

**Pattern for Wise Old Owl**  
Kindly donated by Christine in Staffordshire



In the pictures you can see different interpretations of this pattern. Please feel free to use your own shades of yarn, and ways of doing the eyes. Similarly you may prefer shorter or longer legs – your choice. Owls may not have long dangly legs, but they are fun!

## **Materials**

Christine uses 2 strands of DK and 4.5mm needles to make an owl body 9” long and 6.5” wide. You can use chunky yarn and 5mm needles to make a bigger owl, 12” high and 9” wide. Aran yarn and 4.5mm needles will make a body somewhere in between.

Legs and eye patches can be made in fluffy yarn that does not shed fibres.

Wings, legs, feet, eye patches and mouth pocket can be made with DK.

Approved toy stuffing with either BS or CE mark.

Small amount of yellow felt and either scrap of black felt or small black buttons for eyes. White sewing thread.

Black embroidery cotton.

Tapestry needle and sewing needle.

## **Abbreviations**

Alt, alternate;

DK, double knitting yarn

k, knit

k2 tog, knit 2 stitches together

k2togtbl, knit 2 stitches together through the backs of the loops

Kfb, knit into the front and back of the same loop to increase by 1 stitch

p, purl

pssso, pass slipped stitch over

s1, slip one stitch without knitting it

st, stitch

sts, stitches

st.st, stocking stitch, (one row knit one row purl)

tbl, through back of loop

The body is knitted flat in one piece with a centre back seam.

## Body

Cast on 76 sts and work 40 rows in stocking stitch. (1row knit, 1row purl). If you want to stop the first rows from curling up knit the first 10 rows in garter stitch (knit every row).

Begin head shaping:

Row 41: k 18, k 2tog, k 36, k 2tog, k 18 (74sts)

Row 42 and every following alternate row until row 64: purl

Row 43: k 17, k 2tog, k 36, k 2tog, k 17 (72sts)

Mouth opening

Row 45: k 17, k 2tog, k 7, cast off 20sts, k 7, k 2tog, k 17

Row 46: purl 25sts, turn, cast on 20sts, turn, purl 25 (70sts)

Row 47: k 16, k 2tog, k 34, k 2tog, k 16 (68sts)

Row 49: k 16, k 2tog, k 32, k 2tog, k 16 (66sts)

Row 51: k 15, k 2 tog, k 32, k 2tog, k 15 (64sts)

Row 53: k 15, k 2 tog, k 30, k 2tog, k 15 (62 sts)

Row 55: k 14, k 2 tog, k 30, k 2tog, k 14 (60 sts)

Row 57: k 14, k 2 tog, k 28, k 2tog, k 14 (58sts)

Row 59: k 13, k 2tog, k 28, k 2 tog, k 13 (56sts)

Row 61: k 13, k 2 tog, k 26, k 2tog, k 13 (54sts)

Row 63: k 12, k 2tog, k 26, k 2 tog, k 12 (52sts)

Row 64: purl 12, P 2tog, p 24, p 2tog, p 12 (50sts)

Row 65 k 11, k 2 tog, k 24, k 2 tog, k 11 (48sts)

Cast off knit wise.

## Mouth pocket

Cast on 20 sts.

Work about 60 rows of st.st or garter st, which ever you prefer. (The deeper the pocket the better).

Cast off.

Sew the ends of the mouth pocket to the edges of the mouth opening. Sew up the sides of the pocket. Be careful not to leave any gaps where stuffing can escape.

## **Make up body**

You may prefer to make and sew on the eye patches and beak before closing the centre back seam. If so line up the meeting point between eye patches and the beak with the centre front point.

Fold body in half lengthways to find centre front. Mark with a pin.

Join centre back seam.

Match top of centre back seam to centre front and join top of head.

Making sure mouth pocket is lying flat, stuff body with approved toy stuffing.

Close bottom seam. Ensure that you've removed the pins!

## **Wings**

Make four pieces. Undersides of wings can be in contrasting colour.

Cast on 7sts

St st 2 rows

Next row: k 1, Kfb, k to last 3, Kfb, k1

Next row: p

Repeat these 2 rows until you have 23 sts

St st 2 rows

(If you are making the larger owl work 6 rows st st)

Next row: k 1, k 2togtbl, knit to last 3sts, k 2tog, k 1

Next row: p

Repeat these 2 rows until you have 5 sts

Next row: p 1, s 1, p 2tog, pss0, p 1 (3sts)

Next row: k 1, k 2 tog (2sts)

Next row: p 2tog

Cut yarn leaving sewing up tail and thread through last stitch.

Sew 2 wing pieces together, WS facing,, and attach cast on edge to body at side, just below mouth level.

## **Toes, feet and legs**

Toes, make 3 for each foot.

Cast on 2sts

Row 1: k 1, Kfb (3sts)

Row 2 and every following alternate row: p

Row 3: k 1, Kfb, k 1 (4sts)

Row 5: k 1, Kfb, k 2 (5sts)

Row 7: k 2, Kfb, k 2 (6sts)

Line up three toes, RS facing on a spare needle.

Cast on 9 sts. Knit across 3 toes. Turn and cast on 9 sts (36sts)

Next row: p

## Foot

Row 1: k 8, k 2 tog, k 16, k 2togtbl, k 8 (34sts)

Row 2 and following alt rows: purl

Row 3: k 8, k 2tog, k 14, k 2togtbl, k 8 (32sts)

Row 5: k 8, k 2tog, k 12, k 2togtbl, k 8 (30sts)

Row 7: k 7, k 2tog, k 12, k 2togtbl, k 7 (28sts)

Row 9: k 7, k 2tog, k 10, k 2togtbl, k 7 (26 sts)

Row 11: k 6, k 2tog, k 10, k 2togtbl, k 6 (24 sts)

Row 13: k 6, k 2 tog, k 8, k 2togtbl, k 6 (22sts)

Row 15: k 5, k 2 tog, k 8, k 2togtbl, k 5 (20sts)

Row 17: k 5, k 2tog, k 6, k 2togtbl, k 5 (18sts)

Row 19: k 4, k 2tog, k 6, k 2togtbl, k 4 (16sts)

Row 21: k 3, k 2tog, k 6, k 2togtbl, k 3 (14sts)

Row 22: purl

## Legs

If you want long dangly legs, st st 30 rows.

Cast off

If you want shorter fatter legs, st.st 16 rows

Next row k 1, Kfb to end (21sts)

St.st 4 rows.

Cast off

## Making up

Starting at a point of each toe, join side seams of toes. Tie cast off and cast on ends of toe yarn together on inside and leave thread ends inside foot. Sew side seams of foot to make centre seam along sole of foot. Sew base of toes to end of foot sole. Sew leg seam. Stuff dangly leg lightly or short leg a little more firmly. Attach leg to body.

### **Small beak**

Cast on 9 sts

St.st. 4 rows

Row 1: K 2tog, k to last 2 sts, k 2tog

Row 2: p

Repeat these 2 rows until 3sts remain

Next row: k 1, k 2 tog

Cut yarn leaving tail to sew up. Thread tail through sts and sew up seam .

### **Larger beak**

Cast on 14sts

St.st 4 rows

Row 5: k 5, k 2tog, sl 1, k 1, pssso, k 5 (12sts)

Row 6 and following WS rows: p

Row 7: k 4, k 2tog, sl 1, k 1, pssso, k 4 (10sts)

Row 9: k 3, k 2tog, sl 1, k 1, pssso, k 3 (8sts)

Row 11: k 2, k 2tog, sl 1, k 1, pssso, k 2 (6sts)

Cut yarn leaving tail long enough for sewing seam and attaching to face. Thread tail through remaining sts. Pull tight and secure. Sew seam which will be on underside of beak.

### **Eye patches for smaller owl**

Make 2

Work in garter stitch throughout.

Cast on 7 st

Row 1: k

Row 2: k 1, Kfb, k to last 3 sts, Kfb, k 1

Repeat these rows until you have 13 sts

K 7 rows

Next row: k 1, k 2tog, k to last 3, k 2 tog, k 1

Next row: k

Repeat these 2 rows until 7 sts remain

Cast off

Oversew cast off ends together.

In a contrasting colour sew a circle of running stitches around the inside of each eye. You can add a circle of felt if you wish. Attach eye patches to face. Stuff beak lightly and sew between eyes.

## Larger eye patches

These look particularly good in fluffy yarn such as Sirdar Snowflake chunky

Cast on 40 sts

K 2 rows

Work all WS rows in purl

Next row: (k 2, k 2) tog to end (30sts)

Next RS row: (k 1, k 2tog) to end (20sts)

Next RS row: ( k 2tog) to end (10 sts)

Next RS row: (k 2tog) to end (5sts)

Cut yarn leaving long tail and thread through remaining stitches. Pull tight and secure. Sew up side seam to make circle. In fluffy yarn the edges turn up by themselves giving a 3D effect, but you can sew them to the face flat if you prefer. Cut 2 circles of yellow felt to make the eye. Sew a small black button or circle of felt in the centre with white thread to give a highlight. Sew eyes in centre of eye patches. If you've opted for the 3D effect use black embroidery thread to attach the eye patches to the face by running a circle of stem stitch around the outside of the yellow felt through eye patch and face. The eye patches should touch in the middle and the beak tuck into the triangle where the circles meet. If you've sewn the eye patches flat the beak will overlap the patches in the middle.