
Knitted Robin with Megan Kreiner

Chapter 1 - Knitted Robin

Introduction

Overview

(lively music) - Hi, my name is Megan Kreiner. I'm the author of Crochet a Zoo and Bathtime Buddies. And I'm looking forward to sharing an adorable knitted English robin pattern with you. For this project, we'll be working our robin's body in the round using circular needles and the magic loop technique, after which we'll go ahead and create the back, tail, and wings. Finally, after stuffing our robin, we'll be adding a little bit of a duplicate stitch detail right after we install the eyes and the beak. We'll go ahead and attach our robin to an adorable little twig, and we'll add a small, hanging loop. This project is great for anyone that wants to practice the magic loop technique, and it makes a lovely gift for any bird lover in your life.

Materials

Materials

- For our English Robin, we'll need the following materials: we'll be using Cascade's Cherub Aran yarn in ruby, we'll need 25 yards. 10 yards of chocolate, 30 yards of mocha, and roughly 30 yards of white. In addition to the yarn, we'll also need polyester stuffing, scissors, size four knitting needles in straight and circular. If you don't have circular needles, double pointed needles will also work just fine. That's a 3.5 millimeter size needle, and a tapestry needle for assembly. Marking pins to hold the pieces of our bird together as we sew, a little bit of string, a small twig to perch our bird on. You'll also need a pair of black beads six millimeter ones would be perfect. And, if you like, you can also pick up some stitch markers this is a slip ring style, to help mark the beginning and end of rounds. And a needle and black thread for attaching the eyes.

Knit the Bird Body

Making head and body

- To begin our Robin we will be starting at the top the head and working down the body to the bottom We'll start with red and then change to white and stuff before closing our seam. We'll begin with our ruby colored yarn Let's go ahead and put six stitches onto our needle two, four, six For our magic loop technique, slide your stitches to the middle of your wire and then divide the stitches And pull the wire out through them Go ahead and slide those stitches back down to both the needles We'll have three stitches on the top needle and three stitches on the bottom Make sure that your yarn tail and your working yarn start off on the top needle For round 1, we are going to be knitting front back into all the stitches increasing our stitch count from 6 to twelve. To do this pull your top needle out so that the stitches rest on the left And begin knitting the stitches on the bottom needle For your first stitch, make sure you give the yarn a good pull to make sure that your

ring is nice and tight We are knitting front back Be sure to hold on to your stitches as best you can as you try to slide them up and down on the needles to make sure they don't come flying off. After sliding the needle on to the remaining three stitches sliding the top needle off the six stitches we just did We can now proceed to do our knit front back on the remaining three to finish our increase for round 1. For round 2, go ahead and knit, your twelve stitches as you turn your needles, you'll continue sliding your stitches from the wire to the needle For round 3, we'll start incorporating a make one to do our increases And since we are working in the round it won't really matter if you're making your stitch to the right or the left Just keep it consistent and go with whichever one is most comfortable for you I personally like to work in the make one right And for this increase, we'll be doing a knit one make one knit one all way round And go ahead, and knit round 4 all the way around Make sure you give that first stitch a little bit of a tug before you keep going Just to keep your rounds, nice and close If you're worried about keeping track of where you are in your round, consider using one of your slip markers to help mark the beginning of your round So as you work it's a little easy to keep a track of where you are Continue working in your rounds Incorporating make ones and knit Until you reach round eleven Where we're going to go ahead and add a place marker to help keep track of the front of the body So to begin round 11, we're going to do slip, slip, knit 3 times A third time Followed by a knit one Then we are going to go ahead and place our marker and it doesn't have to be to exact but go ahead and place it so that it's pretty secure Go ahead and do it again Another knit And then we'll go ahead and knit two together Three times And the marker's just there to let us know where the front of our head is so that when we line up the back end tail piece, everything will be in the right spot So it's a point of reference for you Go ahead and continue on round eleven And then we'll work all the way to round sixteen Where we're going to switch from red to white We'll do two rounds of straight knit with the white Go ahead and bring in that for a stitch And then if you like, you can also pass the red yarn tail over the working yarn before you make your next stitch Just to help pull the rounds together Continue working with white following your pattern until round twenty seven At that point, we can go ahead and stuff our bird's body using polyester stuffing Go ahead and stuff your bird's body pretty firmly It's okay if it gets a little elongated We're going to reshape him once we're all done closing up this hole. So once you feel you've put enough stuffing into your little bird He's a little lumpy right now but we're going to fix that Ultimately, the shape you want to go for is a fairly wide body and a little bottom heavy because that will look quite appealing when it's perched on that little twig. I think that should do the trick So let's go ahead and close up that hole Go ahead and we'll knit our last twelve stitches together Six times For a total of six stitches Once all your stitches have been worked go ahead and cut our yarn leaving a long tail for sewing Then take your tapestry needle Go ahead and slide those stitches back on to that needle so we're able to slide them off on to our tapestry needle To weave our yarn through those remaining stitches Got to go ahead and actually pull my circular needle right through those stitches so that I'm able to easily pass those stitches off Go ahead and wind that yarn one more time if you like And this isn't an exact science if you feel you need a few more stitches just to hold things down Go ahead and add it Go ahead and fasten off that yarn And then wind it through the body Now the bird is looking a little on the long side right now But we're going to redistribute the yarn by giving our bird a little bit of massage if you will Hold your fingers around the head portion of the bird and then give it a good shove towards the table and just kind of rock him around a little bit to redistribute that yarn And what you'll find is that the shaping of the yarn will actually help create a slightly more pleasing bird shape Now that our little bird body is all stuffed and ready to go, we can move on to the tail and back piece Don't forget to leave this place

marker in the front of the bird just as reference so that you can tell where the front of the bird is.

Knit Tail and Feathers

Making tail and back piece

- When we work the tail and back of our bird we'll be starting at the tail and then working up the back to the top of the head. For the tail section of this part we're actually going to be working in the round and then we'll switch over to working in rows. Working in the mocha colored yarn, we'll begin by casting on 16 stitches. And that's including that little slipknot in the beginning. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, perfect. To work these in the magic loop go ahead and count out eight stitches... and then split Draw in the wire through the stitches so that there will be eight on one side of the needle and eight on the other. For round 1 we'll just be knitting straight all 16 stitches. Make sure you give that yarn a little bit of a tug, Just to make sure that ring is pretty secure. As you're working this first round be sure to check to make sure that your stitches haven't twisted. Cause once they've twisted you won't actually be able to fix it while you work, you'll have to just start over. Continuing on to round 2, we'll go ahead and work a couple of decreases to give our tail a little bit of a taper. So with the working yarn, we'll knit one, knit two, and then do a slip slip knit. Knit two together, and then knit two. We'll repeat this on the stitches on the other needle. Knit two, slip slip knit, knit two together, and knit two. For rounds three through 10, simply knit all the stitches in the round. After which, we'll go ahead and bind off and start on the back of our bird. So starting on row 11, begin by binding off six. That's one Two Three Four Five Then go ahead and move the needle to the other side. We'll bind off that last stitch for six. The stitch on the right hand needle will actually count as knit one. So for the next stitch, we'll actually be doing a make one. And then we'll be doing knit one, make one. And then repeating that three more times. Here's the third time. And then finishing up with a knit one. You should now have 11 stitches on our needle. If you like, you can switch over to your straight needle. Since we'll be working with rows from here on out. Continue working your increases and decreases up to row 30 at which point we'll begin shaping around the face. Bind off three to start. One Two Three The remaining stitch on our right hand needle counts as a knit. Then we'll continue on and slip slip knit three times Follow by knit three Then we'll knit two together, three times. If you find that it's a little too difficult to get the needles through, go ahead and... loosen them up one at a time before you try again. And finally knit four For row 32, we're going to bind off the first three so we can match the shaping on the other side. Start by purling, then we'll bind off. One Two Three And then proceed to purl 10. So it'll give us a total of 11 stitches for row 33. To our slip slip... knit One Two Three Four Five Six Seven And then knit two together Again, if that stitch gets a little tight you can always try... slipping your needle in and out of it, just a couple times to loosen it up... before trying again. There we go Continue to decrease on either end of your knit rows and continue to purl after those rows until you have three stitches left. For row 40, we'll purl our last three stitches. Then go ahead and cut your yarn, leaving a fairly long tail. We can then go ahead and weave that tail onto your tapestry needle. There's only three stitches here, so I'm just going to remove those right from the needle. And then we wire our tail through. Go ahead and leave that tail in place for now. We can go ahead and weave that in later, when we attach the back and tail to the back of the body.

Making wings and beak

- Now that our back and tail is done, and our bird's body is done, we're ready to move on to the wings. We'll be working the wings flat using our straight needles. With mocha, put five stitches on your straight needle. For our first row, we'll be knitting front-back in each of our stitches to increase to ten. Continue working in the pattern to shape your wing. For our last row, knit those first two together, knit two, knit two together and we'll have four stitches left on our needle. I tend to knit pretty tightly, so sometimes those knit two togethers get a little sticky, but we'll make it work. Let's go ahead and cut, leaving a pretty good sized tail because for our next step we're going to be weaving this yarn through the remaining stitches and then sewing the seam together by folding our wing in half. The seam will actually be against the body, so we won't see it when we're done. Go ahead and start off by weaving that stitch, weaving those four stitches together, then go ahead and fold up your wing, matching up the edges, and proceed to sew that edge together using a simple whip stitch. We'll flatten the wing out once we're done. So we've gotten up to the top of the wing, go ahead and flatten the wing out, and give it a tug to flatten out that seam. This is the side that'll actually be facing out, so, at this point we can go ahead and fasten off the yarn tail we were using to sew up our seam. And we'll use the remaining yarn tail to actually attach the wing to the body. Now that we're done making one wing, go ahead and make a second one. I've made this little guy right here, and at this point I can go ahead and make my beak and then we'll be ready to start assembling our little English robin. To make the beak, take your chocolate yarn and place six stitches on your straight needle. Then, proceed to knit your six stitches, and go ahead and cut a fairly long yarn tail. Place this yarn tail onto your tapestry needle. And then if you're feeling adventurous, you can actually either remove the piece and weave your needle through your loops, or you can just pick them up straight from the needle. Go ahead and weave through, two or three times, until you get a nice little point. Then go ahead and fold your beak in half, and using the yarn tail, go ahead and secure that shape with a few more stitches down the folded edge. Now that our beak is all done, we have all the pieces we need to put together our little English robin.

Assembly

Constructing the bird

- We're down to our final steps in getting our English robin together. We'll begin by sealing off the seam at the bottom of the tail, and then putting the tail and back on top of the body. We'll begin by flattening and sewing the seam at the back of the tail shut. And we can use the leftover yarn tail to do this. Go ahead and just apply a simple whip stitch to sew the seam shut. When you get to the end of the tail, go ahead and fasten off. And then work the yarn tail into the tail itself. If you find your yarn tail has gotten a little too short, you can always go ahead and insert your tapestry needle into your work first, and then go ahead and slip that teeny tail onto the eye, and then you can pull it through. Now we'll go ahead and just add a little bit of stuffing. And we just want enough to puff the tail up just a bit. Just to give it a little bit of shaping, so that should do the trick. Now take your body, and with the place marker in front, this will be the front of the body and roughly where the beak will go. We can start wrapping the back onto our little bird. So where we've lined up our place marker is also roughly where these little points that we formed when we did our bind off stitches will all line up together. So at this point, you can take your marking pins and start securing it in place. And do your best to keep everything fairly even. But since you'll be applying it with marking pins, they'll be pretty easy to adjust things as you work before you sew everything down. Go ahead

and adjust the edging accordingly so it's nice and symmetrical. Apply the marking pins all the way down to the base of the bird. With the back of the tail pinned in place, we're now ready to attach the back and tail to the body, and load up a fairly long tail of yarn on your tapestry needle. And starting from the bottom ... Start securing the tail end back to the body. And for this you can either use a whip stitch or a mattress stitch, whatever you prefer. I like to use a whip stitch just to keep the edging a little bit flatter. Go ahead and remove the parking pins as you work. When you get to the area around the face, you may want to switch over to a running stitch just to keep that edge nice and clean. So for this section, I'll be applying a running stitch just around this area where the eyes are going to go, and that'll leave the edge fairly clean. When you reach the peak of the crown, you can go ahead and work that yarn tail into the body. And that'll temporarily secure that peak in place while you sew it down. Also if you like you can remove your place marker at this point since we've already established where the front of the body is. Go ahead and keep applying stitch. To the ... Portion of the body around the face. Until you reach that row that had the bind off stitches, and then if you'd like you can return to using a whip stitch to secure the rest of the body. It's also recommended every once in awhile to just stop sewing and take a quick look to make sure everything is fairly even and lining up. As we get down to the base of the tail, go ahead and finish up that seam before fastening everything off. Now that our two tails are meeting up again, we can go ahead and tie them together just to make sure everything is nice and secure, and then we can weave this into the body and trim. Now that the little bird has his back and tail attached, we can go ahead and add his face. To add the beak to our bird's face, load your tapestry needle up with the yarn that we cast on with, this is going to be the tail of the yarn that we cast on with, and go ahead and just insert that yarn and needle into the center of the face, about one stitch below the crest, this little peak on the front of the face. That's gonna help position and hold the beak in one spot while we sew it down. So using the second tail that was left over after we've fastened off, just go ahead and sew the edge of the beak down with a few whip stitches. It only takes a few stitches to get the beak to be pretty secure on the front of the face, so once that's looking pretty good, go ahead and fasten off, and then wind the yarn into the body and trim. There's our little beak. Now the beak's in place we can go ahead and add the eyes. I have two little six millimeter black plastic beads, so to install our eyes I usually like to double up my thread, just to make it a little stronger, so with your sewing needle, go ahead and load up your thread. And I like to double it up because then we can use this loop to secure our thread. So with my first bead I'm going to thread through, and then I'm actually going to go through the loop, and what that's going to do is basically secure my bead on my thread, so now when I attach that first bead to the face, I can just insert my needle right in and it's not gonna go anywhere. So there's my first eye, gonna go ahead and get my second eye on my thread. And then I'm going to go ahead and actually return back to the first eye. And while you're working on attaching these eyes, we're gonna pull pretty tightly because we actually want to sink the eyes into the head just a bit, and what that's going to do is add a little extra shaping to the head, and also allow us to keep the eyes looking out to the side instead of straight forward, so it'll look a little more realistic. Go ahead and do this two times, maybe three if you really want to, make sure those eyes are secure. But I'm giving the eyes a little tug, you can see that they sink in. And once you're happy with how the eyes are looking, go ahead and secure your thread. That's looking pretty cute. Go ahead and tie off. Treat your thread just like the yarn. Push it through the body, and then trim. Our face is all done, now we can add our wings. Our wings are going to be placed with the round side at the bird's shoulder, and the tip of the wing pointed towards the back. If you like you can even use a couple of your marking pins just to hold the wings in place as you position them to

make sure they're going to be even before you sew them down. I'm thinking that's looking pretty good for that wing, so let's go ahead and place our other one. Make sure to keep those yarn tails free, 'cause you can use them to attach your wings. Just go ahead and check our placement, make sure everything's pretty even, I think that's looking pretty good. So with our yarn tails, we'll actually be securing the wing to the shoulder at the front and along the top, just in the front portion of the round part. Then we're going to bring the yarn through the body, and tack down the tip of the wing to keep it from moving around. We can do this with a simple whip stitch. So once you get a few stitches in there, you can remove those marking pins. Since now the wing isn't going to go anywhere. So we'll do the front of the wing, and the upper shoulder of the wing. Once those pieces are in, go ahead and bring your yarn through the body and out at the bottom where the tip of the wing is, and secure it with one or two little stitches. And it's going to be fairly loose, you don't want to tack it down too tightly, you want those wings to stay ... Nicely shaped. So that's looking pretty good, so we'll fasten off. And then we'll do our other wing. We'll now be applying a duplicate stitch to the front of our bird, just to give the coloring a little bit of shaping. First mark off the white stitch directly below the beak, this will be our center point. Now count five stitches from the pin, one two three four five, this will be the first stitch we apply the duplicate stitch to. So to begin, go ahead and draw a needle loaded with red yarn up and out of the bottom of the V shape of the stitch. Go ahead and leave a little bit of a tail so we can tie off at the end. To apply the duplicate stitch, insert the needle above the V shape into the stitch above, going under both loops. And then return to the start. And then bring your needle out at the stitch directly next to it. This will cover up the white stitch, allowing us to apply a pattern to the front of the bird. Go ahead and work your way down for five stitches. And be mindful of how much tension you're putting on the thread, as you want the red yarn to cover the white yarn neatly. So we'll do five on this side, and then we'll skip the white stitch being indicated by the marking pin, and then proceed to do five more red duplicate stitches to the right of the pin. This pattern is available on your printout pattern, so just go ahead and follow along on that for the stitch placement of this duplicate stitch pattern. When working your duplicate stitch, be sure to work in horizontal lines and not from the top to the bottom, 'cause that'll often cause the duplicate stitches to twist a bit. Okay, we'll have one more row of duplicate stitches. For the next row, we'll be doing three stitches underneath the five stitches that we did. So let's bring our yarn out. And proceed to apply three stitches directly under the five stitches. If you like at this point you can also take your marking pin out, and you can see what a nice round shape that creates without the hassle of having to change colors while working in the round. Finish your last duplicate stitch. If you find one of your stitches has gotten a little thin and twisted, just go ahead and slip your needle under there and help puff it up a bit. Go ahead and finish this one out. And if you like just go ahead and draw your yarn out where your other yarn tail is located. I like to go ahead and tie these together, and then with your tapestry needle go ahead and draw that knot back into the body, and trim any sort of yarn ends that might be sticking out afterwards. Trim off those yarn tails that might be sticking out afterwards. Our little bird is ready to perch. You can go outside and find yourself a twig, or you can go to the craft store and pick out a floral twig in the craft section if you like. To attach the twig to your bird, first position it around where you want the bird to sit. Once you have a position in mind, go ahead and cut a nice long length of chocolate colored yarn, double it up, and put both ends through your tapestry needle. Holding the branch against your bird, select a spot for your first foot, and bring the yarn through the body, and then wind your needle through the loop. What we're going to do now is we're going to ... Work around the stick, three times, just to thicken up the foot a bit. So that's one, two, and this will be our third time. And go ahead and bring your

yarn out where you want your other foot to be. You might have to move your stick around depending on what is on your stick, just to get the feet to stick correctly. And then go ahead and wind that doubled up yarn around the stick three more times, bringing it in and out at the same point each time. If you want thicker feet, feel free to wind it around even more, but I find three tends to do the trick. If you're happy with how your feet look, bring that yarn through. Fasten off. I like to fasten off behind one of the feet so we can't see the knot. Then I'll bring the extra yarn tails out through the back of the body. And we will trim. Our little bird is almost done, now we just have to add a little hanging loop and we'll be all finished. For my little bird I've chosen this help thread, but if you like you can certainly use a ribbon or even some string. Go ahead and cut about six to eight inches. Then to attach, go ahead and thread your string onto your tapestry needle, and this is going to be a little bit of a tight fit, but we'll make it work. You'll want to attach somewhere around the back of the neck in the middle. And that'll keep your bird pretty straight up and down. There's a few ways you can go about attaching your hanging loop, one way is to tie a square knot, and then tie a second knot above it to secure the loop in place, so we'll go ahead and use that for this particular string. Once your loop is all done, go ahead and trim those extra tails. Our little bird is now complete, perched, and ready to hang in a special place in your home, or in a friend's home. If you like to use a craft branch from one of your local craft stores, I suggest finding something with some berries on it because that tends to be a very cute look for these little guys.