

## BASIC PATTERN FOR BIRDS

Needles: U.S. size 0–2.5 / 2–3 mm, set of 5 dpn

### TAIL:

CO 14 sts and divide over 4 dpn: 4 + 3 + 4 + 3 sts.  
Knit 20 rnds.

**NOTE:** Make sure the floats on the WS don't pull in when knitting birds with a pattern on the tail. As you knit, periodically use your index finger to stretch out the "tube" for the tail. Also make sure the stitches lie smoothly next to each other. If you pull too tightly when knitting the pattern, the contrast color stitches can become quite small or disappear altogether between the main color stitches. After completing the tail, insert a pen or pencil into the tail and use it to smooth the stitches out.

### RUMP:

Shape the rump by increasing at the sides. Work stitches within parentheses 2 times per round.

Rnd 1: (K1, inc 1, k5, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 2: K18.  
Rnd 3: (K1, inc 1, k7, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 4: K22.  
Rnd 5: (K1, inc 1, k9, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 6: K26.  
Rnd 7: (K1, inc 1, k11, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 8: K30.  
Rnd 9: (K1, inc 1, k13, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 10: K34.  
Rnd 11: (K1, inc 1, k15, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 12: K38.

### STOMACH:

Work back and forth in short rows (as for turning the heel of a sock), with knit over knit and purl over purl as stitches face you.

**Always slip the first stitch purlwise with yarn in back on RS and yarn in front on WS.**

Row 1: K13; turn.  
Row 2: Sl 1, p6; turn.  
Row 3: Sl 1, k7; turn.  
Row 4: Sl 1, p8; turn.  
Row 5: Sl 1, k9; turn.  
Row 6: Sl 1, p10; turn.  
Row 7: Sl 1, k11; turn.  
Row 8: Sl 1, p12; turn.  
Row 9: Sl 1, k13; turn.  
Row 10: Sl 1, p14; turn.  
Row 11: Sl 1, k15; turn.  
Row 12: Sl 1, p16; turn.  
Row 13: Sl 1, k17; turn.  
Row 14: Sl 1, p18; turn.  
Now return to knitting in the round.

### BREAST:

The breast is shaped by decreasing at the sides. Work stitches within parentheses 2 times per round.

Rnd 1: Sl 1, k37.  
Rnd 2: K38.  
Rnd 3: (K1, k2tog, k13, k2tog, k1) 2 times.  
Rnd 4: K34.  
Rnd 5: (K1, k2tog, k11, k2tog, k1) 2 times.  
Rnd 6: K30.  
Rnd 7: (K1, k2tog, k9, k2tog, k1) 2 times.  
Rnd 8: K26.  
Rnd 9: (K1, k2tog, k7, k2tog, k1) around = 22 sts rem.

Rnd 10: (K4, k2tog, k5) 2 times.  
Rnd 11: K20.  
Rnd 12: K20.

### HEAD:

**Repeat** stitches within parentheses 4 times around.

Rnd 1: K20.  
Rnd 2: (K1, inc 1, k3, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 3: K28.  
Rnd 4: (K1, inc 1, k5, inc 1, k1) around.  
Rnd 5: K36.  
Rnd 6: K36.  
Rnd 7: (K1, k2tog, k3, k2tog, k1) around.  
Rnd 8: K28.  
Rnd 9: (K1, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k1) around.  
Rnd 10: K20.  
Rnd 11: (K1, k2tog, k2) around.  
Rnd 12: K16.  
Rnd 13: (K1, k2tog, k1) around.

Cut yarn and draw end through remaining 12 sts.

Sew the tail together flat at the cast-on row, making sure the top and bottom sides lie correctly.

Fill with wool or pillow stuffing. You can also use yarn ends from birds or other projects, card them, and then use the "batting" as filling.

Tighten the yarn holding the final stitches of head. Weave in any ends.

*Crochet the beak* (see details on pages 26–27).

Now you can decorate the bird with duplicate stitching if necessary.



## BASIC PATTERN FOR BIRDS OF PARADISE

The birds of paradise are knitted with shorter tails than other birds in this book, but are otherwise worked with the same basic pattern. You won't need to sew the end of the tail together after the bird is knitted. Just fill the bird and then close the hole at the top of the head. The feathers are dipped in glue and inserted into the hole in the tail.

**Yarn:** CYCA #0 (lace weight) Anchor Mouliné 6-ply embroidery thread (100% cotton, 9 yd / 8 m per hank), 2 hanks

**Needles:** U.S. size 000 / 1.5 mm, set of 5 dpn

**Gauge:** 30 sts and 40 rnds in 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm. Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

CO 10 sts and divide onto 4 dpn: 3 + 2 + 3 + 2. Join to work in the round.

### TAIL:

Rnd 1: K10.  
Rnd 2: K10.  
Rnd 3: (K1, inc 1, k3, inc 1, k1) 2 times.  
Rnd 4: K14.  
Rnd 5: K14.  
Rnd 6: (K1, inc 1, k5, inc 1, k1) 2 times.  
Rnd 7: K18.  
Rnd 8: K18.

Continue by following the instructions for the Basic Pattern for Birds, beginning with Rnd 3 of rump. Fill the bird. Sew the hole at top of head closed but leave the tail end open for the feathers. You might want to embroider the bird before gluing, as the embroidery yarn can get caught in the tail as you work—very frustrating!



- 1 After the tail has been completely knitted, insert a pencil into the tail and press it around to smooth out the stitches. The stomach is worked back and forth with knit and purl short rows, as for the heel turn on a sock.
- 2 Check to make sure the stitches on the stomach are not too loose. The stitches from turning and working back on knit and purl rows can sometimes be a little loose.
- 3 We tighten up any loose stitches and then cut any long strands so we can then knot them together, or for any very long strands, we let them hang until we can pick them up onto the needle on the next round to knit together with a stitch.
- 4 When there are some long strands after we've tightened the knitting, we knit them together with a stitch. We always start the round by knitting the long strand together with the first stitch. If you lift the strand onto the needle and knit it together with the last stitch on the round, it will be visible on the right side.
- 5 Fill the bird with wool or pillow stuffing. You can also use yarn tails from the birds or other projects, card the yarn, and then use the batting as filling for the knitted birds.
- 6 Now you can decorate the bird with duplicate stitch if necessary.