

EGGS AND NESTS

If your knitted birds are looking for somewhere to rest, why not knit them a nest or two? They may even lay some knitted eggs in them. The smaller nest will be the right size for blackbirds, robins, blue tits and sparrows, while the larger nest is perfect for a magpie. You can fill it with sparkly treasures or even let the magpie look after your house keys and loose change.

Materials

Magpie egg:

- ✦ Small amount of slate blue 8-ply (DK) yarn
- ✦ Small amount of black 2-ply (lace) yarn
- ✦ Toy stuffing

Blackbird egg:

- ✦ Small amount of light blue 2-ply (lace) yarn
- ✦ Small amount of light brown embroidery thread
- ✦ Toy stuffing

Needles

Magpie egg:

- ✦ 4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles

Blackbird egg:

- ✦ 3mm (UK 11, US 2/3) knitting needles

Tension

Magpie egg:

- ✦ 5 sts and 8 rows per 2.5cm (1in)

Blackbird egg:

- ✦ 8 sts and 10 rows per 2.5cm (1in)

Size

Magpie egg:

- ✦ 6.5cm (2½in) long

Blackbird egg:

- ✦ 3.75cm (1½in) long

EGGS

NOTES

Both the magpie and blackbird eggs are worked with the same pattern.

EGG

Worked in st st. Using the needles and yarn specified in the list of materials, cast on 7 sts. If you are knitting the magpie egg, work both yarns together at the same time – the black 2-ply (lace) yarn creates a speckled effect.

Row 1: inc in every stitch to end [14 sts].

Row 2: purl.

Row 3: *K1, inc 1*, rep from * to * to end [21 sts].

Rows 4–14: beginning with a purl row, work st st.

Row 15: *K1, K2tog*, rep from * to * to end [14 sts].

Row 16: purl.

Row 17: K2tog to end [7 sts].

Row 18: purl.

Run yarn through remaining sts on needle.

MAKING UP

For both magpie and blackbird eggs, the cast-on edge creates the flat end of the egg. Fold the egg in half, sew the cast-on edge together using over stitch, then sew up the rest of the egg seam using mattress stitch, stuffing as you go.

To finish the blackbird egg, embroider a random scattering of speckles, using two strands of embroidery thread. If you want to copy mother nature, make sure that there are more speckles at the rounded end of the egg!

With the reverse side of stocking stitch outside, join row ends of head. Place a ball of stuffing inside head and sew cast-on stitches of head to body all the way round.

Feet

Fold each foot and join cast-on and cast-off stitches. Place Chick on a flat surface and pin seams of feet to body with an approx 1in (2.5cm) gap in between. Sew seams of feet to Chick.

Beak

Join row ends of cast-on edge of beak. Sew beak to centre front of head.

Wings

With reverse side of stocking stitch outside, fold each wing in half, bringing cast-on and cast-off stitches together and join. Place wings either side of Chick and sew across top edge of each wing to body.

Features

To make eyes, tie 2 knots in 2 lengths of black yarn, winding the yarn round 3 times to make each knot (see page 120). Tie eyes to head and run ends into head.

EGGS

Using the thumb method and F, cast on 5 sts.

First and foll 4 alt rows (WS): Purl.

Inc row: K1, (m1, k1) to end (9 sts).

Inc row: K1, (m1, k2) to end (13 sts).

Inc row: K1, (m1, k3) to end (17 sts).

Inc row: K1, (m1, k4) to end (21 sts).

Inc row: K1, (m1, k5) to end (25 sts).

Beg with a purl row, stocking-st 9 rows.

Dec row: (K2tog, k3) to end (20 sts).

Next and foll 2 alt rows: Purl.

Dec row: (K2tog, k2) to end (15 sts).

Dec row: (K2tog, k1) to end (10 sts).

Dec row: (K2tog) to end (5 sts).

Thread yarn through sts on needle, pull tight and secure.

B DK!

MAKING UP

Join row ends of Egg leaving a gap.

Stuff and close gap.

knitted farm animals

A collection of fun and friendly animals to knit from scratch



Pattern from *Knitted Farm Animals* by Sarah Keen, published by GMC Publications.



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