

HARVEST ROOSTER PLUSHIE

Free Knitting Pattern

A plump standing rooster with layered tail feathers, a scalloped cream collar and bright knitted details



Skill level: Intermediate

Worked mostly in the round with a small amount of flat knitting for the neck feathers.

1. Introduction

This pattern makes a cheerful knitted rooster with a cream head, rounded brown body, golden feet and beak, red comb and wattles, cream-and-gold wings, and a layered seven-feather tail. The body, head and most small pieces are worked in the round. Eight pointed neck feathers are knitted flat and sewn over the head-to-body join for the soft scalloped collar.

The shaping uses only basic increases and decreases. Small-circumference knitting, neat stuffed-piece attachment and careful feature placement make the project best suited to an intermediate knitter or an adventurous beginner comfortable working in the round.

2. Finished Size

Part	Approximate measurement
Overall height, including comb	Approximately 31-33 cm / 12.25-13 in
Overall width, wing tip to wing tip	Approximately 18-20 cm / 7-8 in
Body	About 14 cm / 5.5 in high; 11.5-12.5 cm / 4.5-5 in wide
Head	About 12.5-13.5 cm / 5-5.25 in high; 10-11 cm / 4-4.25 in wide
Wing, each	About 8-9 cm / 3.25-3.5 in long
Tail fan projection	About 8-9 cm / 3.25-3.5 in from the back
Foot, each	About 5 cm / 2 in wide across the toes
Central comb lobe	About 4.5-5 cm / 1.75-2 in high

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

3. Materials and Tools

- DK / light-worsted smooth yarn, approximately 100-120 m / 109-131 yd per 50 g: cream 60 g, warm brown 55 g, mustard gold 35 g, deep red 25 g, navy 20 g, olive green 15 g.
- 3.5 mm knitting needles suitable for small-circumference knitting: DPNs or a circular needle long enough for magic loop.
- One additional 3.5 mm needle for working the flat neck feathers, if preferred.
- Two 12 mm black safety eyes, or a small amount of black yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Polyester stuffing.
- Tapestry needle, removable stitch markers, pins, scissors and measuring tape.

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.

4. Gauge and Tension

22 sts x 30 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette worked in the round with 3.5 mm needles, measured before stuffing.

Use a firm, dense fabric so stuffing does not show between stitches. If your fabric is noticeably looser, move down a needle size. If you substitute one or more colors with a different yarn, adjust needle size as needed so all structural pieces match the same gauge.

5. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off

Abbreviation	Meaning
BOR	beginning of round
CB	centre back
CF	centre front
CO	cast on
DPN / DPNs	double-pointed needle / double-pointed needles
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
k3tog	knit 3 stitches together; 2 stitches decreased
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch; 1 stitch increased
p	purl
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1 knitwise, slip 1 knitwise, return both stitches to the left needle and knit them together through the back loops; 1 stitch decreased
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

6. Method and Orientation

- The body, head, beak, comb lobes, wattles, wings, toes, ankles and tail feathers are worked in the round. The neck feathers are worked flat.
- Unless a step says otherwise, round instructions are worked without turning. Place a marker at BOR and move it up each round.
- For the body and head, keep BOR at centre back. Centre front is directly opposite BOR.
- On the 72-st body section, CF is the gap after st 36. The side axes are approximately 18 sts to either side of CF. Continue each side-axis marker as the same physical side line through the later body decrease rounds.
- On the 64-st head section, CF is the gap after st 32.
- Right and left are described from the finished rooster's point of view.
- Keep removable markers for CB, CF and both side axes in place until all major pieces have been attached.

7. Construction Overview

Knit the brown body and cream head separately, leaving matching 48-st openings for the neck join. Add the eyes and face pieces before joining the head to the body. Sew eight flat cream neck feathers around the join. Build each foot from one ankle tube and three stuffed toes. Attach the tail feathers in layers before the wings so the wing bases can sit cleanly over the outer tail area. Add the three comb lobes last, then complete final shaping and seam checks.

Piece	Qty	Color	Stuffing	Opening / finish
Body	1	Brown	Stuffed	48-st upper opening for neck join
Head	1	Cream	Stuffed	48-st lower opening for neck join
Beak	1	Mustard	Lightly stuffed	18-st open base sewn to face
Central comb lobe	1	Deep red	Lightly stuffed	8-st cast-on base left open

Piece	Qty	Color	Stuffing	Opening / finish
Side comb lobes	2	Deep red	Lightly stuffed	8-st cast-on bases left open
Wattles	2	Deep red	Barely stuffed	6-st cast-on bases left open
Wings	2	Mustard + cream	Lightly stuffed	16-st shoulder opening left open
Ankle tubes	2	Mustard	Moderately stuffed	Both ends remain open until assembly
Toes	6	Mustard	Lightly stuffed	6-st cast-on bases left open
Long navy tail feathers	3	Navy	Lightly stuffed	8-st cast-on bases left open
Medium olive tail feathers	2	Olive	Lightly stuffed	8-st cast-on bases left open
Medium mustard tail feathers	2	Mustard	Lightly stuffed	8-st cast-on bases left open
Neck feathers	8	Cream	Unstuffed	Flat pointed tabs

8. Body

With warm brown yarn, CO 12 sts. Divide over DPNs or arrange for magic loop, join to work in the round without twisting, and place BOR at centre back. The cast-on edge is the underside centre of the body.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	12
2	Kfb in every st around.	24
3	Knit all sts.	24
4	(K1, kfb) 12 times.	36
5	Knit all sts.	36
6	(K2, kfb) 12 times.	48
7	Knit all sts.	48
8	(K3, kfb) 12 times.	60
9	Knit all sts.	60
10	(K4, kfb) 12 times.	72
11	Knit all sts.	72
12	Knit all sts.	72
13	Knit all sts.	72
14	Knit all sts.	72
15	Knit all sts.	72
16	Knit all sts.	72
17	Knit all sts.	72
18	Knit all sts.	72
19	Knit all sts.	72

Rnd	Instruction	Count
20	Knit all sts.	72
21	Knit all sts.	72
22	Knit all sts.	72
23	Knit all sts.	72
24	Knit all sts.	72
25	Knit all sts.	72
26	Knit all sts.	72
27	Knit all sts.	72
28	Knit all sts.	72
29	Knit all sts.	72
30	Knit all sts.	72
31	Knit all sts.	72
32	Knit all sts.	72
33	Knit all sts.	72
34	Knit all sts.	72
35	(K4, k2tog) 12 times.	60
36	Knit all sts.	60
37	Knit all sts.	60
38	Knit all sts.	60
39	(K3, k2tog) 12 times.	48
40	Knit all sts.	48
41	Knit all sts.	48
42	Knit all sts.	48

BO all 48 sts loosely. Leave the upper opening accessible for stuffing and the later neck join. Thread the cast-on tail through the 12 cast-on sts at the underside, draw the small opening closed, secure firmly and bury the tail inside.

9. Head

With cream yarn, CO 8 sts. Divide and join to work in the round. Place BOR at centre back. The cast-on edge forms the crown.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	Knit all sts.	16
4	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
5	Knit all sts.	24
6	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
7	Knit all sts.	32

Rnd	Instruction	Count
8	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40
9	Knit all sts.	40
10	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48
11	Knit all sts.	48
12	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
13	Knit all sts.	56
14	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64
15	Knit all sts.	64
16	Knit all sts.	64
17	Knit all sts.	64
18	Knit all sts.	64
19	Knit all sts.	64
20	Knit all sts.	64
21	Knit all sts.	64
22	Knit all sts.	64
23	Knit all sts.	64
24	Knit all sts.	64
25	Knit all sts.	64
26	Knit all sts.	64
27	Knit all sts.	64
28	Knit all sts.	64
29	Knit all sts.	64
30	Knit all sts.	64
31	Knit all sts.	64
32	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56
33	Knit all sts.	56
34	Knit all sts.	56
35	Knit all sts.	56
36	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48
37	Knit all sts.	48
38	Knit all sts.	48
39	Knit all sts.	48

After Rnd 31, install the eyes before continuing the lower-head decreases. Place them between Head Rnds 23 and 24, 6 sts to each side of CF: one in the gap after st 26 and the other in the gap after st 38. Confirm that both eyes are level before securing the backs.

After Rnd 39, BO all 48 sts loosely. Thread the crown cast-on tail through the 8 cast-on sts, draw the opening closed, secure and bury the tail inside. Leave the lower 48-st opening accessible for stuffing and joining to the body.

For embroidered eyes, mark the same two positions. After the head is stuffed but before it is joined to the body, use black yarn to work a compact vertical oval about 9-10 mm / 3/8 in high at each marker.

10. Beak and Wattles

Beak - make 1 in mustard

CO 6 sts and join to work in the round. The cast-on end forms the outer tip of the beak.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	6
2	Kfb in every st around.	12
3	(K1, kfb) 6 times.	18
4	Knit all sts.	18
5	Knit all sts.	18
6	Knit all sts.	18

BO all 18 sts loosely. Draw the 6-st cast-on opening closed with the cast-on tail. Lightly stuff the beak, keeping the 18-st bound-off edge open for attachment.

Wattles - make 2 in deep red

CO 6 sts and join to work in the round. The cast-on ring is the attachment base and remains open.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	6
2	(K1, kfb) 3 times.	9
3	Knit all sts.	9
4	(K2, kfb) 3 times.	12
5	Knit all sts.	12
6	Knit all sts.	12
7	Knit all sts.	12
8	(K2, k2tog) 3 times.	9
9	(K1, k2tog) 3 times.	6
10	K2tog 3 times.	3

Cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail. Thread through the remaining 3 sts, draw closed and secure. Add only a small pinch of stuffing so each wattle remains soft and slightly flattened. Keep the 6-st cast-on base open.

11. Comb

Central comb lobe - make 1 in deep red

CO 8 sts and join in the round. The cast-on ring remains open for attachment to the crown.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	Knit all sts.	16

Rnd	Instruction	Count
4	Knit all sts.	16
5	Knit all sts.	16
6	Knit all sts.	16
7	Knit all sts.	16
8	Knit all sts.	16
9	Knit all sts.	16
10	Knit all sts.	16
11	Knit all sts.	16
12	Knit all sts.	16
13	(K2, k2tog) 4 times.	12
14	K2tog 6 times.	6

Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 6 sts and draw closed. Stuff lightly, keeping about 1 cm / 3/8 in at the base soft.

Side comb lobes - make 2 in deep red

CO 8 sts and join in the round. The cast-on ring remains open for attachment.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	Knit all sts.	16
4	Knit all sts.	16
5	Knit all sts.	16
6	Knit all sts.	16
7	Knit all sts.	16
8	Knit all sts.	16
9	Knit all sts.	16
10	(K2, k2tog) 4 times.	12
11	K2tog 6 times.	6

Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 6 sts and draw closed. Stuff lightly and keep the base soft.

12. Wings - make 2

Begin each wing at the rounded mustard tip and work toward the cream shoulder. Keep BOR along the underside so the color-change jog is hidden against the body.

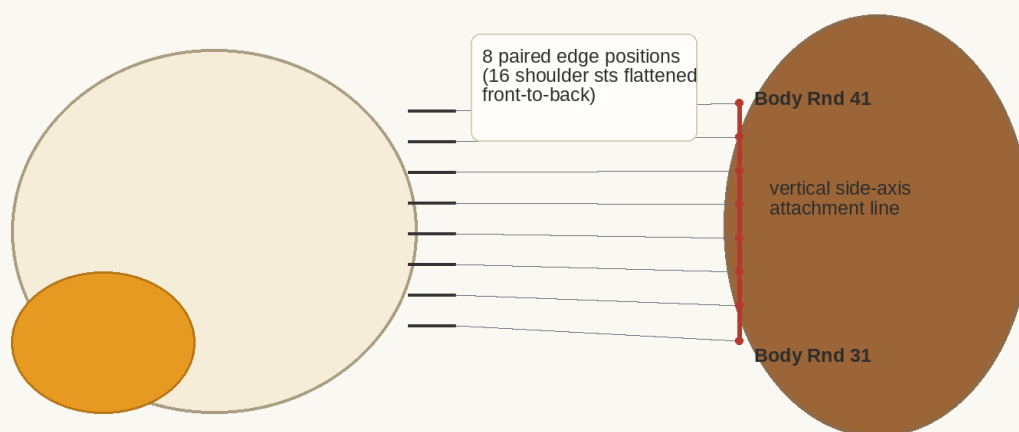
With mustard yarn, CO 8 sts and join in the round.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With mustard, knit all sts.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	Knit all sts.	16

Rnd	Instruction	Count
4	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
5	Knit all sts in mustard.	24
6	Knit all sts in mustard.	24
7	Knit all sts in mustard.	24
8	Knit all sts in mustard.	24
9	Change to cream; knit all sts.	24
10	Knit all sts in cream.	24
11	Knit all sts in cream.	24
12	Knit all sts in cream.	24
13	Knit all sts in cream.	24
14	Knit all sts in cream.	24
15	Knit all sts in cream.	24
16	Knit all sts in cream.	24
17	Knit all sts in cream.	24
18	Knit all sts in cream.	24
19	(K4, k2tog) 4 times.	20
20	Knit all sts.	20
21	Knit all sts.	20
22	Knit all sts.	20
23	(K3, k2tog) 4 times.	16
24	Knit all sts.	16
25	Knit all sts.	16

BO all 16 sts loosely in cream. Close the 8-st mustard cast-on opening by threading the cast-on tail through the edge sts and drawing it firmly closed. Lightly stuff the wing, but leave the upper 1 cm / 3/8 in near the bound-off edge unstuffed so the shoulder can flatten cleanly. Do not close the 16-st shoulder opening.

Flattened Wing-Shoulder Attachment



Each sewing stitch passes through both flattened wing layers before entering the body fabric.

Distribute the 8 paired positions evenly from Body Rnd 31 (lower end) to Body Rnd 41 (upper end).

Wing shoulder seam: each attachment stitch captures both flattened wing layers before entering the body.

13. Feet

Toes - make 6 in mustard

CO 6 sts and join in the round. The cast-on ring is the toe base and remains open.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	6
2	Kfb in every st around.	12
3	Knit all sts.	12
4	Knit all sts.	12
5	Knit all sts.	12
6	Knit all sts.	12
7	(K1, k2tog) 4 times.	8
8	K2tog 4 times.	4

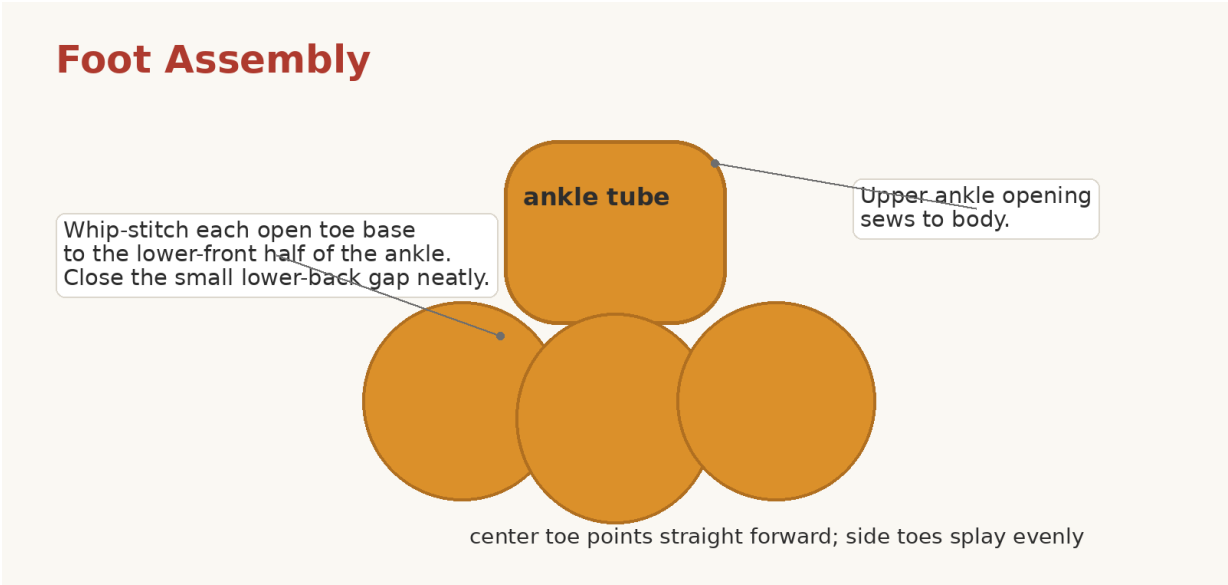
Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 4 sts and draw closed. Stuff each toe lightly to moderately, leaving the open 6-st base soft for sewing.

Ankle tubes - make 2 in mustard

CO 14 sts and join in the round.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	14
2	Knit all sts.	14
3	Knit all sts.	14
4	Knit all sts.	14
5	Knit all sts.	14

BO all 14 sts loosely. Stuff the tube moderately, leaving both ends slightly soft. Both openings remain available for assembly.



14. Tail Feathers

Long navy feathers - make 3

CO 8 sts and join in the round. The cast-on ring is the attachment base and remains open.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16
3	Knit all sts.	16
4	(K3, kfb) 4 times.	20
5	Knit all sts.	20
6	Knit all sts.	20
7	Knit all sts.	20
8	Knit all sts.	20
9	Knit all sts.	20
10	Knit all sts.	20
11	Knit all sts.	20
12	Knit all sts.	20
13	Knit all sts.	20
14	Knit all sts.	20
15	Knit all sts.	20
16	Knit all sts.	20
17	Knit all sts.	20
18	Knit all sts.	20
19	Knit all sts.	20
20	Knit all sts.	20
21	Knit all sts.	20
22	(K3, k2tog) 4 times.	16
23	Knit all sts.	16
24	(K2, k2tog) 4 times.	12
25	Knit all sts.	12
26	K2tog 6 times.	6

Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 6 sts and draw closed. Stuff lightly, leaving the lower 1 cm / 3/8 in at the cast-on base unstuffed so it can flatten.

Medium olive feathers - make 2

CO 8 sts and join in the round. The cast-on ring is the attachment base and remains open.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Knit all sts.	8
2	Kfb in every st around.	16

Rnd	Instruction	Count
3	(K3, kfb) 4 times.	20
4	Knit all sts.	20
5	Knit all sts.	20
6	Knit all sts.	20
7	Knit all sts.	20
8	Knit all sts.	20
9	Knit all sts.	20
10	Knit all sts.	20
11	Knit all sts.	20
12	Knit all sts.	20
13	Knit all sts.	20
14	Knit all sts.	20
15	Knit all sts.	20
16	Knit all sts.	20
17	Knit all sts.	20
18	(K3, k2tog) 4 times.	16
19	Knit all sts.	16
20	(K2, k2tog) 4 times.	12
21	Knit all sts.	12
22	K2tog 6 times.	6

Cut yarn, thread through the remaining 6 sts and draw closed. Stuff lightly and keep the base soft.

Medium mustard feathers - make 2

Work exactly as for a medium olive feather, using mustard yarn. Stuff lightly and keep the cast-on base open and soft.

15. Neck Feathers - make 8 in cream

These pointed tabs are worked flat in stockinette. The cast-on edge is the attachment edge and the single-stitch end is the point. CO 7 sts.

Row	Instruction	Count
1	RS: Knit 7.	7
2	WS: Purl 7.	7
3	RS: Knit 7.	7
4	WS: Purl 7.	7
5	RS: Knit 7.	7
6	WS: Purl 7.	7
7	RS: K2tog, k3, ssk.	5
8	WS: Purl 5.	5

Row	Instruction	Count
9	RS: K2tog, k1, ssk.	3
10	WS: Purl 3.	3
11	RS: K3tog.	1

Cut yarn and pull through the final st. Leave a 25 cm / 10 in sewing tail at the cast-on edge of each feather. The tabs remain unstuffed. If needed, lightly damp-block them flat before assembly.

16. Stuffing and Shaping

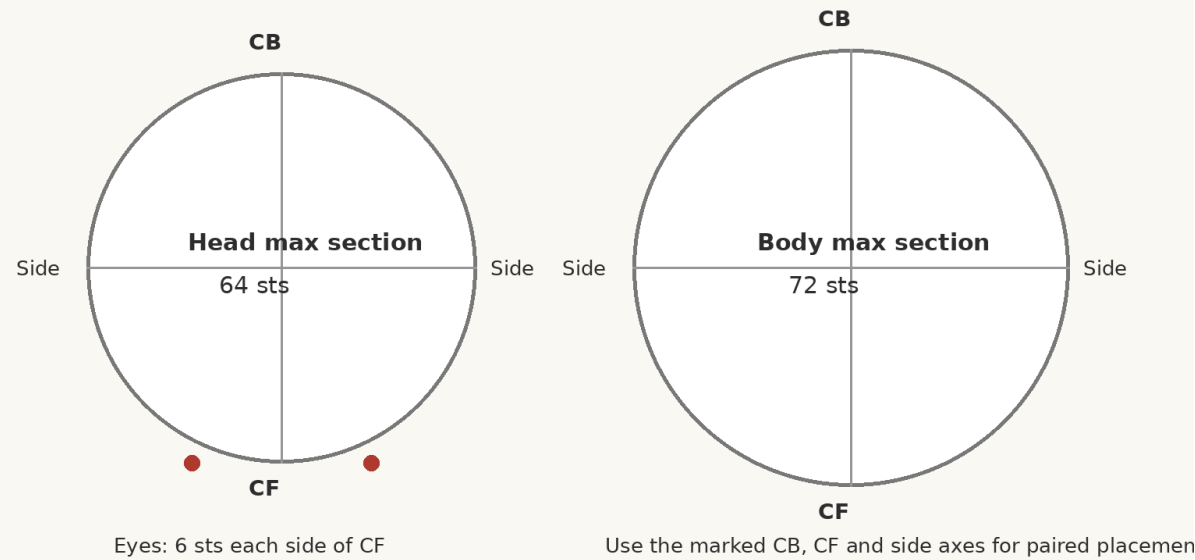
Piece	Stuffing guidance
Body	Moderately firm through the lower body and belly. Keep the upper 2-3 rnds slightly softer so the neck join can settle smoothly.
Head	Firm enough to keep the eyes and beak area smooth, but do not stretch the stitches. Keep the lower 2 rnds slightly softer.
Beak	Lightly stuffed; keep it rounded rather than hard.
Comb lobes	Lightly stuffed so the lobes stand upright without becoming rigid.
Wattles	Barely stuffed; they should hang softly.
Wings	Lightly stuffed through the lower two-thirds; keep the shoulder area flat and soft.
Toes	Light to moderate stuffing, with rounded tips.
Ankles	Moderately stuffed so they support the body.
Tail feathers	Lightly stuffed; keep the bases flat and flexible.
Neck feathers	No stuffing.

Before closing or joining any major opening, smooth the stuffing with your fingers so there are no hard lumps. The body underside should remain broad and slightly flattened so the finished rooster can stand with help from the feet.

17. Placement Maps

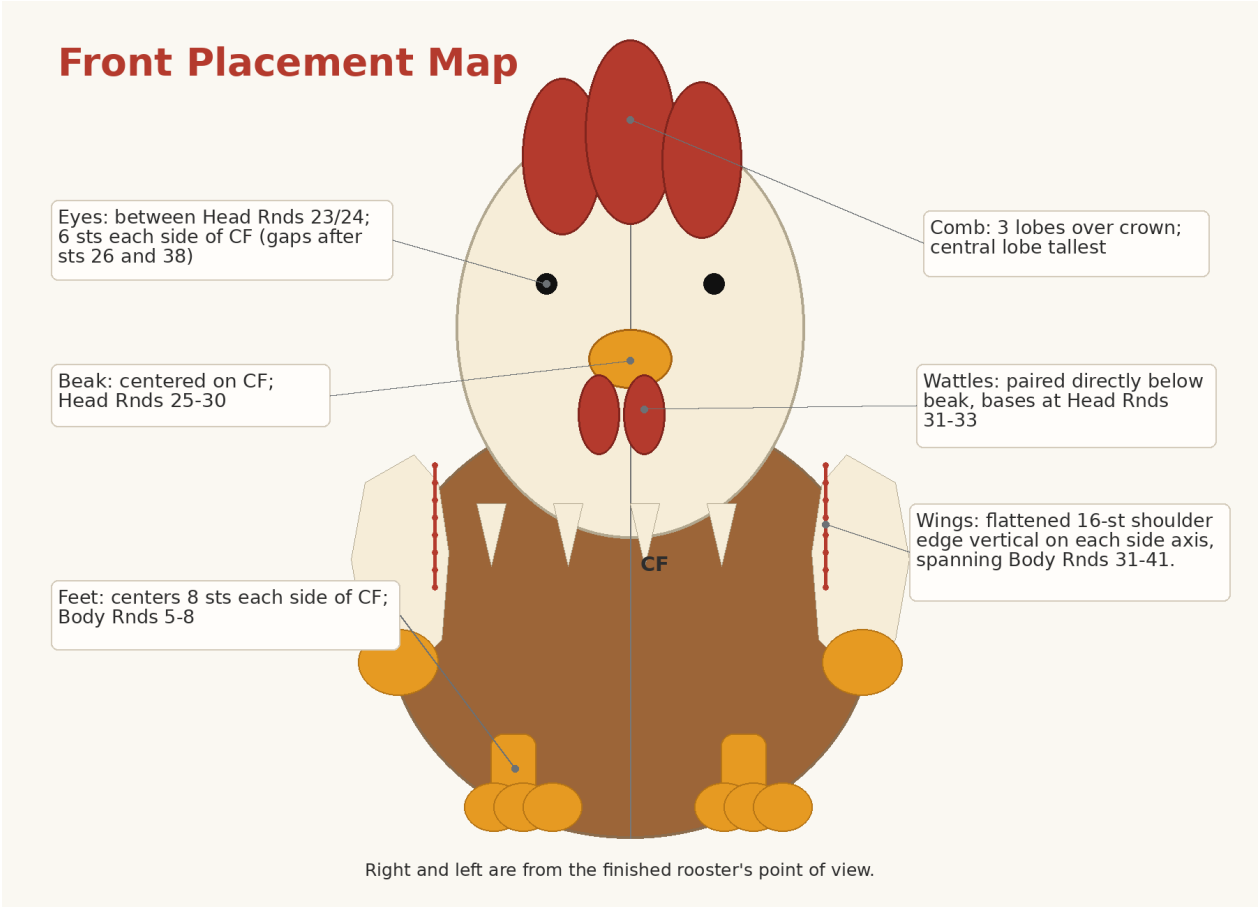
Keep the CB, CF and side-axis markers visible during this section. Pin every paired or layered piece first, then check from the front, both sides, the top and the back before sewing.

Round Landmarks



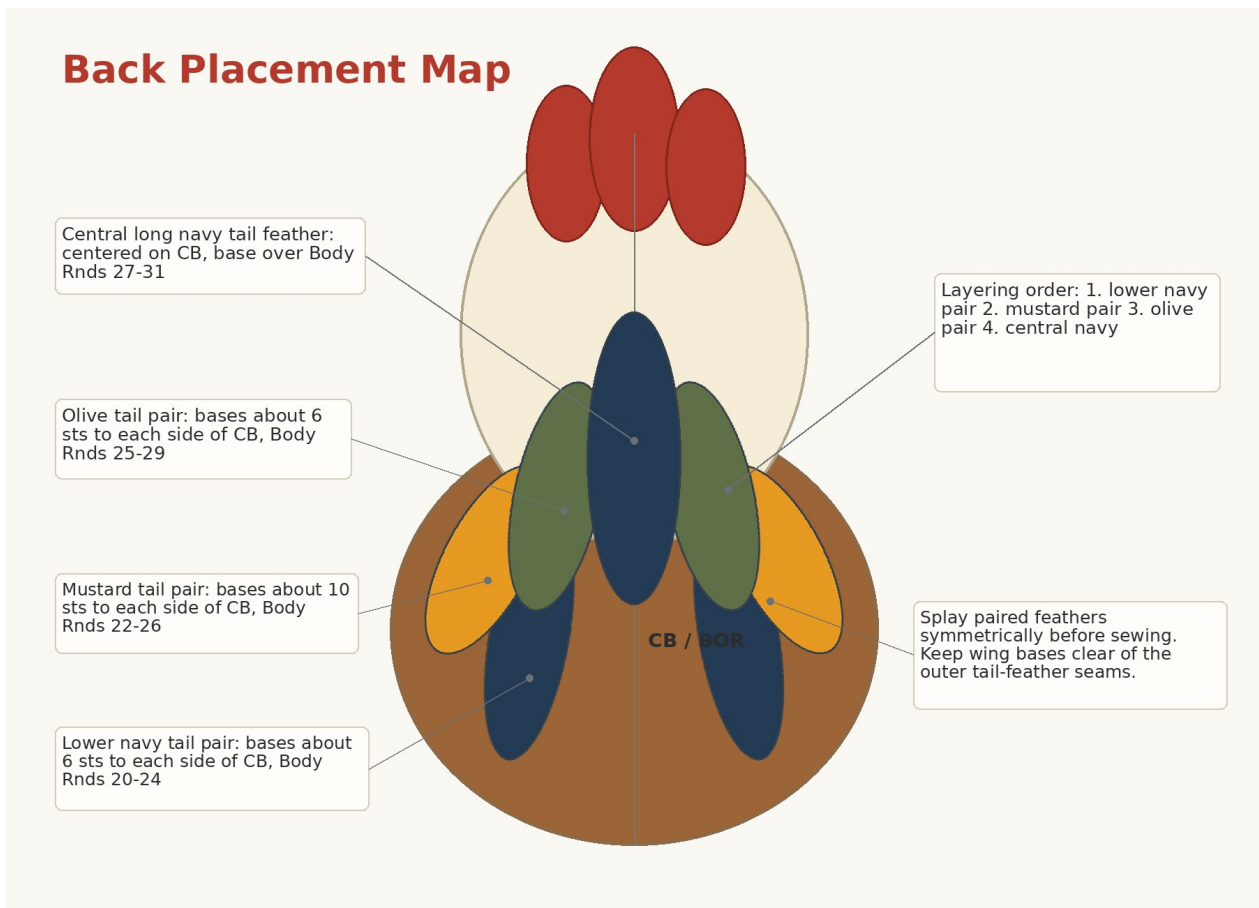
Head and face placement

Feature	Placement
Eyes	Between Head Rnds 23/24; 6 sts to each side of CF; gaps after sts 26 and 38 on the 64-st section.
Beak	Centered on CF. Position the open 18-st base over approximately Head Rnds 25-30; shape it into a horizontal oval as you pin.
Wattles	Place the two 6-st bases side by side directly beneath the beak, with their upper edges around Head Rnds 31-33. Keep the pair centred on CF.
Central comb lobe	Centered over the crown with its 8-st base straddling CB-to-CF crown centre, approximately over Head Rnds 2-5.
Side comb lobes	One on each side of the central lobe, bases approximately over Head Rnds 3-6. Angle them slightly outward while keeping the three bases touching or nearly touching.
Neck feathers	After the head-body join, arrange 8 tabs evenly around the 48-st seam, with centres roughly every 6 sts. Start the sequence so four pointed tabs are visible across the front.



Body, feet, wings and tail placement

Piece	Placement
Feet	Use Body Rnd 10 as a horizontal guide. Mark positions 8 sts to each side of CF, then trace those columns downward. Centre each ankle attachment over approximately Body Rnds 5-8. Keep the two feet level and pointing forward.
Wings	Flatten each 16-st shoulder opening into 8 paired edge positions. On each physical side-axis line, orient the flattened shoulder edge nearly vertically. Place its lower end at Body Rnd 31 and its upper end at Body Rnd 41, distributing the 8 paired edge positions evenly between those endpoints. Keep the mustard tip pointing downward. Each attachment stitch passes through both flattened wing layers before entering the body.
Central long navy tail feather	Centre its flattened base on CB, spanning Body Rnds 27-31. Keep it upright.
Olive tail pair	Place one base about 6 sts to each side of CB, spanning Body Rnds 25-29. Angle both upward and outward.
Mustard tail pair	Place one base about 10 sts to each side of CB, spanning Body Rnds 22-26. Angle both outward and slightly downward.
Lower navy tail pair	Place one base about 6 sts to each side of CB, spanning Body Rnds 20-24. Angle both downward and outward so their upper inner edges sit beneath the mustard and olive feathers.



18. Assembly

- 1. Prepare the main shapes:** Stuff the body and head through their 48-st openings using the guidance in Section 16. Leave enough softness at both openings for a smooth join. Confirm that CB and CF markers align correctly.
- 2. Attach the eyes:** If using safety eyes, they should already be secured at the Head Rnd 23/24 positions. If using embroidered eyes, work both ovals now and compare them from straight front view before securing the yarn inside the head.
- 3. Attach the beak:** Pin the beak centred on CF over Head Rnds 25-30. Add or remove a small amount of stuffing until it is softly rounded. Using the beak yarn tail, work a small ladder stitch around the 18-st open base, catching one edge loop from the beak and one leg of a head stitch on each pass. Keep the seam even and do not pull so tightly that the beak puckers.
- 4. Attach the wattles:** Pin one wattle immediately below each side of the beak, with both bases level around Head Rnds 31-33. Ladder-stitch around each 6-st open base. Let the lower ends hang freely.
- 5. Join head to body:** Match the 48-st head opening to the 48-st body opening with CB to CB and CF to CF. Add final stuffing through the openings if needed. Using a long cream or brown yarn tail, mattress-stitch the two bound-off edges together one stitch to one stitch around the full neck. Keep the join level and moderately snug.
- 6. Add the neck feathers:** Arrange the 8 cream tabs around the neck join with centres roughly every 6 sts. Place the cast-on edges directly over the seam and let the pointed ends hang onto the brown body. Pin all 8 before sewing. Whip-stitch each cast-on edge to the head/body surface, catching only enough fabric to hold the tab securely.
- 7. Build each foot:** For each foot, position three open toe bases along the lower-front half of one ankle tube: centre toe straight forward, side toes angled outward. Whip-stitch around each 6-st toe base into the ankle edge. Close any small remaining gap along the lower-back edge of the ankle with neat whip stitches. Adjust stuffing so all three toes sit at the same level.

- 8. Attach the feet:** Pin the ankle tops to the lower front of the body at the two marked positions, centred over Body Rnds 5-8. Check that the feet are equally spaced and that the centre toes point forward. Ladder-stitch around each open upper ankle edge into the body. Add a small amount of stuffing to the ankle before the final few stitches if needed.
- 9. Attach the lower navy tail pair:** Flatten the bases of two long navy feathers into 4 paired edge positions each. Place them about 6 sts to either side of CB over Body Rnds 20-24, angled downward and outward. Sew through both flattened layers into the body.
- 10. Attach the mustard tail pair:** Place the two medium mustard feathers about 10 sts to either side of CB over Body Rnds 22-26. Angle them outward and slightly downward, allowing their inner edges to overlap the lower navy pair. Sew through both flattened layers.
- 11. Attach the olive tail pair:** Flatten each 8-st cast-on base into 4 paired edge positions. Place the two olive feathers about 6 sts to either side of CB over Body Rnds 25-29. Keep them symmetrical and angled upward and outward. **Sew each flattened base through both feather layers into the body.**
- 12. Attach the central navy tail feather:** Flatten the remaining 8-st cast-on base into 4 paired edge positions. Centre the remaining long navy feather on CB over Body Rnds 27-31. Overlap the inner edges of the olive pair and cover the centre of the fan. **Sew the flattened base securely through both feather layers into the body.**
- 13. Attach the wings:** Flatten each 16-st shoulder opening into 8 paired edge positions. Pin each shoulder edge vertically along its physical side axis from Body Rnd 31 at the lower end to Body Rnd 41 at the upper end. Distribute the 8 paired positions evenly along this line, with the mustard tip hanging downward. Pass each attachment stitch through both wing layers before entering the body. Match the two endpoint rounds exactly so both wings sit at the same height.
- 14. Attach the comb:** Pin the central red lobe at the crown, then place the two side lobes symmetrically. Check from front, side and top views. Ladder-stitch around each open 8-st base into the head, keeping the central lobe upright and the side lobes slightly fanned.
- 15. Final shaping:** Massage the stuffing gently to round the head and belly, flatten the body underside slightly and balance the feet. Adjust the tail fan and wings before making any final reinforcing stitches.
- 16. Secure and finish:** Secure every sewing yarn by taking two small backstitches inside the seam, then bury the tail through the stuffed piece and trim it only after it has travelled several centimetres. Remove all placement markers and pins.

19. Final Visual Checklist

- Face is centred on CF and the head sits straight over the body.
- Eyes are level and equally spaced from CF.
- Beak is centred and horizontal.
- Wattles are matched in height and hang freely.
- Central comb lobe is upright; side lobes are balanced.
- All 8 neck feathers cover the neck join evenly with four clear points across the front.
- Wings are attached at matching heights with both mustard tips angled downward.
- Feet are level, equally spaced and pointing forward.
- All seven tail feathers form a balanced, colour-symmetric fan: one central navy feather, paired olive feathers, paired mustard feathers and paired lower navy feathers.
- Head-to-body seam is fully closed with no visible stuffing.
- No stuffing shows through the knitted fabric.
- No open seams, loose attachments, trapped markers or unsecured yarn tails remain.
- The body underside is slightly flattened and the rooster balances evenly on both feet.

20. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Remove some stuffing and redistribute it. If the fabric itself is loose, use a smaller needle size so the stockinette reaches the stated gauge.
Finished rooster is much larger or smaller	Compare your stockinette gauge with 22 sts x 30 rnds over 10 cm / 4 in. Adjust needle size before making replacement structural pieces.
Head leans to one side	Open a short section of the neck seam, even out the stuffing at the upper body and lower head, then resew the 48-st join with CB and CF aligned.
Eyes look uneven	Check that both centres sit between Head Rnds 23/24 and the same distance from CF. For embroidered eyes, remove the uneven eye and rework it before joining the head to the body.
Beak tilts	Release a few attachment stitches on the high side, re-pin the beak horizontally across CF, then resew with even tension.
One wing hangs lower	Re-pin the shoulder edge so its lower end is at Body Rnd 31 and its upper end is at Body Rnd 41 on the physical side axis. Confirm that both vertical attachment lines have matching endpoints before resewing.
Tail fan is too narrow	Before adding reinforcing stitches, loosen the upper feather bases slightly and increase the outward angle of the olive, mustard and lower-navy pairs.
Tail fan is too wide or droops	Bring the olive, mustard and lower-navy pairs slightly closer to CB and add a small hidden tack between touching feathers. Avoid overstuffing the feather bases.
Feet do not sit flat	Redistribute ankle and toe stuffing. Make sure the centre toe points forward and the two side toes splay evenly. Flatten the lower body slightly with gentle hand shaping.
Neck feathers curl strongly	Lightly dampen the tabs and lay them flat to dry. When sewing, avoid stretching the cast-on edges.
Wing color-change jog is visible	Rotate the wing before attachment so BOR and the jog face the body or underside.
Seam gaps appear after stuffing	Use a tapestry needle to add a few small ladder stitches across the gap, catching full stitch legs rather than only surface fibres.

21. Finishing Notes

Gently smooth the stockinette with your hands and arrange the comb, wattles, wings and tail into their final positions. The knitted fabric should remain soft and rounded, with the collar points hanging freely over the brown body. Check the rooster from every side once more, then trim only those yarn tails that have already been securely buried inside the stuffing.

Your Harvest Rooster Plushie is complete.