	P2tog	(1 st)

Cut yarn, thread through last st, and weave in loose end on P side. The top of your songbird's head is now seamed to the bottom with the color B tail. To keep these sts from being seen in the color A section, insert darning needle through a little stitch underneath the top section instead of in the outer edge (pic 9). Hold both pieces in place with one hand while seaming with the other. Seam up one side to about 1/4 inch from the tip for an open beak (pic 10). Stuff body and head firmly, then continue seaming down the other side until head is closed; weave in loose end.



(10)

Wings (make 2)

Your songbird's wings are knit in the round with color A. CO 8 sts onto 3 dpns and work rounds below:

- 1) K all sts
- 2) K1, M1R, K2, M1L, K2, M1R, K2, M1L, K1 (12 sts)
- 3) K all sts
- 4) K all sts
- 5) K all sts
- 6) K1, M1R, K4, M1L, K2, M1R, K4, M1L, K1 (16 sts)
- 7) K all sts
- 8) K all sts
- 9) K all sts
- 10) K1, M1R, K6, M1L, K2, M1R, K6, M1L, K1 (20 sts)
- 11) K all sts
- 12) K all sts
- 13) K all sts
- 14) K2tog, K to last 2 sts in round, SSK (18 sts)
- 15) K all sts

Repeat last 2 rounds until 10 sts remain, ending after a plain K round. Then work the 3 rounds below to make the tip of the wing curve upward:

- 1) K3, K2tog, SSK, K3 (8 sts)
- 2) K2, K2tog, SSK, K2 (6 sts)
- 3) K1, K2tog, SSK, K1 (4 sts)

Cut yarn, thread through remaining live sts, pull closed, and weave in loose end. Seam front of wing to side of body (pic 11). Embroider eyes, if desired. Additional embroidery can be added as well to the wings, tail, or head to resemble a particular breed of bird. Enjoy!



(11)