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Ollie O' Owl

The "owl" is one of the most popular and beautiful birds in the world. Ollie is a handsome fella, full of fun & happiness. He stands just about 10.5 to 11 inches tall, the perfect size for hugging. Ollie would make a perfect gift for any occasion.

Ollie is knit in the round, so the only sewing will be his eyes, beak, and on his feet.

Skill Level: Advanced beginner/Intermediate

*Stitches used are knit, purl, Cast on, Cast off, and inc.

*Increases are made by knitting into the front and back of one stitch.

Knit 2tog=knit 2 stitches together.

Place Marker=pm Slide Marker=sm

Gauge: is not crucial, but the knitted fabric needs to be firm.

Materials needed: worsted weight yarn, approx. 3.5 oz. Main Color for body. Approx. 1.5 oz Second Color for head . Small amount of 3rd color for knitted eye discs. Small amount of contrast or 4th color for eye discs. Small amount of 5th color to embroider the beak.

Set of 5 size US 4 - 3.5 mm dp needles

Tapestry needle

Stitch markers

Safety eyes 15mm or whatever size you prefer
Small amount of denim or heavy material for backing the eyes
Shredded foam
Polyester fiber filling
6-point protectors

Note:

Attaching the wings is perhaps the trickiest part of this project. I have found that its easiest when I reach the stitches that I want to attach the wing to, is to work with these stitches alone. In order to do this, I slide the stitches to a separate needle. This makes it much easier to work with the stitches. Because you will be putting the wing stitches on the same needle, just like you did before you closed them. With the 3rd needle you will be picking up a stitch from the body and then a stitch from the wing, then the body, etc. until all the stitches from the wing have been picked up a total of 16 stitches. Now it's just a matter of knitting these stitches 2 together across 16 times. (the wings have 16 stitches) Finishing the wings will make it easier for you to understand. Everyone has their own way of doing things, so the most important thing is that you understand the idea of what we are doing. Once the light comes on it will be smooth sailing. First we will make the wings and eye discs. This way when we start the body and head, we will have the pieces we need to continue.

Let's get started:

Wings:

Make 2. With main color:

Cast on 6 sts, join for working in the round.

Row 1: knit even. Place marker on 3rd needle, in order to keep track of your rounds.*note: Markers on the 3rd needle will need to be moved closer to the end of the stitches, because of increasing and decreasing.

Row 2: k2, inc (K f&b), place a different colored 2nd marker, k2, inc (K f&b)

Row 3: knit = 8sts

Row 4: knit 3 inc, twice = 10 sts Row 5: knit

Row 6: knit 4 inc, twice = 12 sts Row 7: knit even*before you start the next round move 2 stitches from #2 needle to #1 needle.=So you should have : (#1 needle=4sts, #2 needle=3sts, #3 needle=5sts)

Row 8: knit 5 inc, twice = 14 sts

Row 9: knit even, you should be noticing that the second marker is showing you where to increase, and that the second increase is always on the last stitch.

Row 10: knit 6 inc, twice =16 sts Row 11: knit even

Row 12: knit 7 inc, twice =18 sts Row 13: knit even

Row 14: knit 8 inc, twice =20 sts Row 15: knit even

Row 16: knit 9 inc, twice =22 sts Row 17: knit even

Row 18: knit 10 inc, twice =24 sts Row 19: knit even

Row 20: knit 11 inc, twice =26 sts Row 21: knit even

Row 22: knit 12 inc, twice =28 sts Row 23: knit even

Row 24: knit 13 inc, twice =30 sts Row 25: knit even

Row 26: knit 14 inc, twice =32 sts Row 27: knit even

Row 28: knit 15 inc, twice =34 sts Row 29: knit even

Row 30; knit 16 inc, twice =36 sts Row 31: knit even

Row 32: knit 17 inc, twice =38 sts Row 33: knit even

Row 34: knit 18 inc, twice =40 sts Row 35: knit even

Row 36: thru Row 45: knit even

Now we are going to decrease a few rows.

Row 1: Knit 18 sts, Knit 2tog, twice = 38 sts

Row 2: Knit even

Row 3: Knit 17, Knit 2tog, twice = 36 sts

Row 4: Knit even

Row 5: Knit 16, Knit 2tog, twice = 34 sts

Row 6: Knit even

Row 7: Knit 15, Knit 2tog, twice = 32 sts

Row 8: Knit even

Now put 16 stitches on 2 needles, hold both needles together, now take a 3rd needle and start picking up stitches from both needles, or front needle and back needle, alternating until all 32 stitches have been placed on the 3rd needle. We need to close the top, knit 2 stitches together across, you should now have 16 stitches left. Cut yarn and leave a good size tail. Place on a stitch marker or cable needle for now and complete the second wing the same way.

Eye Discs: Make 2.

Using the lightest or 3rd color.

Cast on 6 stitches and join for working in the round.

Row 1: knit *don't forget your stitch marker

Row 2: inc (k f&b) in all stitches = 12 sts

Row 3: knit even

Row 4: Knit 1, inc (k f&b), repeat around = 18 sts

Row 5: knit even

Row 6: knit 2, inc (k f&b), repeat around = 24 sts

Row 7: knit even

Row 8: knit 3, inc (k f&b), repeat around =30 sts

Row 9: knit even

Row 10: change color, 4th color, knit 4, inc, repeat around =36 sts

Row 11: knit even

Row 12: bind off all stitches, cut yarn leaving a nice long tail for sewing eyes. Also trim and weave end all ends. Set aside for now. Complete the second eye disc the same way.

Body:

Cast on 6 sts. join for working in the round.

Row 1: knit, place stitch marker on 3rd needle

Row 2: Increase in each stitch, knit front & back....=12 sts

Row 3: knit even

Row 4: knit 1, knit f&b, repeat around =18 sts

Row 5: knit 2, knit f&b, repeat around =24 sts

Row 6: knit 3, knit f&b, repeat around =30 sts

Row 7: knit even around

Row 8: knit 4, knit f&b, repeat around =36 sts

Row 9: knit even

Row 10: knit 5, knit f&b, repeat around =42 sts

Row 11: knit even
 Row 12: knit 6, knit f&b, repeat around =48 sts
 Row 13: knit even
 Row 14: knit 3, knit f&b, repeat around =60 sts
 Row 15 & 16: knit even
 Row 17: knit 4, knit f&b, repeat around =72 sts
 Row 18: knit even
 Row 19: knit even to 2nd needle, (knit 11 sts, pm, knit 2 sts, pm, knit 11sts), knit to end of round.
 Row 20: knit even to 2nd needle, then knit to 1st stitch before marker, knit f&b, sm, knit 2, sm, knit f&b, knit even to end of round. =74 sts. *This row will be referred to as Increase row.*
 Row 21: knit even
 Row 22: *Increase row* =76 sts
 Row 23: knit even
 Row 24: *Increase row* =78 sts
 Row 25: knit even
 Row 26: *Increase row* =80 sts (#1 needle=24sts, #2 needle=32sts, #3 needle=24sts)
 Rows 27: thru 31: knit even
 Row 32: knit to 2 sts before 1st marker on 2nd needle, knit 2tog, sm, knit 2, sm, knit 2tog, knit to end of row. =78 * this row will be referred to as Decrease row.*
 Row 33-34: knit even
 Row 35: *Decrease row.*=76
 Row 36-37: knit even
 Row 38:*Decrease row.*=74
 Row 39-40: knit even
 Row 41: *Decrease row.*=72
 Row 42-43: knit even
 Row 44: *Decrease row.*=70
 Row 45-46: knit even
 Row 47: *Decrease row.*=68
 Row 48-49: knit even
 Row 50:*Decrease row.*=66
 Row 51-52: knit even
 Row 53: *Decrease row.*=64
 Row 54-55: knit even
 Row 56:*Decrease row.*=62
 Row 57-58: knit even
 Row 59: *Decrease row.*=60
 Row 60-61: knit even
 Row 62:*Decrease row.*=58 (#1 needle=24sts, #2 needle=10sts, #3 needle=24sts)
 Row 63: On this row we will be attaching the wings.(Refer to the “note” on page 2.) They will be attached to the last 16sts of needle#1, and the 1st 16st of needle#3. (When attaching the wing sts you will be knitting 2sts together on the wing sts only. Also make sure you have the knit side facing you, not the purl sts.)

Knit 8sts, pick-up and attach wing to the next 16sts, knit 2tog 16 times, knit across #2 needle (10sts), pick-up and attach 2nd wing to the next 16sts, knit 2tog 16 times, on #3 needle, knit final 8sts of round. I like to tie the tails of the wings to the working yarn, keeps the stitches firm. Good job.

Row 64: *Decrease row.*=56

Row 65: Change to 2nd color. *Decrease row.*=54 at this point you should have:

(#1 needle=24sts, #2 needle=6sts, #3 needle=24sts)

Row 66: This will be the final *Decrease row.*=52.

Row 67: Redistribute the stitches at this point. Move 6sts from needles #1 & #3 and move to #2 needle. So you should have : (#1 needle=18sts, #2 needle=16sts, #3 needle=18sts) Also remove the markers from #2 needle.

knit 4, knit 2tog, 3 times, knit 16sts, knit 4, knit 2tog, 3 times. =46

Row 68:knit 3, knit 2tog, 3 times, k2, k 2tog, 4 times, knit 3, knit 2tog, 3 times. =36sts

We will now start to shape the head of the owl.

Head:

Row 1: knit

Row 2: knit 3, knit f&b, around = 45sts

Row 3: knit

Row 4: knit 4, knit f&b, around = 54sts

Row 5: knit even

Row 6: knit 5, knit f&b, around =63sts

Row 7: thru 21: knit even

Row 22: knit 5, knit 2 tog, around = 54sts

Row 23: knit 4, knit 2 tog, around = 45sts

This is a good place to stop and stuff the body, not too full, we don't want the stuffing to show.



This is also where I use the point protectors, they keep the stitches from getting pushed off the needles while you are stuffing and placing the eyes. I like to use polyester and foam. Using foam in the body makes it very squeezable and it helps it keep its shape. I usually put a layer of polyester on the bottom and up the sides and in the middle I put the foam. Also, make sure his bottom is flat enough so that he doesn't have any problems setting on a hard surface. The feet will also help to stabilize him.

Now let's position and place the eyes. Locate and mark the center front of the head. Place the eyes 7 rows down, and with approx. 13 sts. between them. I like to put just the plastic eyes in first, to make sure they are far enough apart and they are even. Remember you want the knitted eye discs to just meet, not overlap. When you are satisfied, mark the spot when you take the safety eye out. Now place the safety eye into the center of your knitted eye disc and reposition onto the head.

I cut 2 squares of denim material a little larger than the eyes, cut small slits in middle of fabric to slide on to the shaft of the safety eye. Once you have the eyes positioned where you want, slide the denim

square onto the shaft of the eye, then insert the plastic back. The denim material will be sandwiched between the safety eye and the plastic back. This really makes it practically impossible to pull the eye out of the knitting.

We won't sew the edges of the knitted eye discs until after we have closed the head. Now put some stuffing into top of head. Not too full.

Row 24: knit 3, knit 2 tog, around=36 sts

Row 25: knit 2, knit 2 tog, around=27 sts

Row 26: knit 1, knit 2 tog, around =18 sts

Row 27: knit around.

Row 28: knit 2 tog, around. Cut yarn, draw tail through remaining 9 stitches, top off your stuffing, now pull closed and fasten off.

Finish sewing outside of knitted eyes discs on. Take your time and stitch into each stitch for a nice even edge. Position

them so they just come together in the middle. You can also embroider his beak at this time. You will also notice that his eyes will push in, giving your owl a really nice look.

Now we need to make his feet.

Feet: You will be making both feet at the same time!

Using 2, #5 needles & double strand of 4th color.

Cast on 8 sts.

Row 1: Knit 8

Row 2: Knit 8

Row 3: Bind off 3 sts, knit 4

Row 4: Knit 5, cast on 4

Row 5: Knit 9

Row 6: Knit 9

Row 7: Bind off 4, knit 4

Row 8: Knit 5, cast on 3

Row 9: Knit 8

Row 10: Knit 8

Row 11: Bind off 6, knit 1

Row 12: Knit 2, cast on 6

Repeat row 1: thru 10:

** Row 11: Bind off

Leave a good long tail for sewing on to body. Weave in your starting end. I use both of the long ends separately for sewing. Be sure to center them. Position them however you like just make sure he stands up well and that he is balanced. What a handsome fella! Great Job!

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