



string of birds

This decorative string of birds will brighten up any room; knitted in cheery shades, they will perch perfectly. Make the string as long or short as you want, mixing and matching combinations of colours.

Work front and back panel for each bird.

FRONT PANEL

Using 3.25 mm (US 3) needles, cast on 5 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Purl to end.

Row 2: K1, M1 by picking up the strand in between sts and knitting into the back, K3, M1, K1 (7 sts).

Row 3: Purl to end.

Row 4: K1, M1, K5, M1, K1 (9 sts).

Row 5: Purl to end.

Row 6: K1, M1, K7, M1, K1 (11 sts).

Row 7: Purl to last st, M1, P1 (12 sts).

Row 8: K1, M1, K10, M1, K1 (14 sts).

Row 9: Repeat row 7 (15 sts).

Row 10: K1, M1, K13, M1, K1 (17 sts).

Row 11: Repeat row 7 (18 sts).

SHAPE HEAD

Next row: K7, yo, slip next st, yarn back, turn.

Next row: S11, P5, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.

Next row: S11, K4, yo, slip next st, yarn back, turn.

Next row: S11, P4, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.

Next row: S11, K2, yo, slip next st, yarn back, turn.

Next row: S11, P1, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.

Next row: S11, knit to end, picking up strand around wrapped stitch, slipping onto the left-hand needle and working together with stitch.

WORK TAIL

Next row: P6, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.

Next row: S11, knit to end.

Next row: P4, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.

Next row: S11, knit to end.

Next row: P2, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.

Next row: S11, knit to end.

Next row: Purl to end, picking up strand around wrapped stitch, slipping onto the left-hand needle, and working together with stitch.

Do not cast off, place on spare needle.

BACK PANEL

Using 3.25 mm (US 3) needles, cast on 5 sts.

MATERIALS

Rowan Cotton Glace (100% cotton, approx. 116 m/127 yd per 50 g/1¾ oz ball)
 A shade 741 Poppy
 B shade 844 Green slate
 C shade 832 Persimmon
 D shade 814 Shoot
 E shade 841 Garnet

Toy stuffing

Sheets of felt fabric in the following colours:

BEAKS yellow
 BIRD A tail – pink, wings – orange
 BIRD B tail – green, wings – turquoise
 BIRD C tail – ochre, wings – pink
 BIRD D tail – bright yellow, wings – mid-green
 BIRD E tail – pink, wings – lilac

Threads to match felt colours
 2 small black beads per bird, for eyes

String to thread birds onto
 31 glass beads
 1 small bell
 Spare needle

EQUIPMENT

1 pair 3.25 mm (US 3) knitting needles
 Pins
 Tapestry needle
 Sharp sewing needle

TENSION

Approx. 25 sts x 32 rows = 10 cm (4 in) in stocking stitch

TEMPLATE

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Row 1 (WS): Purl to end.
 Row 2: K1, M1 by picking up the strand in between sts and knitting into the back, K3, M1, K1 (7 sts).
 Row 3: Purl to end.
 Row 4: K1, M1, K5, M1, K1 (9 sts).
 Row 5: Purl to end.
 Row 6: K1, M1, K7, M1, K1 (11 sts).
 Row 7: P1, M1, purl to end (12 sts).
 Row 8: K1, M1, K10, M1, K1 (14 sts).
 Row 9: Repeat row 7 (15 sts).
 Row 10: K1, M1, K13, M1, K1 (17 sts).
 Row 11: Repeat row 7 (18 sts).

WORK TAIL

Next row: K6, yo, S11, yarn back, turn.
 Next row: S11, purl to end.
 Next row: K4, yo, S11, yarn back, turn.
 Next row: S11, purl to end.
 Next row: K2, yo, S11, yarn back, turn.
 Next row: S11, purl to end.
 Next row: Knit to end, picking up strand around wrapped stitch, slipping onto the left-hand needle, and working together with stitch.

SHAPE HEAD

Next row: P7, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.
 Next row: S11, K4, yo, S11, yarn back, turn.
 Next row: S11, P4, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.
 Next row: S11, K3, yo, S11, yarn back, turn.
 Next row: S11, P2, yarn back, S11, yo, turn.
 Next row: S11, knit to end,

picking up strand around wrapped stitch, slipping onto the left-hand needle and working together with stitch.
 Next row: Purl to end, picking up strand around wrapped stitch, slipping onto the left-hand needle and working together with stitch.
 Cast off front and back panels together using the 3-needle cast-off method as follows: Hold wrong sides together and insert needle through 1st st on both needles, then knit.
 Repeat this for the 2nd st on needle.
 Next, pass 1st st over the top of second and pass off the needle.
 Repeat this until all sts have been cast off.
 Break off yarn and slip through last sts – pull tight.

ASSEMBLY

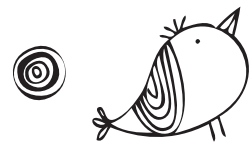
Gently press front and back panels.
 Next, sew front and back seams leaving the bottom edge open to insert stuffing.
 Next, insert stuffing; make sure stuffing goes into the head and tail sections.
 Once you are happy with the amount of stuffing, sew bottom edge.

BEAK

Cut a small square from yellow felt, approx. 1 cm (½ in).
 Fold in half to form 2 triangles.
 Then pin and stitch into position at front of head.

TAIL

Cut a length of felt fabric approx. 25 cm (10 in) long and



0.5 cm (¼ in) wide and, using picture as guide, fold to make approx. 4 loops.

Pin and stitch the loops together to keep them in position.
 Next, pin and stitch the loops to the top of the tail.

WINGS

Using the template, cut out wing shape from felt for each bird.
 Pin into position on the cast-off edge at the top of the bird.

Stitch into position down centre of the wings along the back.

EYES

Using picture as guide, sew 1 bead to either side of the head for eyes.

STRINGING THE BIRDS

Lay out the birds in the order that you want them to be.
 Next, layout the glass beads in the order you want them to be placed between the birds.

Measure out the length of string you require – make it longer than you need as you can trim to the required length.

Starting at the bottom, work your way up through the birds as follows:

Thread 3 beads, the bell, then 3 more beads onto the string.
 Knot the string to form a loop with 3 beads on both sides and the bell at centre bottom, then bring the needle threaded with

the string up through the centre of the bottom and out between the wings of the first bird.

Next thread 5 beads onto the string, and insert needle up through the next bird.

Repeat until all birds have been threaded together.

Add the final set of 5 beads to the top.