

Owl

Adapted by MKG members from
Beans the Cat, by Linda Dawkins



Kids love owls; they “hoot” with joy when they see an owl made in fun colors with bright and funny facial features. Owl is knit in the round, either on double-pointed needles, or on a long circular using the magic loop technique. Many different yarn combinations work well, so this is a great stash buster!

You can knit Owl from a Community Projects kit, or you can use your own leftover yarn. Be sure to read through the pattern (especially the Pattern Notes) before beginning.

Abbreviations: **Dpn(s)**: double-pointed needle(s); **K**: knit; **K2tog**: knit 2 sts together; **Kfb**: knit into front & back of st (1 st increased); **Sts**: stitches; [...] repeat enclosed instructions as specified.

PATTERN NOTES

- Feel free to use whatever colors (and as many colors) you like; “realistic” owl colors are not required. Children delight in creatures of wild and wacky colors.
- Be sure the fabric is tight enough to prevent the stuffing from showing but not stiff. It’s ok to have knots on the inside of critters; just tie the knots tightly and leave about 2” tails inside the critter.
- Stuff firmly, but not too hard. Aim for “cuddly” – not too soft or too hard.

Pattern Notes are continued on the next page...

Materials

Sizes: Small, Large

Yarn

- **Small:** worsted, 40 yds
- **Large:** 60-yd **balls** of yarn in **any** of these combinations:
 - Worsted, 2 balls [*held together when knitting*]
 - Worsted, 1 ball, + worsted-weight novelty yarn, 1 ball [*held together when knitting*]
 - Worsted, 2 balls, + novelty yarn (any weight), 1 ball [*held together when knitting*]
 - Super bulky yarn, 1 ball
- **Both sizes:** scraps of yarn for ear tufts and to embroider facial features. (*See Pattern Notes for suggestions*).

Needles

Circular needle (if using magic loop techniques) and/or dpns in these sizes, or size that will produce a firm fabric (*See Pattern Notes*):

- Small size: US 6/4 mm - US 7/4.5 mm
- Large size: US 11/8 mm – US 15/10 mm

Gauge

Gauge is not critical. *See Pattern Notes*.

Additional Materials

Scraps of felt and thread for facial features (*See Pattern Notes*)

Fiberfill or other material for stuffing (*See Pattern Notes*)

Crochet hook or yarn/tapestry needle



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If you are using an MKG Ready-to-Knit kit, please return the bag for re-use. **THANK YOU FOR KNITTING FOR OTHERS!**

Pattern Notes are continued from previous page...

- If you want to make an indentation at the top of the head to emphasize the ears, you need to use fiberfill for the stuffing.
- **Do not use beads or buttons for eyes or any other embellishment!** These toys may be going to very young children and beads or buttons are choking hazards.
- **Facial features:** Eyes and beak can be embroidered using simple stitches or created with sewn-on felt pieces. Felt crescents or full circles make great pupils on the eyes. “Spoke” eyes are an embroidered option: Make 5 running stitches coming out from the center of the eye to the outer edge (like spokes of a wheel), then weave the yarn from the outer edge in a circular direction going under and over the spokes to make a solid eye. **Be sure to make the eyes large – this is an owl.** 😊
- **Alternative bind-off and closure method:** When you have finished knitting, cut the working yarn, leaving a tail approx. 2-4”. Divide the sts at the top onto two needles with the front of the body on one needle and the back of the body on the other needle. With a crochet hook, start at the end opposite the tail and pull each stitch sequentially through the previous, going from side to side (i.e., needle to needle) working towards the tail. Thread the tail through the final stitch and fasten.

DIRECTIONS

Cast on 10 sts and join for knitting in the round.

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: Kfb into each stitch. — 20 sts

Round 3: Kfb into each stitch. — 40 sts

Knit 12 rounds for small size; knit 15 rounds for large size.

Next round: [K1, k2tog] to end of round, ending with k1. — 27 sts

Knit 10 more rounds for small size; knit 12 more rounds for large size.

Bind off, then fold the bound-off top edges together and sew together, or try the “alternative bind-off and closure method” described in the Pattern Notes.

Finishing

Stuff Owl and make him plump! Aim for a firm and “cuddly” feel.

Take a needle and yarn and sew around the edge of the opening at the base of the body, then pull tight to close the opening.

Optional: Take a needle and yarn and sew into the base, then push the needle through the body and pull it out the top of the head. Sew back down again, pull tight. Sew the wool securely into the base. This creates a depression on the top of the head that forms into two ears. *Note: The ears can only be formed in this manner if Owl is stuffed with fiberfill.*

Facial Features: Add eyes and a beak to the face. See the Pattern Notes for suggestions. **Please remember: Do not use beads or buttons for eyes or any other embellishment!**

Ear tufts: Use scraps of yarn to create ear tufts for Owl. Use a crochet hook to pull multiple strands through the top of the head and through a loop to secure them, or just thread the strands for each tuft through the head and tie into a knot to secure.

Now give your Owl a hug!!



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