

Frankie's Knitted Stuff

Little Owl

This little owl is about 8cm / 3" tall when knitted with 4 ply yarn on 2mm / US size 0 needles. To make a not so little owl, about 11cm / 4½" tall, follow the same pattern but with double knitting weight yarn and 3mm / US size 3 needles.

His body and beak are knitted in one piece, with his wings, feet, tummy and eyes being added afterwards.



The Body

Using the long tail method, cast on 30 sts.

Row 1: (and every odd numbered row) Purl.

Row 2: (K5, m1) twice, K10, (m1, K5) twice (34 sts).

Row 4: K6, m1, K5, m1 K12, m1, K5, m1, K6 (38 sts).

Row 6: K7, m1, K5, m1, K14, m1, K5, m1, K7 (42 sts).

Row 8: K8, m1, K5, m1, K16, m1, K5, m1, K8 (46 sts).

Row 10: K9, m1, K5, m1, K18, m1, K5, m1, K9 (50 sts).

Row 12: K10, m1, K5, m1, K20, m1, K5, m1, K10 (54 sts).

Row 13: Purl.

Work 20 rows in stocking stitch. Now shape the top of the head:

Row 34: K9, K2tog, K5, SSK, K18, K2tog, K5, SSK, K9 (50 sts).

Row 35: (and all odd numbered rows) Purl.
Row 36: K9, K2tog, K3, SSK, K18, K2tog, K3, SSK, K9 (46 sts).
Row 38: K9, K2tog, K1, SSK, K18, K2tog, K1, SSK, K9 (42 sts).
Row 40: K9, S2KP2, K18, S2KP2, K9 (38 sts).
Row 41: Purl.

The Beak

Row 42: Cast off 9 sts, K to end.
Row 43: Cast off 9 sts purlwise, P to end (20 sts).

Knit 14 rows.

The rest of the beak is worked in the following three row pattern:

Row 1: Knit.
Row 2: SSK, K to end.
Row 3: SSK, K to end.

Repeat these three rows until you have two stitches left on your needle. Knit these two stitches together and fasten off.

Fold the sides of the body to meet at what will be the front of the owl and sew this seam together. Then join the bottom seam, from side to side. Stuff the owl fairly firmly and then close the top of the head, sewing through to just below the start of the garter stitch beak section.

The Tummy

Using a contrast colour, cast on 16 sts.

Row 1: Knit.
Row 2: Purl.
Row 3: K1, m1, K to last st, m1, K1.
Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K1, m1, K to last st, m1, K1 (20 sts).

Row 6: Purl.

Work 10 rows in stocking stitch.

Next row: SSK, K to last 2 sts, K2tog.

Next row: Purl.

Repeat these two rows until you are back to 10 sts, ending with a purl row. Cast off.

Pin and sew the tummy to the front of the owl, with the cast on edge along the bottom seam of the body. Now you can fold the beak down and catch it down to the owl's tummy. The top of the garter stitch section will become the owl's ears so don't fold it down too far.



The Feet

Cast on 6 sts.

Work 4 rows in stocking stitch.

Next row: K1, m1, K to last st, m1, K1 (8 sts).

Beginning with a purl row, work 3 rows in stocking stitch.

Next row: K1, m1, K to last st, m1, K1 (10 sts).

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K1, (yf, K2tog) twice, K1, (yf, K2tog) twice.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: SSK, K to last 2 sts, K2tog (8 sts).

Beginning with a purl row, work 3 rows in stocking stitch.

Next row: SSK, K to last 2 sts, K2tog (6 sts).

Beginning with a purl row, work 3 rows in stocking stitch.

Cast off, fold in half and sew the sides and back closed.

Make another foot in the same way and sew them to the bottom of the owl's body.

The Wings

Cast on 2 sts. Knit 2 rows.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Next row: Knit.

Repeat these two rows until you have 10 sts on your needle, ending with a plain knit row.

Next row: K to last 2 sts, K2tog.

Next row: Knit.

Repeat these two rows until you are back to 6 sts, again ending with a knit row.

Cast off.

Make both wings the same but you will need to reverse one when sewing them on to the sides of the owl.



The Eyes

I spent a long time fiddling about with felt circles and my entire button collection before deciding it was going to be easier to knit

the eyes. If you want to go down the felt circles / big buttons route, feel free to do so.

Using the main colour, cast on 10sts.

Row 1: Kf&b into every st (20 sts). Change to your contrast colour.

Row 2: Purl.

Cast off purlwise.

Gather the cast on edge and join the sides of the strip to make a circle. Sew in all the ends.

Sew a tiny button to the centre of each eye and then, using the same thread, attach the eyes to the owl's face.

Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
m1	make 1 by lifting the thread before the next stitch and knitting into the back of it
K2tog	knit two stitches together
SSK	slip, slip, knit (see below)
S2KP2	slip two stitches as if to knit them together, knit one stitch and pass slipped stitches over
yf	yarn forward, as if to purl
kf&b	knit into the front and back of the stitch

slip, slip, knit

Slip 2 stitches knitwise (or knitwise followed by purlwise) one at a time, insert tip of left needle into stitches from above, put yarn round right needle and knit both stitches together.



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