

# Twitch & Stitch

Crochet a robin for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Help us make 200 robins to decorate Potteric Carr's Nature Discovery Centre ready for Yorkshire Robin Festival and raise vital funds for Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places.

Please send your robin with your name and home town by 16th November to Potteric Carr nature reserve, Mallard Way, Doncaster 8DB. Drop-off in person and enjoy a free cuppa.\*

**Please  
note this is a  
decorative item  
and not a toy.**



Size: approx. 13cm

\*One mug of tea or Americano per person at The Café at Potteric Carr nature reserve

[ywt.org.uk](http://ywt.org.uk)



**Driving nature's recovery in Yorkshire**



## Materials

- Dk knitting wool
  - 50g Brown (B)
  - 50g Red (R)
  - 50g White (W)
- Small amount of fine light grey and white for decorative stitching down the sides of the breast (optional)
- Floristry wire – could also use galvanised wire on a reel, fine garden wire
- 2 black spherical/circular beads or buttons for eyes 5–7mm
- Crochet hook 3.00
- Wool sewing needle
- Strong thread for attaching eyes
- Pliers for bending the wire
- Toy stuffing

## Abbreviations

St – stitch

Ch – chain

Dc – double crochet

Dcinc. – work a Dc twice into the same stitch

Dc2tog – work two Dc into one stitch





## Start crocheting!

### 1. Make the head and body

1.	Using B work 5 sts. Into a magic ring. Pull the wool to close the ring.	(5sts)
2.	(Dcinc.)x5 work into every stitch round the ring. Place a marker in the first Dc and keep this in place for every round.	(10sts)
3.	(Dcinc. Dc)x5	(15st)
4.	Dc all round.	
5.	(Dcinc)x3 10Dc (Dcinc)x2	(20sts)
6.	Dc all round	
7.	(Dcinc)x2 11Dc (Dcinc)x2 1Dc	(24sts)
8.	Dc all round	
9.	Dcinc 2Dc Dcinc 6Dc (dcinc)x2 6Dc Dcinc 2Dc Dcinc 2Dc	(30sts)
10.	Dc all round	
11.	14Dc (Dcinc)x2 14Dc	(32sts)
12.	Dc all round	
13.	15Dc (Dcinc)x2 15Dc	(34sts)
14.	Dc all round	
15.	16Dc (Dcinc)x2 16Dc	(36sts)
16.	Dc all round	
17.	17Dc (Dc inc)x2 17Dc	(38sts)
18.	Dc all round	
19.	18Dc (Dcinc)x2 18Dc	(40sts)
20.	Change to white wool. Dc all round	
21.	Using white 19Dc (Dcinc)x2 19Dc	(42sts)
22.	Dc all round	
23.	Dc 2tog 16Dc Dc2tog 2Dc DC2tog 16Dc DC2tog	(38sts)
24.	Dc all round	
25.	Dc2tog 14Dc Dc2tog 2Dc Dc2tog 14Dc Dc2tog	(34sts)
26.	Dc all round	
27.	Dc2tog 12 Dc Dc2tog 2Dc Dc2tog 12Dc Dc 2tog	(30sts)
28.	Dc all round	
29.	Dc2tog 8Dc Dc2tog 6Dc Dc2tog 8Dc Dc2tog	(26sts)
30.	Dc all round	
31.	7Dc work 12 chain sts. And rejoin the work missing 12 Dc 7Dc This makes a slit in the body of the robin and is used to stuff the body and head, also space to attach the legs. Make sure that it runs horizontally across the body when the robin is facing you. If it is slightly to one side just adjust the number of Dcs before the chain and increase it at the end. Either way there will be 14 sts after the chain.	
32.	Working on the 14sts. Of the body and the 12sts on the chain. Dc 2tog 2Dc (Dc2tog 1Dc)x6 DC2tog 2Dc	(18sts)
33.	3Dc (Dc 2tog 1Dc)x4 3Dc	(14sts)
34.	Break off yarn, use a wool needle to thread through one side of each Dc stitch. Pull tight to close the opening and fasten off tightly.	



## 2. Make the red breast

Work in rows, turn after the 1ch at the end of every row.		
1.	Using R, Make a 9chain link	
2.	Into the 2nd ch work 8Dc 1ch	(8sts)
3–5.	Work 3 more rows DC	(8sts)
6.	3Dc (Dc inc)x2 3Dc 1ch	(10sts)
7.	DC inc 8Dc Dc inc 1ch	(12sts)
8.	Dc across the row 1ch	
9.	Dc across the row 1ch	
10.	5Dc (Dcinc)x2 1ch	(14sts)
11.	Dc across row 1ch	
12.	Dc across row 1ch	
13.	7Dc 1ch Turn and work on this half of breast first before rejoining wool and completing the second half.	
14.	Dc2tog 5Dc 1ch	(6sts)
15.	6Dc 1ch	
16.	Dc2tog 2Dc Dc2tog 1ch	(4sts)
17.	Dc2tog Dc2tog 1ch	(2sts)
18.	1Dc pass the ch st over the Dc. Work last Dc and pass the first st over it. Thread wool through to fasten off.	
13.	Rejoin wool to the point the work was split down the middle on row 13. 7DC 1ch	(7sts)
14.	5DC Dc2tog 1ch	(6sts)
15.	6Dc 1ch	
16.	Dc2tog 2Dc DC2tog 1ch	(4sts)
17.	DC2tog DC2tog 1ch	(2sts)
18.	1Dc Pass ch st over the next Dc. Work 1Dc, pass the ch st over the last Dc. Thread wool through to fasten off.	



## 3. Make the beak

Cut a piece of floristry wire 7cm long. Fold in half and pinch together for the tip of the beak.		
1.	Using B make a 3ch link, leaving a length of wool for sewing.	
2.	Dc Dcinc 1ch	(4sts)
3.	Dc across row 1ch	
4.	(Dc2tog)x2 1ch	(2sts)
5.	Thread wool through loop to fasten off	
6.	Thread the length of wool at the point onto a needle, through the wire folded over at the tip of the beak and sew the beak tightly round the wire. The length of wool at the other end of the beak will sew it onto the head later.	

## 4. Make the wings



### Wing 1

Work in rows for both wings, at the end of each row work 1ch for turning.

Using B, make a 6ch link. Start at the 2nd chain to make the first stitch.

1.	Dcinc 1Dc Dcinc 2Dc 1ch	(7sts)
2.	2Dc Dcinc 1Dc Dcinc 2Dc 1ch	(9sts)
3.	3Dc Dcinc 1Dc Dcinc 3Dc 1ch	(11sts)
4–5.	Dc across row	
6.	6Dc Dcinc 1Dc Dcinc 2D 1ch	(13sts)
7.	2Dc Dc2tog 9Dc 1ch	(12sts)
8.	8Dc Dc2tog 2Dc 1ch	(11sts)
9.	Dc across row	
10.	7Dc Dc2 tog 2Dc 1ch	(10sts)
11.	1Dc Dc2tog 7Dc 1ch	(9sts)
12.	6Dc Dc2tog 1Dc 1ch	(8sts)
13–14.	Dc across row	
15.	1Dc Dc2tog 5Dc 1ch	(7sts)
16.	Dc across row	(7sts)
17.	1Dc Dc2tog 4Dc 1ch	(6sts)
18.	Dc across row	
19.	1Dc Dc2tog 3Dc 1ch	(5sts)
20.	1Dc Dc2tog 2Dc 1ch	(4sts)
21.	Dc across row	
22.	(Dc2tog)x2	(2sts)
23.	Dc2tog	

### Wing 2

Using B, make a 6ch link. Start at the 2nd ch to form the first stitch

1.	2Dc Dcinc 1Dc Dc inc 1ch	(7sts)
2.	2Dc Dcinc 1Dc Dcinc 2Dc 1ch	(9sts)
3.	3Dc Dcinc 1Dc Dcinc 3Dc 1ch	(11sts)
4.	Dc across row	
5.	Dc across row	
6.	2Dc Dcinc 1Dc Dcinc 6Dc 1ch	(13sts)
7.	9Dc Dc2tog 2Dc 1ch	(12sts)
8.	2Dc Dc2tog 8Dc 1ch	(11sts)
9.	Dc across row	
10.	2Dc Dc2tog 7Dc 1ch	(10sts)
11.	7Dc DC2tog 1DC 1ch	(9sts)
12.	1Dc Dc2tog 6Dc 1ch	(8sts)
13.	DC across row	
14.	DC across row	
15.	5Dc Dc2tog 1Dc 1ch	(7sts)
16.	Dc across row	
17.	4Dc Dc2tog 1Dc 1ch	(6sts)
18.	Dc across row	
19.	3Dc Dc2tog 1Dc 1ch	(5sts)
20.	2Dc Dc2tog 1Dc 1ch	(4sts)
21.	Dc across road	
22.	(Dc2tog)x2	(2sts)
23.	Dc2tog	

## 5. Make the tail

This is worked in rows. Every row ends in 1ch for turning.		
1.	Using B , work a 9 chain link.	
2.	Starting at 2nd chain, work 8Dc 1ch	(8sts)
3–7.	8Dc 1ch every row	
8.	Dc2tog 4Dc Dc2tog 1ch	(6sts)
9–21.	6Dc 1ch Work this for 12 rows	
22.	Dcinc 3Dc Dinc 1Dc 1ch	(8sts)
23.	8Dc 1ch	
24.	Fasten off. Take a 20cm length of wire. Fold it in half and pinch together with pliers. Starting from the bottom of the tail on the wrong side and the folded end of the wire, oversew it down the centre to a length of approx. 9.5cm. the last bit of the wire will be pushed into the body of the robin.	

## Construction of the Robin

1. Stuff the body and head firmly, retaining the body shape.
2. Position the red breast on the body with pins, starting 4-5 rows down from the top of the head (see pictures). Oversew around the edges.
3. Use the fine white and grey wool to sew straight stitches around the sides and bottom of the breast to soften the hard edges between the red, white and brown crocheting. If you only have Dk yarn for this, you can carefully untwist the yarn to use a thinner thread but be careful as this weakens the yarn.
4. Use strong thread to attach the eyes through the red and brown crochet. Pull the thread out at the back of the head at the neck. Tie the two ends together firmly and thread the loose ends inside the bird. If the thread isn't the same colour as the brown just use some spare wool to add a few stitches to cover the knot at the back of the head.

## Legs

5. Cut two pieces of wire 40cm long. Take one wire and fold it in half, use pliers to pinch the folded end to make the first toe 1.3cm in length. Wrap one of the long ends



tightly round the ankle then fold it over to make a second toe the same length and pinching it together to shape the toe. Use the other long end to make another toe the same length and again wrap it round the ankle and pinch it together. Using the same length of wire make the last toe 1.6 cm long. Twist the remaining long wires together, holding the foot in one hand and twisting with the other, you could grip it in the pliers if that helps. The legs will be 4cm long outside the body so only twist to this length. Repeat with the other 40cm piece of wire.





# Crochet pattern

Use brown yarn to tie a length to one ankle, wrapping tightly to each toe in turn and around the ankle then up the leg to nearly 4.5cm. Pull the two pieces of wire slightly apart and pass the end of the wool between them. Use pliers to twist them together again, trapping the wool. Knot around the wire and cut off excess, not too close to knot.

Take the two legs, facing the same direction. Measure 4cm of leg and bend over the top of each at a right angle to form a tabletop shape. Put them together with a gap between them the same as the 12st gap then twist them firmly together. It works better if the bare wire is twisted together and not wrapped in yarn. Put the legs inside the body and push a little stuffing around them to cover the wire. Use white yarn to slipstitch the opening and tie tightly round the tops of the legs to secure them firmly.

## Wings

6. Use the picture to see the position of the wings, placing the straight edge along the front of the body. Pin and oversew over the top of the wing and down the front edge, leaving the bottom of the wing free and as much of the back as possible to give it a more realistic appearance.

## Tail

7. The long thin end is the bottom of the tail, the wide end fits onto the body at the line where the brown crochet ends. Cover the white work with the brown, slipstitching it along the top. Push the spare wire into the body of the bird and slipstitch up the sides until just below this point.



## Beak

8. Push the wire on the beak into the head between and just below the eyes. Slipstitch around the beak and use pliers to make it as pointed as possible.

You can adjust the angles of the legs, feet and tail to help your robin stand firmly by slightly bending the wire.



Crochet pattern compiled by Jacky Thorpe.  
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