



SUNNY THE LITTLE BUDGIE

Free Knitting Pattern

A plump blue-and-yellow budgie plush with striped wings, tiny feet and a tapered tail



Skill level: Confident Beginner to Intermediate

Construction: main body/head knitted in the round; wings knitted flat; small details worked separately

Pattern Overview

This pattern makes a softly stuffed budgie with a rounded sky blue body, soft yellow head, soft light-gray/ivory wings with black feather bars, a light gray-blue cere, warm gold beak, dusty pink feet and a slim sky blue tail. The main body and head are worked as one piece in stockinette in the round, which keeps the front smooth and leaves only the small attached pieces to sew. The wings are knitted flat and left unstuffed so they lie neatly against the sides.

The shaping uses only basic increases and decreases. The areas that need the most care are keeping the beginning-of-round marker at center back, placing the face symmetrically, and pinning the wings and feet before sewing.



Finished budgie from several angles.

Finished Size

Overall height	Approximately 18-19 cm / 7-7.5 in
Body width	Approximately 11-12 cm / 4.3-4.7 in at the widest point
Body depth	Approximately 9.5-10.5 cm / 3.75-4.1 in
Head width	Approximately 9-10 cm / 3.5-3.9 in
Tail	Approximately 9-9.5 cm / 3.5-3.75 in long
Each wing	Approximately 7.5 cm / 3 in long and 4.3 cm / 1.7 in at the widest point
Foot and toe cluster	Approximately 4-4.5 cm / 1.6-1.8 in from heel to toe tips

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

Materials and Tools

- DK / light worsted smooth yarn in sky blue: about 45 g / 100-110 m (109-120 yd).
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn in soft yellow: about 25 g / 55-65 m (60-71 yd).
- DK / light worsted smooth yarn in soft light gray or ivory: about 10 g / 22-25 m (24-27 yd) for the wings.
- Small amount of light gray-blue DK / light worsted yarn: about 2 g / 4-5 m (4-6 yd) for the cere.
- Small amounts of black, deep blue, warm gold and dusty pink DK yarn for markings, beak and feet, plus a tiny scrap of white yarn or embroidery floss if using the optional embroidered-eye highlights.
- 3.25 mm / US 3 needles suitable for small-circumference knitting in the round: DPNs or a long circular needle for Magic Loop.
- 3.25 mm / US 3 needles for flat knitting; the same circular needle can be used back and forth.
- Two 10 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Polyester toy stuffing, approximately 55-75 g.
- Tapestry needle, locking/removable stitch 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

23 sts x 32 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in stockinette stitch in the round with 3.25 mm needles, measured over a firm fabric suitable for stuffing.

For the flat wings, aim for approximately 23 sts x 32 rows = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in flat stockinette. A small difference in row gauge is acceptable, but both wings should match each other.

The fabric should be dense enough that stuffing does not show between stitches. If your fabric is loose, use a smaller needle. If it is very stiff and difficult to shape, use a slightly larger needle while keeping the fabric closed.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of round
CB	center back
CF	center front
CO	cast on
DK	double knitting yarn weight
DPN / DPNs	double-pointed needle / needles
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
kfb	knit into the front and back of the same stitch; 1 stitch increased
p	purl
p2tog	purl 2 stitches together; 1 stitch decreased
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
RS	right side
st / sts	stitch / stitches
WS	wrong side

Method and Orientation

- Main body/head and tail are worked in continuous knitted rounds. Move the BOR marker up as you work.
- BOR is center back (CB) on the main body/head. The point directly opposite BOR is center front (CF).
- On 72-st body rounds, CF is the gap after st 36. The side axes are the gaps after sts 18 and 54.
- On 64-st upper-body and head rounds, CF is the gap after st 32. The side axes are the gaps after sts 16 and 48.
- On 56-st lower-body rounds, CF is the gap after st 28. The side axes are the gaps after sts 14 and 42.
- For stitch-coordinate placement, numbers increase from CB around the bird-right half to CF, then around the bird-left half back to CB. On 64-st rounds, sts 1-32 are the bird-right half and sts 33-64 are the bird-left half.
- Right and left are described from the finished bird's point of view unless stated otherwise.

- The wings are worked as a mirrored pair. On the bird-right wing, the beginning of each RS row/end of each WS row is the straight attachment edge. On the bird-left wing, the end of each RS row/beginning of each WS row is the straight attachment edge. Work all shaping on the opposite edge.
- For I-cord, do not turn the work. Slide the stitches to the opposite needle tip after every row and bring the working yarn firmly across the back.
- Persistent CB reference: The CB/BOR axis is needed after the main piece is closed. At Main Rnd 15, clip a locking/removable marker through the fabric at BOR/CB. At Main Rnd 37, place a second locking marker through the fabric at BOR/CB. Leave both markers in place through crown closure and use them together to recover the CB axis. The lower Rnd 15 marker lies in the tail-root attachment area. After the tail has been pinned and centered, transfer that lower CB reference to an exposed marker at CB around Main Rnd 18, then remove the Rnd 15 marker before sewing the tail. Never sew over a locking marker. Keep the upper Rnd 37 marker and the transferred exposed CB reference until final placement is complete.

Construction Overview

1. Knit the main body and head from the underside upward. Close the small cast-on center hole with the cast-on tail after the first few rounds.
2. Change from sky blue to soft yellow at Main Rnd 37. Install safety eyes after Main Rnd 52, while the crown is still open.
3. Stuff the body and head through the crown opening during the final decrease rounds, then gather the last stitches closed.
4. Knit 1 bird-right and 1 mirrored bird-left soft light-gray/ivory wing flat. Work the black feather bars in duplicate stitch before the wings are attached. Wings remain unstuffed.
5. Knit 1 sky blue tail in the round. Lightly stuff only the root so the tail remains slim and flexible.
6. Knit 1 warm gold beak and 1 light gray-blue cere. The beak is lightly stuffed; the cere remains flat with only a tiny amount of padding underneath when sewn.
7. Make 2 foot bases and 6 toes in dusty pink I-cord. The feet remain unstuffed.
8. Add cheek patches and black throat spots, then sew the beak, cere, tail, feet and wings in the assembly order given later.

Before you begin

After the crown is closed, use the retained fabric CB markers to re-establish the CB axis. From that axis, mark CF and both side axes with removable markers before attaching any parts.

Main Body and Head

Use sky blue. Leaving a 20 cm / 8 in cast-on tail for closing the underside, CO 8 sts, distribute across DPNs or set up for Magic Loop, and join to work in the round without twisting. Place the BOR marker at center back.

After Main Rnd 8, use the cast-on tail to close any small opening at the center of the underside. Secure the tail on the inside and continue working.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	K all sts.	8

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 2	Kfb in every st around.	16
Rnd 3	(K1, kfb) 8 times.	24
Rnd 4	K all sts.	24
Rnd 5	(K2, kfb) 8 times.	32
Rnd 6	K all sts.	32
Rnd 7	(K3, kfb) 8 times.	40
Rnd 8	K all sts.	40
Rnd 9	(K4, kfb) 8 times.	48
Rnd 10	K all sts.	48
Rnd 11	(K5, kfb) 8 times.	56
Rnd 12	K all sts.	56
Rnd 13	(K6, kfb) 8 times.	64
Rnd 14	K all sts.	64
Rnd 15	(K7, kfb) 8 times. Place a locking marker through the fabric at BOR/CB; this is the lower persistent CB reference.	72
Rnd 16	K all sts.	72
Rnd 17	K all sts.	72
Rnd 18	K all sts.	72
Rnd 19	K all sts.	72
Rnd 20	K all sts.	72
Rnd 21	K all sts.	72
Rnd 22	K all sts.	72
Rnd 23	K all sts.	72
Rnd 24	K all sts.	72
Rnd 25	K all sts.	72
Rnd 26	K all sts.	72
Rnd 27	K all sts.	72
Rnd 28	K all sts.	72

Main Body and Head - continued

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 29	K all sts.	72
Rnd 30	K all sts.	72
Rnd 31	K all sts.	72

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 32	K all sts.	72
Rnd 33	(K7, k2tog) 8 times.	64
Rnd 34	K all sts.	64
Rnd 35	K all sts.	64
Rnd 36	K all sts.	64
Rnd 37	Change to soft yellow at CB and knit all 64 sts in soft yellow. At BOR/CB, place a second locking marker through the fabric to preserve the upper CB reference.	64
Rnd 38	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 39	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 40	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 41	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 42	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 43	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 44	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 45	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 46	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 47	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 48	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 49	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 50	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 51	K all sts in soft yellow.	64
Rnd 52	K all sts in soft yellow.	64

Eye placement - do this after Rnd 52

On the 64-st head section, CF is the gap after st 32. Insert the bird-right eye in the gap after st 26 and the bird-left eye in the gap after st 38, between Main Rnds 51 and 52. Check that both eyes are level from the front before securing the washers.

Main Body and Head - crown and closure

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 53	(K6, k2tog) 8 times.	56
Rnd 54	K all sts.	56
Rnd 55	(K5, k2tog) 8 times.	48

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 56	K all sts.	48
Rnd 57	(K4, k2tog) 8 times.	40
Rnd 58	K all sts.	40
Rnd 59	(K3, k2tog) 8 times.	32
Rnd 60	(K2, k2tog) 8 times.	24
Rnd 61	(K1, k2tog) 8 times.	16
Rnd 62	K2tog 8 times.	8

Stuffing the Main Piece

1. After Main Rnd 59, pause with 32 sts remaining. Begin stuffing through the crown opening.
2. Stuff the lower sky blue body firmly enough to hold a rounded pear shape, but do not stretch the stitches. Keep the underside slightly flatter so the bird can sit.
3. Add stuffing to the soft yellow head in small pieces. Keep the eye area smooth and avoid packing hard directly behind the safety-eye washers.
4. Work Main Rnds 60-62. Add the last small amounts of stuffing before the opening becomes too narrow.
5. Cut the soft yellow yarn leaving a 25 cm / 10 in tail. Thread through the remaining 8 sts twice, remove the needles, pull the crown closed, secure on the inside and bury the tail. Leave both persistent CB fabric markers in place until the lower reference is transferred during tail attachment.

Shape check

Roll the stuffed body gently between your palms. The front should be full and rounded, the back slightly narrower, and the color-change line should sit approximately level around the bird.

Wings - Make 1 Bird-Right and 1 Bird-Left, Mirrored

Use soft light-gray or ivory yarn. Wings are knitted flat in stockinette and remain unstuffed. The pair is mirrored so the stockinette RS and black duplicate-stitch bars face outward on both sides of the finished bird.

Bird-Right Wing

The beginning of each RS row and end of each WS row is the straight attachment edge. Work all shaping at the opposite edge.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	K5.	5
Row 2 (WS)	P5.	5
Row 3 (RS)	K4, kfb.	6
Row 4 (WS)	P6.	6
Row 5 (RS)	K5, kfb.	7

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 6 (WS)	P7.	7
Row 7 (RS)	K6, kfb.	8
Row 8 (WS)	P8.	8
Row 9 (RS)	K7, kfb.	9
Row 10 (WS)	P9.	9
Row 11 (RS)	K8, kfb.	10
Row 12 (WS)	P10.	10
Row 13 (RS)	K10.	10
Row 14 (WS)	P10.	10
Row 15 (RS)	K8, k2tog.	9
Row 16 (WS)	P2tog, p7.	8
Row 17 (RS)	K6, k2tog.	7
Row 18 (WS)	P2tog, p5.	6
Row 19 (RS)	K4, k2tog.	5
Row 20 (WS)	P2tog, p3.	4
Row 21 (RS)	K2, k2tog.	3
Row 22 (WS)	P2tog, p1.	2
Row 23 (RS)	K2.	2
Row 24 (WS)	P2.	2
Row 25 (RS)	BO all 2 sts knitwise.	0

Bird-Left Wing - Mirrored

For this mirrored wing, the straight attachment edge is the end of every RS row and the beginning of every WS row. Keep that physical edge unchanged and work all shaping at the opposite edge.

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 1 (RS)	K5.	5
Row 2 (WS)	P5.	5
Row 3 (RS)	Kfb, k4.	6
Row 4 (WS)	P6.	6
Row 5 (RS)	Kfb, k5.	7
Row 6 (WS)	P7.	7
Row 7 (RS)	Kfb, k6.	8
Row 8 (WS)	P8.	8
Row 9 (RS)	Kfb, k7.	9
Row 10 (WS)	P9.	9

Row	Instruction	Count
Row 11 (RS)	Kfb, k8.	10
Row 12 (WS)	P10.	10
Row 13 (RS)	K10.	10
Row 14 (WS)	P10.	10
Row 15 (RS)	K2tog, k8.	9
Row 16 (WS)	P7, p2tog.	8
Row 17 (RS)	K2tog, k6.	7
Row 18 (WS)	P5, p2tog.	6
Row 19 (RS)	K2tog, k4.	5
Row 20 (WS)	P3, p2tog.	4
Row 21 (RS)	K2tog, k2.	3
Row 22 (WS)	P1, p2tog.	2
Row 23 (RS)	K2.	2
Row 24 (WS)	P2.	2
Row 25 (RS)	BO all 2 sts knitwise.	0

Black Feather Bars - Both Wings

With each wing RS facing, use black yarn and duplicate stitch. Count wing stitch columns from that wing's straight attachment edge. The numerical bar coordinates are the same on both mirrored wings. Work the bars before attaching the wings.

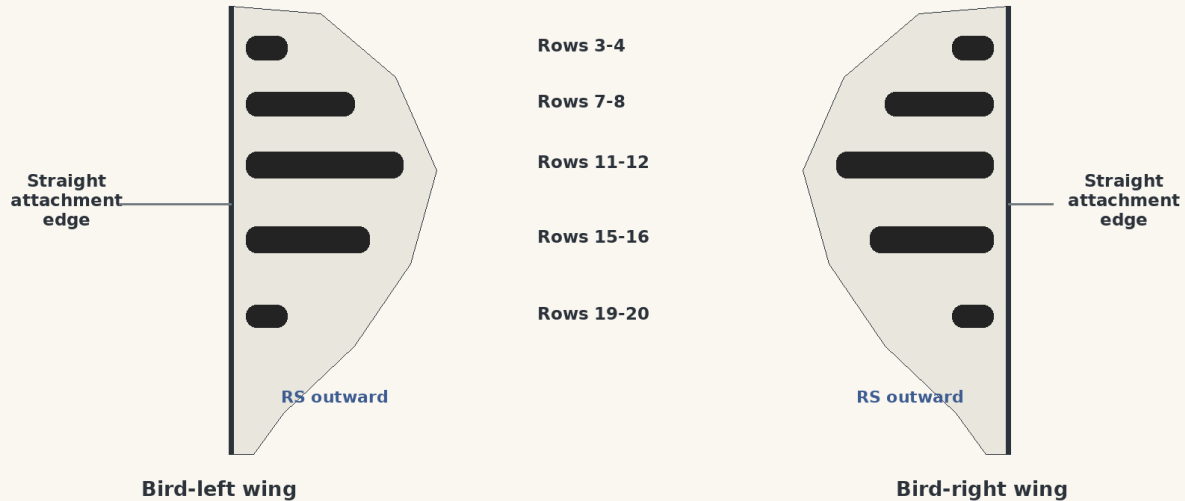
Wing rows	Black duplicate-stitch columns	Notes
3-4	sts 3-4	2 black columns on each of the 2 rows
7-8	sts 3-6	4 black columns on each of the 2 rows
11-12	sts 3-8	6 black columns on each of the 2 rows
15-16	sts 3-7	5 black columns on each of the 2 rows
19-20	sts 3-4	2 black columns on each of the 2 rows

Weave black tails into the wrong side. Lightly damp-block the wings flat if needed, keeping each straight attachment edge straight.

Wing Placement Guide

Mirrored wing stripe and edge map

Bird-right and bird-left wings are true mirrors. Count black-bar columns from each wing's straight attachment edge.



1. Row 1 is the upper shoulder end; Row 24 is the narrow lower point.
2. Bird-right straight edge: beginning of RS rows / end of WS rows.
3. Bird-left straight edge: end of RS rows / beginning of WS rows.
4. Work duplicate stitch before attachment; black bars face outward on both wings.

The bird-right and bird-left wings are true mirrors; black bars face outward on both.

Wing Orientation

- Row 1 is the upper shoulder end of each wing.
- Row 24 is the lower pointed end.
- On the bird-right wing, the straight attachment edge is at the beginning of RS rows/end of WS rows.
- On the bird-left wing, the straight attachment edge is at the end of RS rows/beginning of WS rows.
- The straight attachment edge lies against the body; the shaped edge remains free.
- When pinned, each wing tip should point down and slightly toward the tail, with the RS and black bars facing outward.

Tail

Use sky blue. CO 20 sts, join to work in the round and place the BOR marker. Leave the cast-on edge open for attachment.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	K all sts.	20
Rnd 2	K all sts.	20
Rnd 3	K all sts.	20
Rnd 4	K all sts.	20
Rnd 5	K all sts.	20
Rnd 6	K all sts.	20

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 7	K all sts.	20
Rnd 8	K all sts.	20
Rnd 9	K all sts.	20
Rnd 10	K all sts.	20
Rnd 11	K all sts.	20
Rnd 12	K all sts.	20
Rnd 13	K all sts.	20
Rnd 14	K all sts.	20
Rnd 15	K all sts.	20
Rnd 16	K all sts.	20
Rnd 17	(K3, k2tog) 4 times.	16
Rnd 18	K all sts.	16
Rnd 19	K all sts.	16
Rnd 20	K all sts.	16
Rnd 21	K all sts.	16
Rnd 22	K all sts.	16
Rnd 23	(K2, k2tog) 4 times.	12
Rnd 24	K all sts.	12
Rnd 25	K all sts.	12
Rnd 26	K all sts.	12
Rnd 27	K all sts.	12
Rnd 28	(K1, k2tog) 4 times.	8
Rnd 29	K all sts.	8
Rnd 30	K2tog 4 times.	4

Cut yarn leaving a 20 cm / 8 in tail, thread through the final 4 sts twice and pull the tip closed. Lightly stuff only the first 2-3 cm / 0.75-1.25 in at the open root. Leave the remaining tail mostly unstuffed so it stays slim.

Beak

Use warm gold. Leaving a 30 cm / 12 in cast-on tail for sewing, CO 10 sts, join to work in the round. The cast-on edge is the beak base and remains open for sewing.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 1	K all sts.	10
Rnd 2	K all sts.	10
Rnd 3	(K3, k2tog) 2 times.	8
Rnd 4	K all sts.	8
Rnd 5	(K2, k2tog) 2 times.	6
Rnd 6	K all sts.	6

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Rnd 7	K2tog 3 times.	3

Cut the working yarn, thread it through the final 3 sts and pull the tip closed. Bury this tip-closing tail. Add only a tiny amount of stuffing so the beak keeps a small pointed cone shape. Keep the long cast-on tail at the open beak base for sewing.

Cere

Use light gray-blue. Knit flat.

Row	Instruction	Count
CO	CO 4 sts.	4
Row 1 (RS)	Kfb, k2, kfb.	6
Row 2 (WS)	P6.	6
Row 3 (RS)	K2tog, k2, k2tog.	4
Row 4 (WS)	P4.	4
Row 5 (RS)	BO all 4 sts knitwise.	0

Weave in one tail and leave the other for sewing. The cere is attached flat with only a wisp of stuffing underneath for gentle lift.

Feet

Foot Base - Make 2

Use dusty pink. Leaving a 30 cm / 12 in cast-on tail for later body attachment, CO 5 sts on a DPN. Work 10 rows of 5-st I-cord. BO all 5 sts. Weave in the bind-off tail but leave the long cast-on sewing tail available. The finished base should be a short soft tube approximately 3 cm / 1.2 in long. Do not stuff.

Toes - Make 6

Use dusty pink. Leaving a 20 cm / 8 in cast-on tail at the toe base for sewing, CO 4 sts on a DPN.

Row	Instruction	Count
Rows 1-8	Work 4-st I-cord.	4
Row 9	K2tog twice.	2

Cut the working yarn leaving a 10 cm / 4 in tip tail, thread it through the last 2 sts and pull closed. Bury this tip tail inside the I-cord. Do not stuff. Make 6 identical toes.

Assemble Each Foot

1. Lay one foot base horizontally. Choose one side of the base as the front edge.
2. Pin 3 toes to the front edge so one points straight forward and the outer 2 splay approximately 20-30 degrees to either side.
3. Use the long cast-on tail at each toe base to sew the toe securely to the foot base with small whip stitches. Catch enough of the I-cord tube to prevent the toes from twisting.

4. Arrange the second foot as a mirror of the first. The two inner toes should not cross when the feet are placed side by side.
5. Leave the foot-base tails available for attaching the completed feet to the body.

Foot shaping

If an I-cord toe curls, roll it gently between your fingers and bend it slightly downward at the tip. Do not insert wire.

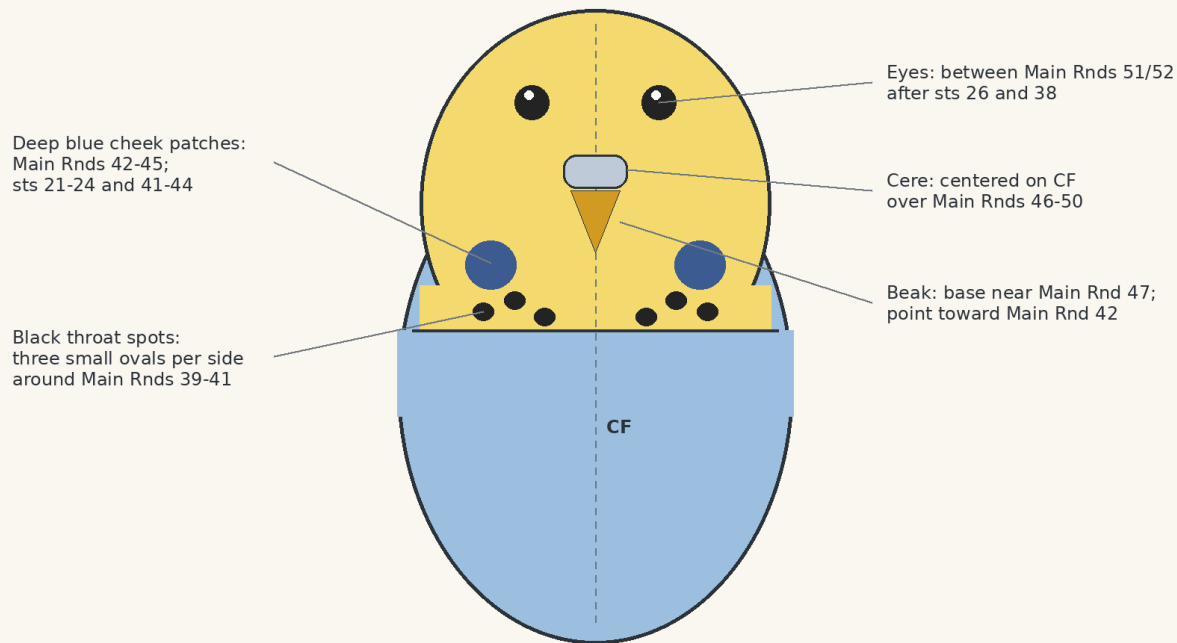
Face Placement and Embroidery

Before adding the surface details, set the bird upright. Using the retained CB fabric reference, re-mark CF and both side axes. If safety eyes were used, confirm that they are level. If the eyes will be embroidered, mark the same two eye positions with removable markers before placing the beak and cheek details.

- Eye line: between Main Rnds 51 and 52.
- Bird-right eye position: gap after st 26 on the 64-st head.
- Bird-left eye position: gap after st 38 on the 64-st head.

Front placement map

Main body/head shown upright; right and left are the bird's point of view.



On 64-st head rounds: CB = BOR, CF = gap after st 32, side axes = gaps after sts 16 and 48.

Use the round and stitch positions below for a balanced face.

Cheek Patches

Use deep blue yarn and duplicate stitch on the soft yellow head. Each patch is a small rounded block approximately 4 stitch columns wide by 4 rounds high.

- Bird-right cheek: cover stitch columns 21-24 over Main Rnds 42-45.

- Bird-left cheek: cover stitch columns 41-44 over Main Rnds 42-45.
- Round the upper and lower corners by omitting the outermost duplicate stitch at the first and last round if you prefer a softer oval.

Black Throat Spots

Using black yarn, embroider 3 tiny satin-stitch ovals on each side just above the sky blue/soft yellow boundary. Keep each oval about 5-6 mm / 0.2-0.25 in wide.

- Bird-right centers: approximately st 27 at Main Rnd 40, st 24 at Main Rnd 39, and st 21 at Main Rnd 40.
- Bird-left centers: approximately st 38 at Main Rnd 40, st 41 at Main Rnd 39, and st 44 at Main Rnd 40.

Embroidered Eye Option

If you omitted safety eyes, use black yarn after stuffing. At each eye position, work a dense round eye approximately 8-10 mm / 0.3-0.4 in across, centered between Main Rnds 51 and 52 at the same stitch positions given for the safety eyes. Add one tiny white stitch near the upper outer edge of each eye if desired.

Body Placement and Pinning Map

Body placement map

Pin all parts first, then check the bird from front, sides, top and back before sewing.

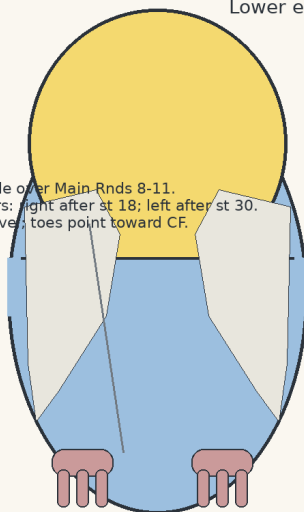
Wing coordinates:

Rnd 35 (64 sts): right axis after st 16 | left axis after st 48

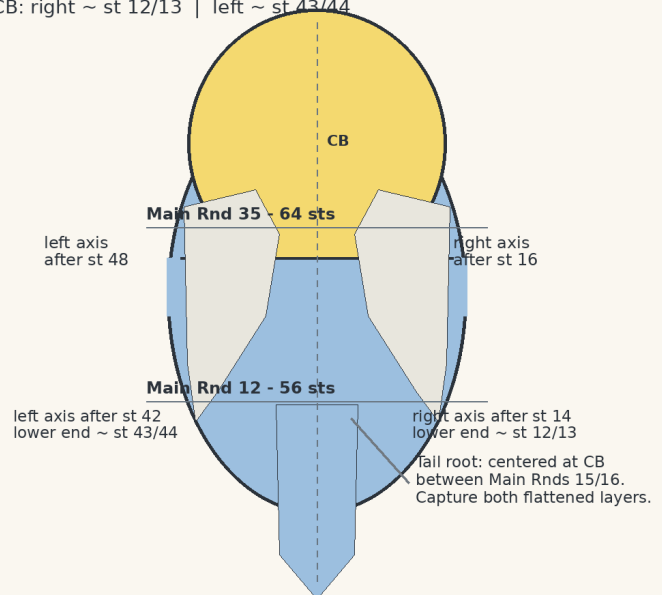
Rnd 12 (56 sts): right axis after st 14 | left axis after st 42

Lower ends shift 1-2 sts toward CB: right ~ st 12/13 | left ~ st 43/44

Feet: underside over Main-Rnds 8-11.
Rnd 10 centers: right after st 18; left after st 30.
Keep bases level; toes point toward CF.



Front



Wing, tail and foot placement before final sewing.

Pinning Coordinates

- Right wing: place the bird-right wing with Wing Row 1 at Main Rnd 35 on the 64-st right side axis, at the gap after st 16. Place Wing Row 24 at Main Rnd 12 relative to the 56-st right side axis, whose gap is after st 14; shift the lower end 1-2 body stitches toward CB, to approximately the gap after st 12 or 13.

- Left wing: place the mirrored bird-left wing with Wing Row 1 at Main Rnd 35 at the gap after st 48. At Main Rnd 12, use the 56-st left side axis at the gap after st 42, then shift the lower end 1-2 body stitches toward CB, to approximately the gap after st 43 or 44.
- Tail: flatten the open tail root. Center its midpoint at CB between Main Rnds 15 and 16; the flattened root should extend approximately 5 body stitch columns to either side of CB.
- Feet: pin both foot bases on the underside over Main Rnds 8-11. At Main Rnd 10, which has 48 sts, CF is the gap after st 24. Center the bird-right foot base near the gap after st 18 and the bird-left foot base near the gap after st 30. Keep the bases level and parallel, with the toes pointing toward CF.

Assembly

1. Using the retained fabric CB markers, establish the CB axis, then mark CF and both side axes with removable markers. Confirm that the soft yellow/sky blue boundary is reasonably level.
2. Complete the face markings. Work both deep blue cheek patches and all 6 black throat spots. Check symmetry from straight on before burying tails.
3. Sew the beak. Center the open beak base on CF with its upper edge around Main Rnd 47 and its point directed downward toward Main Rnd 42. Using the warm gold sewing tail, whip stitch around the cast-on edge into the head fabric. Keep the beak centered and slightly projected.
4. Sew the cere. Place the cere directly above the beak, centered on CF over approximately Main Rnds 46-50. Let its lower edge overlap the top of the beak base by 2-3 mm. Add a wisp of stuffing beneath the middle, then whip stitch around the cere edge with light gray-blue yarn.
5. Attach the tail. Flatten the tail root so the front and back layers lie together. Using the lower Rnd 15 CB marker, pin the root centered at CB between Main Rnds 15 and 16. Before sewing, place a new exposed locking marker at CB around Main Rnd 18, then remove the Rnd 15 marker. Sew the tail root to the body with firm whip stitches, capturing both flattened tail layers before entering the body. The tail should project back and slightly downward.
6. Position the feet. Pin both completed feet on the underside over Main Rnds 8-11, centered near the Main Rnd 10 gaps after sts 18 and 30. From the front, the bases should be level and the toe clusters should remain distinct. Secure each base initially with only 2-3 loose holding stitches; do not complete the seams yet.
7. Attach the wings. Pin the bird-right wing at the right-wing coordinates and the mirrored bird-left wing at the left-wing coordinates. Keep the RS and black bars facing outward. Sew only each straight attachment edge to the body with small mattress-style stitches or neat whip stitches. Do not sew around the shaped edge. Keep the wing panels flat and unstuffed.
8. Check balance. Set the bird on a flat surface while the foot bases are still held by the temporary stitches. If it rocks backward, move both bases a few millimetres toward CF. If it tips to one side, compare foot height and placement. Once the bird is balanced, complete both foot-base seams securely.
9. Finish all joins. Secure each sewing yarn on the underside or beneath an attached piece, weave or bury the tails into the stuffing, and remove every temporary marker and pin.

Sewing Methods

Join	Method	Needle path
Beak to head	Small whip stitch	Pass through one cast-on edge loop of the beak, then catch one half-stitch of the head. Repeat around the base.
Cere to head	Surface whip stitch	Catch a small edge bite of the cere and a shallow bite of the soft yellow head so the seam stays discreet.
Tail root	Flattened two-layer attachment	Pass through both tail layers, then into the body. Do not sew one layer at a time.
Foot base	Short whip-stitch seam	Pass through the I-cord base and the underside fabric. Keep the seam centered beneath the base.
Wing	Mattress-style or tiny whip stitch	Catch the straight wing edge and adjacent body stitch columns. Leave the shaped wing edge free.

Finishing and Shape Adjustment

1. Massage the body gently to even out the stuffing. Push a little stuffing toward the lower front to create a rounded breast, while keeping the underside stable enough for sitting.
2. Shape the head so the crown is smoothly domed. The eyes should face forward rather than outward to the sides.
3. Press each wing lightly against the body. If a wing edge curls, dampen it very lightly and pin it flat until dry.
4. Curve the tail only slightly. A narrow, mostly unstuffed tail looks cleaner than a heavily stuffed one.
5. Arrange the toes so the middle toe points forward and the two side toes splay evenly. The feet should support the body without being stretched flat.
6. Check the face at arm's length. The beak and cere should be centered on CF, the eyes level, and the cheek patches mirrored.

Final Visual Checklist

- ☐ Face is centered on CF.
- ☐ Eyes are level and evenly spaced.
- ☐ Cere is centered above the beak.
- ☐ Beak points straight down the center front.
- ☐ Deep blue cheek patches are the same height and size.
- ☐ Black throat spots are balanced left to right.
- ☐ Soft yellow/sky blue boundary sits level around the body.
- ☐ Wings begin at the same height and angle slightly back.
- ☐ Wing stripes match from side to side.
- ☐ Tail is centered at CB and points back rather than sideways.

- [] Feet are level and toes point forward.
- [] Bird sits without a strong lean to either side.
- [] No stuffing shows through the fabric.
- [] All openings and gathered points are closed.
- [] No sewing yarns, pins or markers remain visible.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use firmer knitting tension or a smaller needle. For an already finished bird, remove a little stuffing and redistribute it rather than forcing more into the fabric.
Bird is larger or smaller than expected	Check both stitch and round gauge. A different yarn thickness or needle size changes the finished measurements even when stitch counts are correct.
Head looks too narrow	Massage stuffing outward toward the temples and cheeks. Avoid packing the crown tightly. If your gauge is substantially tighter than stated, the head circumference will reduce.
Body base is too round to sit	Move some stuffing upward from the exact underside and gently flatten the bottom with your palm. The feet should touch the surface before the lowest body point.
Eyes look too wide apart or too close	Before securing safety-eye washers, view the head from the front at eye level. Both eyes should be the same distance from CF. For embroidered eyes, remove and restitch before attaching the beak.
Beak points sideways	Unpick only the last few sewing stitches, realign its base to CF and repin. Check from the top as well as the front before resewing.
One wing hangs lower	Compare Wing Row 1 and Row 24 against the same body round positions on both sides. Re-pin the lower wing before sewing the final few centimeters.
Wing curls away from the body	Lightly damp-block the wing flat. During sewing, use the straight attachment edge only; pulling around the curved edge can distort the panel.
Tail twists sideways	Make sure the open root is flattened evenly and centered at CB. The sewing line must pass through both flattened layers.
Feet rotate outward	Shorten the attachment seam and make sure it runs through the center of each foot base. The seam should hold the base, not extend along the toes.
Color-change jog is noticeable	Keep the colour change at CB, where it is least visible from the front. Tighten the first soft yellow stitch gently. On the next round, lift the stitch below the first soft yellow stitch onto the needle and knit it together with the first stitch to soften the step.

Problem	Practical correction
Flat wing gauge differs from body gauge	Check the flat stockinette gauge separately. If the wings are too long, use a slightly smaller needle for the wings; if too short, use a slightly larger one while keeping the fabric neat.
Seam gaps appear around attached parts	Use smaller, more frequent sewing bites and catch consistent half-stitches of the body. Do not pull so tightly that the body puckers.

Quick Placement Reference

Feature	Placement
Eyes	Between Main Rnds 51/52; bird-right after st 26, bird-left after st 38 on the 64-st head.
Cere	Centered on CF over approximately Main Rnds 46-50.
Beak	Centered on CF below cere; base near Main Rnd 47, point toward Main Rnd 42.
Deep blue cheek patches	Main Rnds 42-45; sts 21-24 and 41-44.
Black throat spots	Three tiny ovals per side around Main Rnds 39-41; mirror positions around CF.
Right wing	Bird-right wing: Row 1 at Main Rnd 35, gap after st 16 on the 64-st right side axis; Row 24 at Main Rnd 12, about gap after st 12 or 13, shifted 1-2 sts toward CB from the 56-st side axis after st 14.
Left wing	Mirrored bird-left wing: Row 1 at Main Rnd 35, gap after st 48; Row 24 at Main Rnd 12, about gap after st 43 or 44, shifted 1-2 sts toward CB from the 56-st side axis after st 42.
Tail	Flattened root centered at CB between Main Rnds 15/16; approx. 5 body stitch columns to each side.
Feet	Underside over Main Rnds 8-11; at Main Rnd 10 center bird-right near the gap after st 18 and bird-left near the gap after st 30; toes toward CF.