



SUNNY DUCK PLUSHIE | FREE KNITTING PATTERN

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Free Knitting Pattern

A soft round duck with a knitted beak, little wings, orange feet and a three-loop crown tuft

Skill level: Confident Beginner / Easy Intermediate



Worked mainly in stockinette stitch in the round with simple shaping, light embroidery and sewn assembly.

1. About This Pattern

This pattern makes a plump knitted duck with a large round head, pear-shaped body, short side wings, softly rounded orange feet, a padded oval beak and a tiny looped tuft at the crown. The main pieces are knitted in the round; the beak is knitted flat. Simple embroidery and contrast sewing stitches complete the face and joins.

Finished Size

- Overall height: approximately 26-28 cm / 10.25-11 in, including feet and crown tuft.
- Head: approximately 13 cm / 5.1 in wide and 12 cm / 4.75 in high.
- Body: approximately 11 cm / 4.3 in wide and 11-12 cm / 4.3-4.75 in high.
- Wing length: approximately 6-6.5 cm / 2.4-2.6 in.
- Foot: approximately 4-4.5 cm / 1.6-1.8 in wide.
- Beak: approximately 6.5-7 cm / 2.6-2.75 in wide and 4.5-5 cm / 1.8-2 in high.

Finished size may vary depending on yarn, needle size, tension, stuffing and individual technique.

Finished Views



Front, left side, back and right side views. Use these views to check beak projection, wing angle, tail position and overall balance.

2. Materials and Tools

Item	Details
Yarn	DK / light-worsted (#3), smooth yarn. Cotton, cotton-acrylic or smooth acrylic works well.
Duck Yellow	Approx. 70-85 g / 160-200 m / 175-220 yd.
Beak Orange	Approx. 20-25 g / 45-60 m / 50-65 yd.
Cream	Approx. 3-5 g / 7-12 m / 8-13 yd for decorative joining stitches.
Black	A small amount of smooth embroidery yarn or stranded cotton for nostrils.
Main needles	3.25 mm (US 3) DPNs or a circular needle long enough for magic loop.
Beak needles	3.0 mm (US 2.5) straight or circular needles, or the size needed for the stated flat gauge.
Eyes	Two 12 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
Stuffing	Polyester toy stuffing, approximately 80-110 g.
Other tools	Tapestry needle, locking stitch marker, removable markers, pins, scissors and measuring tape.

Safety Note

Safety eyes and other small or rigid components may not be suitable for projects intended for children under three years. Embroidered eyes can be used instead.

Gauge and Tension

- Main stockinette in the round with 3.25 mm needles: 24 sts x 32 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in, measured unstretched.
- Beak stockinette worked flat with 3.0 mm needles: about 26 sts x 36 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in.
- Use a firm, dense fabric so stuffing does not show between stitches. The exact gauge is less important than a tight, even fabric, but large differences will change the proportions.

3. Abbreviations, Method and Orientation

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CO	cast on
DPN / DPNs	double-pointed needle / double-pointed needles
k	knit
p	purl
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch; 1 stitch increased
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, return both stitches to left needle and knit them together through the back loops; 1 stitch decreased
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

Method

- Body, head, wings, feet and tail are knitted in the round without turning. Place a marker at the BOR and move it up after every round.
- For the body and head, the BOR is centre back. Stitch 1 is the first stitch immediately after the BOR marker.
- The beak is worked flat in rows. Odd-numbered shaping rows are RS knit rows; even-numbered rows are WS purl rows unless stated otherwise.
- Right and left are described from the finished duck's point of view.
- Centre front is directly opposite the centre-back BOR. On a 96-st head round, centre front lies between sts 48 and 49. On an 80-st body round, centre front lies between sts 40 and 41.

Construction Overview

1. Knit and stuff the body, leaving the upper neck area slightly softer.
2. Knit the head from the neck opening upward. Install the eyes before the crown decreases become too small, then close and stuff through the neck opening.
3. Knit the beak flat and embroider its nostrils before attachment.
4. Knit two wings, two feet, one tail and three short I-cords for the crown tuft.
5. Attach the beak to the stuffed head and add a small amount of stuffing under the beak before the final stitches are closed.
6. Join head to body, then attach feet, wings, tail and crown tuft. Finish with Cream decorative joining stitches.

4. Body

Use Duck Yellow and 3.25 mm needles. Work in the round from the lower centre upward. CO 8 sts, join to work in the round, place BOR at centre back and take care not to twist.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	K around.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	K around.	16
4	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
5	K around.	24
6	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
7	K around.	32
8	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40
9	K around.	40
10	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48
11	K around.	48
12	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
13	K around.	56
14	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64
15	K around.	64
16	(K7, kfb) 8 times.	72
17	K around.	72
18	(K8, kfb) 8 times.	80
19-29	K around.	80
30	(K8, k2tog) 8 times.	72
31	K around.	72
32	(K7, k2tog) 8 times.	64
33	K around.	64
34	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56

Rnd	Instruction	Count
35	K around.	56
36	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48

After Rnd 4, use the cast-on tail to gather the small cast-on opening closed from the inside. Secure the tail and bury it within the body.

Bind off the 48 sts of Rnd 36 loosely in Duck Yellow. Stuff through the neck opening. Fill the lower half firmly enough to hold a rounded shape, keep the base broad and stable, and leave the upper 2 cm / 0.75 in slightly softer for joining to the head.

5. Head

Use Duck Yellow and 3.25 mm needles. The head begins at the neck opening and is worked upward to the crown. CO 48 sts, join to work in the round and place BOR at centre back.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	K around.	48
2	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
3	K around.	56
4	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64
5	K around.	64
6	(K7, kfb) 8 times.	72
7	K around.	72
8	(K8, kfb) 8 times.	80
9	K around.	80
10	(K9, kfb) 8 times.	88
11	K around.	88
12	(K10, kfb) 8 times.	96
13-22	K around.	96
23	(K10, k2tog) 8 times.	88
24	K around.	88
25	(K9, k2tog) 8 times.	80
26	K around.	80
27	(K8, k2tog) 8 times.	72

Rnd	Instruction	Count
28	K around.	72
29	(K7, k2tog) 8 times.	64
30	K around.	64
31	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56
32	K around.	56
33	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48
34	K around.	48
35	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40
36	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32
37	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24
38	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
39	K2tog 8 times.	8

Eye Placement - Pause After Rnd 22

On the 96-st section, centre front lies between sts 48 and 49. Place the eye stems between Head Rnds 17 and 18 at the gaps between sts 39/40 and sts 57/58. The two eyes are mirrored around centre front and are separated by 18 sts along the front of the round. Confirm from the front that they are level before fixing the backs.

If embroidering the eyes, mark the same positions with removable yarn and add the embroidery after the head is stuffed.

After Rnd 33, begin adding stuffing through the lower neck opening as needed so the crown remains accessible. After Rnd 39, cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail, thread through the remaining 8 sts twice, pull firmly closed, secure and bury the tail inside the head. Finish stuffing through the neck opening. Keep the lower edge slightly softer so it sits neatly on the body.

6. Beak and Face Details

Beak - Make 1

Use Beak Orange and 3.0 mm needles. Work flat. CO 10 sts.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: K across.	10
2	WS: P across.	10
3	Kfb, k8, kfb.	12
4	P across.	12

Row	Instruction	Count
5	Kfb, k10, kfb.	14
6	P across.	14
7	Kfb, k12, kfb.	16
8	P across.	16
9	Kfb, k14, kfb.	18
10	P across.	18
11	K across.	18
12	P across.	18
13	K1, ssk, k12, k2tog, k1.	16
14	P across.	16
15	K1, ssk, k10, k2tog, k1.	14
16	P across.	14
17	K1, ssk, k8, k2tog, k1.	12
18	P across.	12
19	K1, ssk, k6, k2tog, k1.	10
20	WS: BO purlwise.	0

Nostrils

Before sewing the beak to the head, use Black yarn to embroider two short vertical satin-stitch bars on the RS. Place them across approximately Beak Rows 9-13, each about 8-10 mm / 0.3-0.4 in tall. Position one about 5 sts to the left of the beak centre and the other 5 sts to the right. Keep both bars equal in height and parallel.

Beak Placement

With the head stuffed, pin the beak horizontally over centre front. Place the top edge around Head Rnd 16 and the bottom edge around Head Rnd 5, with the beak widest across Head Rnds 9-12. Keep its centre aligned with the centre-front gap. The upper edge should sit below the eyes without touching them.

Using Beak Orange and a small whip stitch, sew around the beak edge. When about 2 cm / 0.75 in remains open, add a small amount of stuffing so the beak is softly rounded and projects slightly forward. Finish the seam without flattening the centre.

With Cream yarn, add small evenly spaced overcast stitches along the upper half of the beak edge. With Beak Orange and a tapestry needle, work a continuous embroidered chain stitch along the curved lower half of the beak edge. Keep the chain loops even and do not pull them tightly enough to distort the beak.

7. Wings and Feet

Wings - Make 2

Use Duck Yellow and 3.25 mm needles. Work in the round from the rounded tip toward the shoulder. CO 8 sts, join and place BOR.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	K around.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	K around.	16
4	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
5-17	K around.	24
18	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
19-20	K around.	16

After Rnd 4, gather the cast-on opening closed with the cast-on tail. After Rnd 20, bind off loosely. Lightly stuff only the lower two-thirds of the wing; keep the shoulder opening soft. Flatten the bound-off opening so the front and back layers lie together. During attachment, each sewing stitch must capture both flattened wing layers before entering the body.

Feet - Make 2

Use Beak Orange and 3.25 mm needles. Work in the round. CO 8 sts, join and place BOR.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	K around.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
4	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
5-7	K around.	32
8	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24
9	K around.	24
10	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
11	K around.	16
12	K2tog 8 times.	8

After Rnd 4, gather the cast-on opening closed. Stuff moderately after Rnd 10, concentrating stuffing toward the front so the foot forms a soft low oval rather than a ball. After Rnd 12, cut yarn, thread through the remaining 8 sts twice, gather closed and secure.

Gently flatten the underside by rolling the foot between your palms and pressing the base against a flat surface.

8. Tail and Crown Tuft

Tail - Make 1

Use Duck Yellow and 3.25 mm needles. Work in the round. CO 6 sts, join and place BOR.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	K around.	6

Rnd	Instruction	Count
2	Kfb in every st around.	12
3	(K1, kfb) 6 times.	18
4-5	K around.	18
6	(K1, k2tog) 6 times.	12
7	K2tog 6 times.	6

Add only a pinch of stuffing after Rnd 5. After Rnd 7, cut yarn, gather the remaining 6 sts closed and secure. Leave the original 6-st cast-on edge open; this small attachment opening is closed completely when the tail is sewn to the body. The tail should stay small and softly rounded.

Three-Loop Crown Tuft

Use Duck Yellow and either two 3.25 mm DPNs or the 3.25 mm circular needle used for the main pieces. Each cord is a 3-stitch I-cord. CO 3 sts. Knit the 3 sts; do not turn. Slide the stitches to the opposite end or needle tip, carry the working yarn firmly across the back, and knit the 3 sts again. Repeat to form a narrow tube.

- Outer loop 1: work 10 I-cord rows, then cut yarn and draw through the 3 sts.
- Centre loop: work 12 I-cord rows, then cut yarn and draw through the 3 sts.
- Outer loop 2: work 10 I-cord rows, then cut yarn and draw through the 3 sts.

Fold each I-cord into a loop with its two ends together. Do not sew them to the head yet; final placement is given in Assembly.

9. Assembly

1. Check all stuffing and centres. Lay the stuffed body and head in front of you with both BOR lines facing centre back. Check that the body base sits flat and that the eyes are level.

2. Attach the beak. If not already completed, pin and sew the beak as described in Section 6. Check it from front and side views before the last seam stitches are tightened.

3. Join head to body. Match the 48-st head cast-on edge to the 48-st body neck edge with both BOR lines aligned at centre back. Pin at centre front, centre back and both side points. With Duck Yellow, use a small whip stitch through one edge stitch from the head and the corresponding edge stitch from the body. Work all the way around without overtightening. Add or redistribute stuffing before closing the final 2-3 cm / 1 in. Secure and bury the yarn tail.

4. Add the neck detail. With Cream yarn, work evenly spaced decorative whip stitches around the head-body seam, one stitch about every 5-6 mm / 0.2-0.25 in. Keep the tension decorative rather than tight.

5. Attach the feet. Pin the two feet to the lower front of the body over approximately Body Rnds 5-11. At Body Rnd 10, the left foot centre should sit near the gap between sts 17/18 and the right foot centre near the gap between sts 31/32. Keep the inner foot edges about 1.5-2 cm / 0.6-0.8 in apart. The toes must point forward. Sew the upper rear third of each foot to the body with Beak Orange using small whip stitches. Check that both feet touch the same horizontal surface before securing. Add a short line of Cream decorative stitches along each upper foot join. After both feet are secured and their forward direction is confirmed, use Beak Orange and a tapestry needle to work a continuous embroidered chain-stitch line along the visible lower front curve of each foot, approximately 3-4 mm / 1/8 in above the base. Work from the inner side around the toe toward the outer side, keeping both decorative rims level and mirrored.

6. Attach the wings. On the 64-st body section, the side axes lie at the gaps between sts 16/17 and sts 48/49. Pin each flattened wing opening as a short, approximately horizontal shoulder line across Body Rnds 32-33, centred on its side axis. The wing tips should angle gently down and slightly forward. Sew with Duck Yellow; each stitch must pass through both flattened wing layers before entering the body. Add a few Cream decorative stitches along the visible shoulder join.

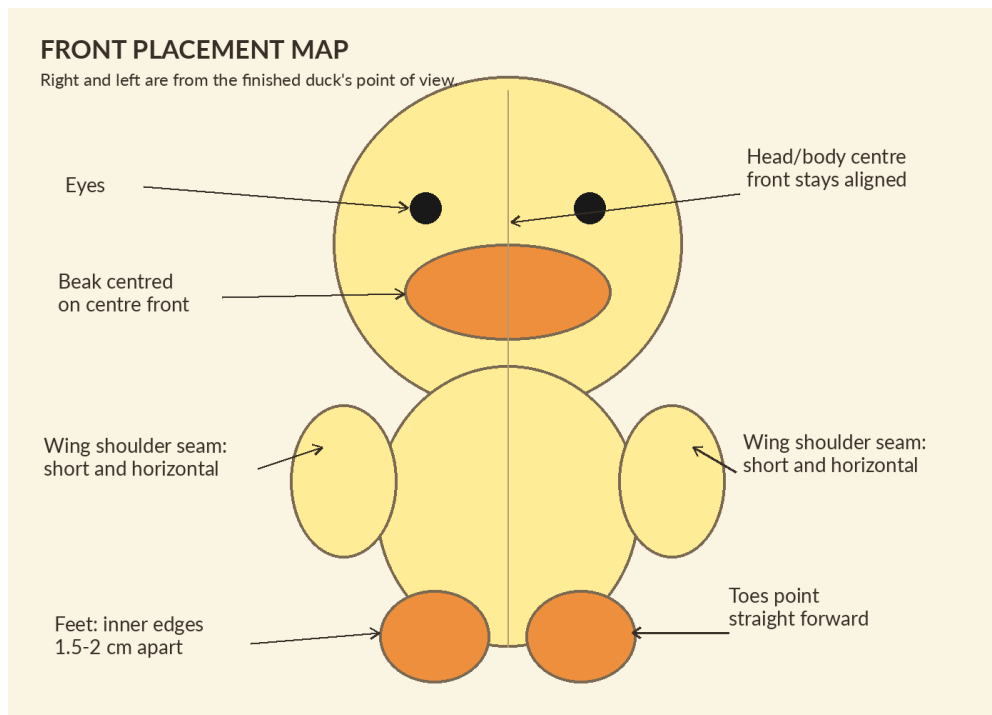
7. Attach the tail. Centre the tail over the body BOR line at the back, around Body Rnds 13-15. Pin so it points slightly outward and upward. Sew around its base with Duck Yellow, keeping the join compact.

8. Attach the crown tuft. At the centre of the closed head crown, arrange the three I-cord loops like a small fan: the 12-row loop upright in the middle and the two 10-row loops leaning slightly left and right. Sew both ends of each loop securely into the crown with Duck Yellow. Pass through several nearby head stitches for strength and bury all tails inside.

9. Final shaping. Roll the head gently between your palms to round it, press the body base flat, and adjust the wings and feet so the duck stands evenly. Remove all markers and pins.

10. Placement Maps

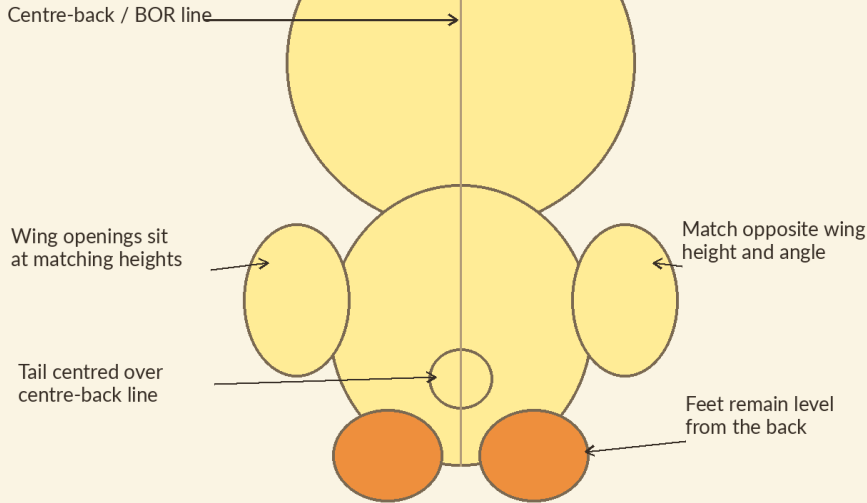
Use these maps together with the round and stitch landmarks in the assembly instructions. Pin every paired feature before sewing and compare from the front, sides, back and top.



Front map: keep the face centred, wing seams short and horizontal, and feet level with toes facing forward.

BACK PLACEMENT MAP

Keep both beginning-of-round lines aligned at centre back.



Back map: align the BOR lines, centre the tail and mirror the wing heights.

11. Finishing

- Bury every yarn tail through several centimetres of stuffed fabric before trimming the end.
- Do not pull decorative Cream stitches tight enough to dent the knitted fabric.
- If a seam gap appears, add one or two small matching-yarn stitches through the nearest full edge loops rather than cinching the entire seam.
- Shape the beak by pressing lightly at the side edges so the centre stays rounded and the lower rim remains horizontal.
- The finished duck should stand with both feet touching the surface, the head directly over the body and both wings hanging at matching angles.

12. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use a smaller needle size or firmer tension. For an existing piece, redistribute stuffing away from the stretched area rather than adding more.
Finished duck is too large or too small	Check the main stockinette gauge. A looser gauge makes every circumference and height larger; a tighter gauge makes them smaller.
Head looks tall or narrow	Confirm the 96-st section was worked for only Rnds 13-22 and that the shaping rounds were not skipped. Reshape the stuffing outward at the cheeks rather than packing extra stuffing into the crown.
Body base is too rounded	Move stuffing upward slightly and press the lower body firmly against a flat surface. The attached feet should support the front without lifting the centre of the body.

Problem	Practical correction
Head leans	Check that the centre-back BOR lines of the head and body are aligned and that the neck seam has equal tension all the way around. Open a short section of the seam, redistribute stuffing and resew if needed.
Eyes look uneven	Before fixing safety-eye backs, measure from each eye to centre front and to the nearby shaping rounds. For embroidered eyes, mark both positions with removable yarn first.
Beak is off-centre	The beak centre should line up with the centre-front gap of the head. Remove only the affected section of seam, repin with the top and bottom centres marked, then resew.
Wings twist backward	The flattened shoulder opening must be attached on a short horizontal line. If the seam was worked vertically, undo it and repin across Body Rnds 32-33.
Feet point outward	Rotate each foot so its long axis points toward the front before resewing. Match the two inner edges rather than matching the outer edges.
One wing or foot sits higher	Use the same round landmarks on both sides. Pin both pieces at the same time, compare from the front and back, then sew.
Seam gaps appear	Use matching yarn to close the gap with small whip stitches through full edge loops. Avoid pulling hard enough to create a ridge.
Beak fabric is too loose compared with the body	Check the separate flat beak gauge. Move to a smaller beak needle if needed so the orange fabric remains dense after light stuffing.

13. Final Checklist

- ✓ Face is centred on centre front.
- ✓ Eyes are level and equally spaced from centre front.
- ✓ Nostrils are matched and vertical.
- ✓ Beak is level, centred and softly rounded.
- ✓ Head sits straight over the body.
- ✓ Neck seam is closed with no stuffing visible.
- ✓ Wings are at matching heights and hang at matching angles.
- ✓ Both wing shoulder seams are short and approximately horizontal.
- ✓ Feet are level, evenly spaced and point forward.
- ✓ Tail is centred at the back and firmly attached.
- ✓ Three crown loops are secure and arranged as an even fan.
- ✓ Cream decorative stitches are evenly tensioned.
- ✓ Orange chain-stitch lower rims on the beak and both feet are even and continuous.
- ✓ No stuffing is visible through the knitted fabric.
- ✓ No openings, loose seams, trapped markers or unsecured yarn tails remain.
- ✓ The duck stands evenly without leaning.

Your Sunny Duck Plushie is complete.