

Frankie's Knitted Stuff

Happy Bird

This little hanging bird is guaranteed to make you smile. He measures about 13cm / 5" from beak to tail and uses small amounts of double knitting weight yarn. I knitted my Happy Bird with 3.25mm / US size 3 needles throughout. His body is worked in the round, all his other bits are knitted flat and then sewn on.



Body

This is knitted in the round on 3.25mm needles.

Using the long tail method, cast on 16 sts.
Knit 2 rounds.

Next round: Kf&b into every stitch (32 sts).

Knit 4 rounds.

Next round: Kf&b into every stitch (64 sts).

Knit 4 rounds.

Next round: *K1, kf&b, repeat from * to end (96 sts)

Knit 3 rounds.

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

Cast off, working K2tog at the start of the round and SSK at the end. Leave a long tail for sewing up.

You will find that you have knitted a rather wonky circle with a hole in the middle. Fold it in half, use the cast on tail to close the short seam in the middle and oversew the outside edge together.



I worked through the outside halves of the edge stitches which gives a neat edge

This picture shows the finished body of the bird. The slightly curved end will become Happy Bird's head.



Wings (make 2)

These are worked in garter stitch on 3.25mm needles.

Begin at the front and cast on 2 sts.

Row 1: Kf&b, K to end.

Row 2: Knit.

Repeat these two rows until you have 7 sts on your needle, ending with a knit row.

Knit 6 rows without shaping.

Next row: SSK, K to end.

Knit 3 rows.

Repeat these 4 rows two more times (4 sts).

Next row: SSK, K to end.

Next row: Knit.

Now cast off with a double decrease: sl 1 kwise, K2tog, pssso and fasten off.

Sew the wings to the sides of the body, curving the top down slightly as shown.



Beak

This is worked in stocking stitch on 3.25mm needles.
Cast on 7 sts.

Row 1: SSK, K3, K2tog.
Row 2: Purl.
Row 3: SSK, K1, K2tog (3 sts).
Row 4: Purl.

Cast off with a double decrease: sl 1 kwise, K2tog, pssso and fasten off.

Fold in half, join the seam and sew the beak on to the bird.
Using black yarn, embroider eyes on both sides of the head.



Legs and Feet (make 2)

Cast on 3 sts.
Knit 20 rows.
Change to foot colour and work 4 rows in stocking stitch.

Next row: K1, (m1, K1) twice (5sts).
Next row: Purl.
Next row: K1, (yf, K2tog) twice.
Next row: Purl.
Next row: SSK, K1, K2tog (3 sts).
Next row: Purl.



Cast off. Fold the foot in half, join the sides and oversew the cast off edge to the leg, covering the point where you changed colour.
Sew the legs to the bird.

Tail Feathers

I made four tail feathers, each in a different colour. Cast on 25sts and cast them off again for each feather. Now knot the eight ends together and sew the tail to the back of the bird, about 2cm in from the point of the tail.



Hanging Loop

Using a 3.5mm hook make a chain about 25cm / 10" long. Thread beads on to the yarn tails and sew them to the centre of Happy Bird's back.

Abbreviations

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



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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