

Twitch & Stitch

Knit a robin for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Help us knit 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 Sunday 15th 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.**

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

Size: 10 / 13cm.



Materials

- DK yarn 50g brown (B)
 - 50g red (R)
 - 50g white (W)
- Small amount of fine light grey and white, 3ply or less, for decorative stitching down the sides of the red breast to soften the hard edges
- Knitting needles size 10 / 3.25mm
- 2 black spherical 5mm beads, craft buttons or safety eyes
- Strong thread for sewing on the beads and buttons
- Floristry wire for the legs, tail and beak. I used galvanised floristry wire on a reel, this allowed me to cut whatever length was required. Fine garden wire could be used but this will be thicker
- Pliers
- Wool sewing needle
- Toy stuffing

Abbreviations

- K - knit
- P - purl
- Kinc - knit into the front and back of the stitch
- Pinc - purl into the front and back of the stitch
- K2tog - knit into the front of two stitches and work them together
- ss - stocking stitch

Start knitting!

1. Make the head and body

1.	Using B cast on 5st.	(5st.)
2.	(Pinc)x5	(10st.)
3.	(Kinc K1)x5	(15st.)
4.	P	
5.	(Kinc)x3 K10 (Kinc)x2	(20st.)
6.	P	
7.	(Kinc K1)x2 K11 (Kinc K1)x2 K1	(24st.)
8.	P	
9.	Kinc K2 Kinc K6 Kinc Kinc K6 Kinc K2 Kinc K2	(30st.)
10.	P	
11.	K14 Kinc Kinc K14	(32st.)
12.	P	
13.	K15 Kinc Kinc K15	(34st.)
14.	P on stitch number 17 & 18 K white stitches together with the brown	
15.	K16B (Kinc Kinc)W K16B	(36sts.)
16.	P15 B P6 W P15 B	(30B+6W=36st.)
17.	K14 B (K3 Kinc Kinc K3) W K14 B	(28B+10W=38st.)
18.	P13B P12W P13B	
19.	K12B (K6 Kinc Kinc K6)W K12B	(24B+16W=40st.)
20.	P11B P18W P11B	
21.	K8B (K11 Kinc Kinc K11)W K8B	(16B+26W=42st.)
22.	P8B P26W P8B	
23.	(K2tog K5)B (K11 K2tog K2 K2tog K11)W (K2tog K5)B	(12B+ 26W= 38st.)
24.	P6B P26W P6B	
25.	(K2tog K4)B (K10 K2tog K2 K2tog K10)W (K2tog K4)B	(10B+24W=34st.)
26.	P5B P24W P5B	
27.	(K2tog K3)B (K9 K2tog K2 K2tog K9)W (K2tog K3)B	(8B+22W=30st.)
28.	P4B P22W P4B	
29.	K4B (K2tog K3 K2tog K3 K2 K2tog K3 K2tog K3)W K4B	(8B+18W=26st.)
30.	P4B P18W P4B	
31.	K4B (K3 cast off 12st K3)W K4B	
32.	P4B (P3 cast on 12st. P3)W P4B	
33.	(K2tog K2)B (K2tog K1)x6W (K2tog K2)B	(6B+12W=18st.)
34.	P3B P12W P3B	
35.	K3B (K2tog K1)x4W K3B	(6B+8W=14st.)
36.	Break off yarn, use a needle to thread through the stitches. Pull tight to close the opening and fasten off tightly.	

2. Make the red breast



Cast on 8sts		
1-4.	Work 4 rows ss	(8sts.)
5.	K3 Kinc Kinc K3	(10sts.)
6.	Pinc P8 Pinc	(12sts.)
7.	K	
8.	P	
9.	K5 (Kinc)x2	(14sts.)
10.	P	
11.	K	(14sts.)
12.	P7 turn	
Work on these 7 stitches to complete this side of the breast first		
13.	K2tog K5	(6sts.)
14.	P6	
15.	K2tog K4	(5sts.)
16.	P2tog P1 and cast it off with the first stitch. P2tog and cast it off.	
Work on the second side of breast		
12.	P7	
13.	K5 K2tog	(6sts.)
14.	P6	
15.	K4 K2tog	(5sts.)
16.	P2tog P1 and cast off with the first stitch. P2tog and cast off.	

3. Make the beak

Cut a 5cm length of wire. Fold in half and use pliers to pinch the end to form a pointed beak.		
Cast on 3sts		
1.	K2 Kinc	(4sts.)
2.	Cast off. Sew up the tiny edge of the beak, push the wire inside and secure the wire to the knitting keeping a length of yarn attached for sewing onto the face.	

4. Make the wings

Wing 1

Using brown cast on 5sts.		
1.	Pinc P1 Pinc P1 K1	(7sts.)
2.	K2 Kinc K1 Kinc K2	(9sts.)
3.	K1 P2 Pinc P1 Pinc P2 K1	(11sts.)
4.	K	
5.	K1 P to last stitch K1	
6.	K6 Kinc K1 Kinc K2	(13sts.)
7.	K1 P1 P2tog P8 K1	(12sts.)
8.	K8 K2tog K2	(11sts.)
9.	K1 P to last stitch K1	
10.	K7 K2tog K2	(10sts.)
11.	K1 P2tog P6 K1	(9sts.)
12.	K6 K2tog K1	(8sts.)
13.	K1 P to last stitch K1	(5sts.)
14.	K	
15.	K1 P2tog P4 K1	(7sts.)
16.	K	
17.	K1 P2tog P3 K1	(6sts.)
18.	K	
19.	K1 P2tog P2 K1	(5sts.)
20.	K1 K2tog K2	(4sts.)
21.	K1 P2tog K1	(3sts.)
22.	K1 K2tog	(2sts.)
23.	Cast off last 2sts.	

Wing 2

Cast on 5sts.		
1.	Kinc K1 Kinc K2	(7sts.)
2.	K1 P1 Pinc P1 Pinc P1 K1	(9sts.)
3.	K3 Kinc K1 Kinc K3	(11sts.)
4.	K1 P9 K1	
5.	K	
6.	K1 P5 Pinc P1 Pinc P1 K1	(13sts.)
7.	K2 K2tog K9	(12sts.)
8.	K1 P7 P2tog P1 k1	(11sts.)
9.	K	
10.	K1 P6 P2tog P1 K1	(10sts.)
11.	K1 K2tog K7	(9sts.)
12.	K1 P5 P2tog K1	(8sts.)
13.	K	
14.	K1 P6 K1	
15.	K1 K2tog K5	(7sts.)
16.	K1 P5 K1	
17.	K1 K2tog K4	(6sts.)
18.	K1 P4 K1	
19.	K1 K2tog K3	(5sts.)
20.	K1 P2tog P1 K1	(4sts.)
21.	K1 K2tog K1	(3sts.)
22.	K1 P2tog	(2sts.)
23.	Cast off last 2sts.	

5. Make the tail (make two)

Cast on 4sts.		
1.	- ss 6 rows	(4sts.)
2.	- Kinc K2 Kinc	(6sts.)
3.	- ss 9 rows	
4.	- cast off	



Construction of the Robin

1. Sew up the back seam from the head to the base, leaving open the 12st gap which is left open to stuff the bird and insert legs.
2. If using safety eyes, they will need to be attached after the red breast has been sewn on and before it is stuffed. Probably a good idea to stuff the bird, sew on the breast, unstuff the bird, add the eyes and restuff.
3. Stuff the body firmly, retaining the body shape.
4. Position the red breast on the body with pins, starting 4 rows down from the top of the head (see pictures) Oversew around the edges.
5. Use fine white and pale grey yarn to sew fine straight stitches around the sides and bottom of the breast to soften the hard edges between the red, white and brown knitting. 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. Look at images.
6. Use strong thread to attach the eyes through the red and brown knitting. Pull the thread out at the back oh the head around the neck area. Tie the two threads together firmly and thread the loose ends inside the bird. If the thread isn't the same colour as your knitting there will be loose brown thread from sewing on the wings that can be used to hide it.

Legs

7. Cut two pieces of wire 30cm long. Take one wire and fold it in half, use pliers to pinch the folded end to make the first toe just over 1cm in length. Wrap one of the long ends tightly round the ankle then fold it over to make a second toe 1cm long, twist the end of the wire round the ankle again. The first toe is the longer back toe and the second is one of the 3 facing forwards. Don't worry that the two ends of wire are no longer the same length. Take

the longer end of wire and form two more toes, twisting round the ankle once more. Hold the foot in one hand and the two cut ends in the other and start twisting it round as many times as you can to make a firm leg.

Repeat with the other 30cm piece of wire. Use brown yarn to tie a length to one ankle, wrapping tightly round each toe, leaving the tip visible. Wrap tightly round the ankle and leg, tying off at about 4cm. The legs will be 3cm tall outside the body and the rest fits inside it. Take the two legs, facing in the same direction. Measure 3cm of leg and bend over the top of each at a right angle to form a table top shape. Put them together with a gap between them the same as the 12st gap then twist them firmly together. It works better if it is bare wire and not wrapped in yarn. Put the legs inside the body and push a little stuffing around to cover the wire. Use white yarn to slipstitch the opening and tie tightly round the legs to keep them in place.



Wings

8. Use the brown yarn left at the end of the wing, thread onto a wool needle and sew only into the top of the purl stitches with straight stitched to darn over the stitching to flatten and strengthen the end of the wing. Use the picture to see the position of the wings, placing the straight edge along the front side of the body. Pin and oversew all around the edge except for the 4cm nearest the tip.

Tail

9. Put the two halves of the tail with the wrong sides touching. Cut a length of wire long enough to go all around the tail plus a little extra to push inside the body. Oversew the two edges of the tail together sandwiching the wire between them, making sure the stitches go round the wire. Push the ends of the wire inside the body and stitch firmly in place.

Beak

10. Push the wire on the beak into the head between the eyes and sew firmly in position.

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



Knitting pattern compiled by Jacky Thorpe.

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