



DREAMBIRD

Technical revision by Matthew Hesson-McInnis, MHM on Ravelry

The rich coloring of birds is something wonderful, and I felt I wanted to express this in knitting. I had the Kingfisher before my eyes when I did this but there are no limits of what you can do, hence the name Dreambird!

Dreambird looks more complicated than it is. When you *strictly* follow the instructions for the first feather the following ones will be a walk in the park!

The shaping is done by short rows and I explain everything in detail so that you don't need to be an advanced knitter to knit this piece.

You can knit the feathers with yarn of rather long color changes or use up your stash, it is up to you! The fluffy Kid Mohair emphasizes the feathers.

If you love to knit together with others we invite you to take part in the KAL Dreambird in the group Swing Knitting.

Material:

50 g Kid Mohair (I used ggh Kid Melange color 16, 550 yards/50g)

Less than 100 g of thin sock yarn (I used Angora Design from Ice Yarns, 600 yards/100g; funnily enough I couldn't find neither a color name nor number on the label)

A circular knitting needle of 3 mm is the right needle for this combination.

You need 6 light and 6 dark safety pins and a stitch marker (I used a golden safety pin) and a crochet hook for casting on and off. The experience in the KAL has shown that some people prefer to use stitch markers instead of safety pins. Stitch markers stay on the needle whereas safety pins are *inserted into the fabric* after turning right before the double stitch. They indicate the stitch where the row is not complete even if later there are knitted rows above them.

This is the moment for a basic remark:

This is a pattern to run wild if you want to! This means you can work with any yarn you like, the shawl will be bigger or smaller that's all.

On top of that you are free to knit as many feathers as you want to. There is a lot of space for creativity here. If you make the shawl wide enough you can even wear it as a mini skirt or wrap it around your hips as you may do sometimes with a sweater when it gets too warm in times between the seasons.

If you don't like Kid Mohair as main yarn (some people just don't like Mohair) it could be useful to choose a yarn which is slightly thinner than the feather yarn. It is also possible to knit the body in stockinette stitch. I will try this with my next bird. It just looks nice when the feathers make a good contrast in color AND structure against the body. I started the project with yarns lacking the contrast and was disappointed with the result. You can see what I mean in the picture below where I demonstrate the position of pins.

Deliberations on the knitting technique:

We achieve the shape of the shawl **AND** the shape of the feathers with the help of short rows. So there is the phenomenon of short rows within short rows... This may sound intimidating for some of you – but don't worry, it isn't!

1. A short row means we turn within a row, so a part of the row is not completed.
2. To avoid a hole we make a so called ‚double stitch‘, the easiest way to solve the problem of holes.

And this is how the „double stitch“ is done: (Those of you who know how to do this just move on to the next paragraph).

The work is in front of you as if you wanted to purl. This means the yarn lies in front of the needle. Now put the right needle into the left needle as if to purl, but don't purl! Now pull the yarn over the right needle backwards and watch what happens to the stitch. By the pull two little legs appear which is the stitch of the row before. Now let the stitch slip on the right needle without loosening the pull and knit the next stitch. Give an extra pull. You have created a 'double stitch. Knit this stitch **like one stitch** when you come across it the next time. Take care to really catch both legs otherwise you will create a hole which you wanted to avoid in the first place.

Making a double stitch also **counts** as one stitch as it is by nature **ONE** stitch that has been deformed.

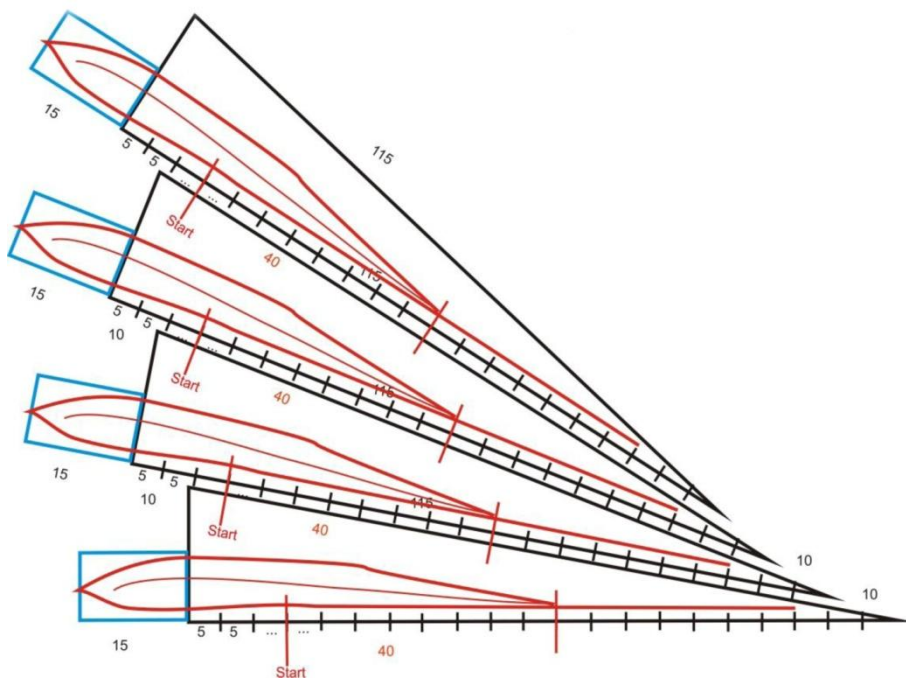
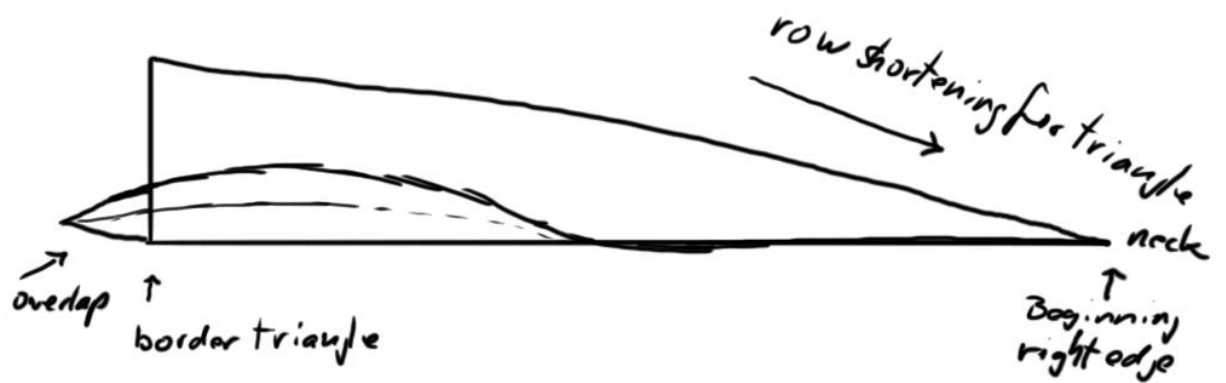
The whole movement of 'drawing a double stitch' will become routine soon and you will no longer have to think about it.

If you still have difficulties you find videos on YouTube under the name ‚German Short Rows‘.

3. As a reminder of such turning points we insert safety pins. Light pins remind us that the row has to be completed to the right edge; dark pins remind us that the row has to be completed to the left edge to get the knitting straight again.
4. After having completed such a row we remove the safety pin.
5. The shape of the shawl is achieved by offset triangles with integrated feathers.
Each triangle is knitted by regularly shortening the rows on the neck side by 5 stitches when we knit back to the beginning.
 This means you turn 5 stitches prior to the previous turn when you knit back on the wrong-side. Include the double stitch of the previous turn in the counting
 We could insert a dark pin whenever we shorten the row for the triangle. But we don't do this as we never want to complete these rows. This spares us a lot of pin business as you will see later on. We just have to keep this basic thought in mind.
6. Dreambird is knitted in garter stitch. We only knit the quill within the thick part of the feather in stockinette. The thin part is knitted in garter stitch again.

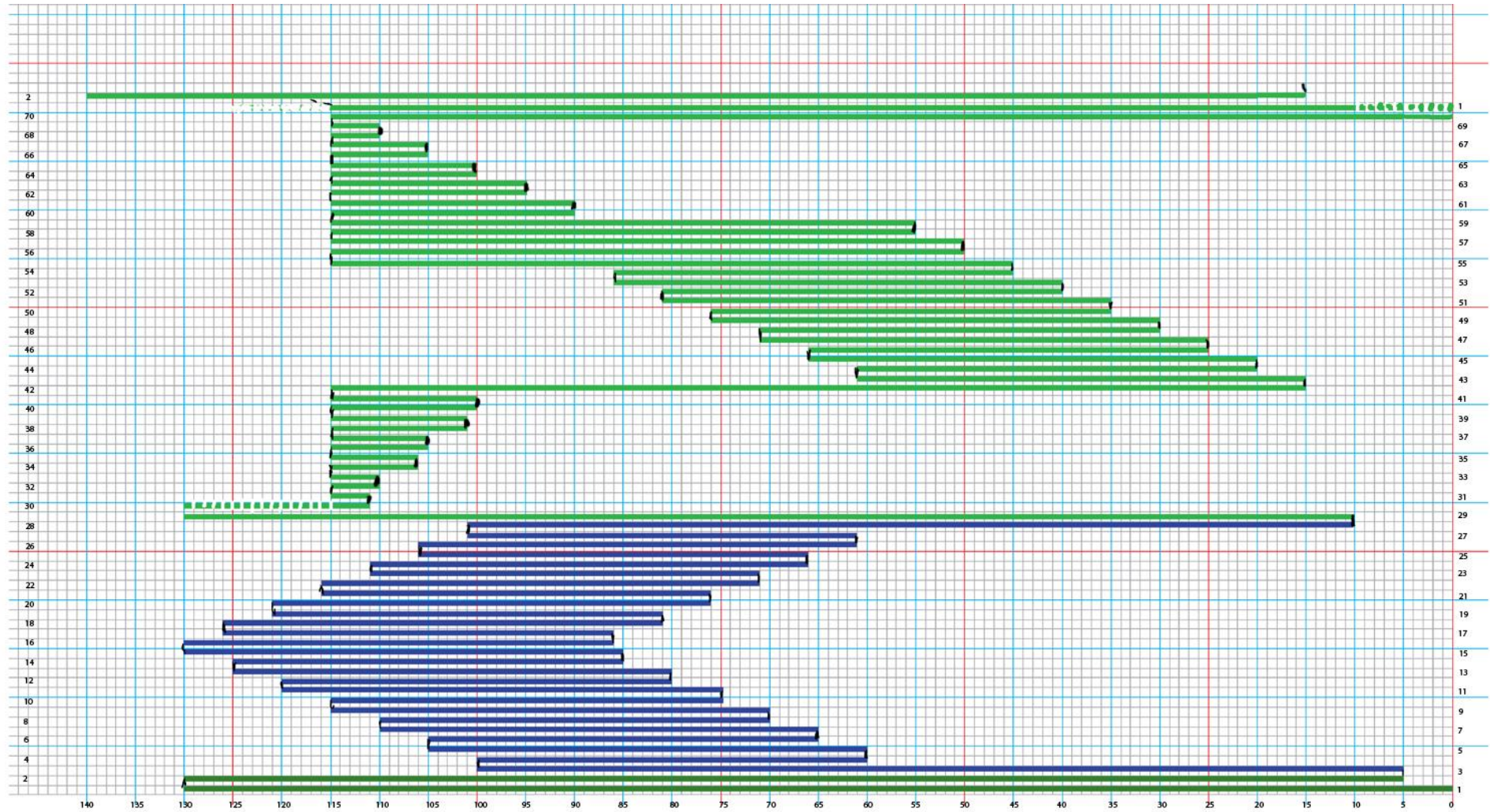
There is the possibility to knit Dreambird without any pins or stitch markers. For those of you who just want to knit without understanding what is going on I have made a row by row description. You can use the row by row description alone (but count well!) or use it as an extra help when you work through the pattern. You find the row by row description at the end of this pattern, there is also a Minibird for little girls there.

Construction of the Dreambird:



left edge feather tip

right edge neck side



The three drawings show how the individual feather is made up, how the feathers work together forming the shawl and the knitting directions of the first feather plus the moving on to the next feather.

Step 1: Take your main yarn and make a crochet cast on of 115 plus 15 stitches with the help of a crochet hook. You get a nice and firm base by doing this. 115 stitches mark the beginning and the end of the row. 15 stitches are for the overlapping feathers. So you have got 130 stitches as a whole.

This is your first row. If you cast on in a different way knit one row over all stitches as first row.

*****Step 2:** Knit back to the beginning and shorten the row at the neck end by 5 stitches. (This means 'leave 5 stitches un-knitted'.)

-Turn, make a double stitch and knit one stitch. Pick up your feather yarn now (I didn't want to do the change of yarn directly over the double stitch. It is possible but arduous).

Step 3: Knit towards the end with your feather yarn and weave in the end of the yarn. **Also weave in the main yarn over 5 stitches then you will have it in the right place later on!**

-Leave 30 stitches un-knitted on the left border.

Step 4: turn, *insert a dark pin*, make a double stitch and knit 40 stitches which is the length of the feather. *The double stitch is also a stitch so include it in the counting as one stitch.* So you make the double stitch and knit 39 more stitches.

Step 5: Turn, insert the stitch marker, make a double stitch, knit up to and including the double stitch and 5 more stitches.

Note: We don't insert light pins here because at this position and the following 5 positions there are imaginary dark pins for the shape of the

triangle. The dark pins and the light pins neutralize each other. We insert the stitch marker as a reminder for this.

Step 6: Turn, insert dark pin, double stitch; knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 7: Turn, double stitch, knit up to and including the double stitch of the previous row and 5 more stitches.

Step 8: Turn, insert dark pin, double stitch; knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 9: Turn, double stitch, knit up to and including the double stitch of the previous row and 5 more stitches.

Step 10: Turn. As we have reached the left border now (the remaining 15 stitches are overlap) we don't insert a dark pin. But we make a double stitch, of course. Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 11: Turn, double stitch, knit up to and including the double stitch of the previous row and 5 more stitches.

Step 12: Turn, we have crossed the left border so we don't insert a dark pin. Make a double stitch. Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 13: Turn, double stitch, knit up to and including the double stitch of the previous row and 5 more stitches.

Step 14: Turn, we are still beyond the left border and don't insert a dark pin. Make a double stitch. Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Now we are going to prepare the turning maneuver to get to the second half of the feather.

Step 15: Turn, make a double stitch and knit to the end.

Step 16: Turn and knit 3 stitches. Now **PURL** (this is how you achieve the illusion of a quill) up to the double stitch of the previous row (don't knit the double stitch!).

Step 17: Turn, insert a light pin and make a double stitch. There are two double stitches side by side now. Knit 40 stitches for the length of the feather. Don't forget to count the new double stitch as one stitch. If you have counted well you should land 4 stitches before the end of the row. Don't get nervous if you have miscounted one, just go along with me.

Step 18: Turn, make a double stitch and knit up to the double stitch of the previous row.

Purl the double stitch and 5 more stitches for the quill.

Step 19: Turn, insert light pin, double stitch.

Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 20: Turn, make a double stitch and knit up to the double stitch of the previous row.

Purl the double stitch and 5 more stitches for the quill.

Step 21: Turn, insert light pin, double stitch.

Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 22: Turn, make a double stitch and knit up to the double stitch of the previous row.

Purl the double stitch and 5 more stitches for the quill.

Step 23: Turn, insert light pin, double stitch.

Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 24: Turn –insert a dark pin because we now we are again within the limits of the triangle- make a double stitch and knit up to the double stitch of the last row.

Purl the double stitch and 5 more stitches for the quill.

Step 25: Turn, insert light pin, double stitch.

Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 26: Turn, insert a dark pin, make a double stitch and knit up to the double stitch of the previous row.

Purl the double stitch and 5 more stitches for the quill.

Step 27: Turn, insert light pin, double stitch.

Knit up to 5 stitches before the double stitch of the previous row, *include the double stitch in the counting!*

Step 28: Turn, insert dark pin, double stitch; knit back towards the beginning past the thick part of the feather and shorten the row on the neck border by another 5 stitches knitting until 5 stitches before the double stitch, include the double stitch in the counting.

The image shows the position of pins after the third feather. (The position of pins is the same after every feather). There are 6 dark pins on the left border, one upper and one lower one side by side. There are 6 light pins further to the right at a distance of 5 stitches. Right beside the farthest right light pin there is the golden stitch marker. You also can see the quill.



Now we are only a few steps away from finishing our first feather! First we work off the pins.

So turn and knit one more stitch after the double stitch. Cut the yarn and weave in the end with the following stitches. If you knit the next feather with the same ball you don't need to cut the yarn, just weave it in for 5 stitches.

Knit to the end and cast off the 15 stitches of the overlap after turning. You are now on the left border.

Knit up to the first dark pin on the way (after 4 stitches), remove it, turn, make a double stitch and knit back to the left border.

Knit up to the next dark pin, remove it, turn, make a double stitch and knit back to the left border.

Repeat between * and * until all 6 pins have been removed.

Knit back towards the beginning and shorten the row by another 5 stitches.

Turn and make a double stitch.

******Knit up to the first light pin on the way, remove it, turn, double stitch, shorten the row by another 5 stitches.******

Repeat between ****** and ****** until all light pins have been removed.

Now we are going to complete the triangle by further systematic shortening on the neck side.

Knit to the end, knit back and shorten the row by 5 stitches. Knit to the end, knit back and shorten the row by another 5 stitches.

STOP

Now you can see why I placed the golden stitch marker. It reminds us that the following 6 shortenings have already been done by the shape of the feather!

So we knit to the end, turn and knit only 25 stitches, turn, double stitch(you know this by now), knit to the end, turn and knit 20 stitches, knit back, 15 stitches, back, 10 stitches, back, 5 stitches back.

Now knit back to the beginning over all 115 stitches. *******

The first feather is finished!

We are going to offset the next triangle by 10 stitches. Cast off 10 stitches, knit to the end and turn. Now you cast on 10 plus 15 stitches by getting a loop out of the first stitch, put it on the needle. Take a loop out of this last loop and put it on the needle. Go on until you have 25 more stitches all in all.

You see we are back at the same point where we started the first feather. There are 115 plus 15 stitches as a base for the next feather. So don't get distracted now by the last feather, just concentrate on these stitches with the new left border. Knit exactly as you did after the cast on of the first feather. Repeat everything between ******* and *******.

Knit as many feathers as you like. I stopped when my Kid Mohair was finished.

The last piece should be a feather where you don't insert pins; because we don't want to end with the sharp corner of a triangle. The shape of the feather gives an interesting finishing line. Finish your work with a double row of your main yarn over the last feather.

If you want to you can knit a couple of garter stitch rows over the inner border. But this is not necessary.

I wish you a lot of fun knitting this shawl! I myself got completely electrified when I suddenly had this idea while I was deeply involved in another project. Suddenly this Ice yarn came into my mind and I wondered what I could do with it... As soon as the idea ripened I had to try it out and make the other project a wip. I had so much joy while I went through the whole process.

With the same joy I anticipate all the dream birds which will be knitted now, I am very much aware of the potential of this project.



Row by row description of the pattern

This description does not replace the pattern. Many details are missing and it delivers no understanding of what is going on. It is especially meant as an orientation help for those who are used to row to row instructions. It is possible to knit the pattern with just this description, you don't even have to insert pins, but you have to count very well. The description covers the first triangle and the beginning of the next one. From then on you repeat according to the amount of feathers you want. If you use the row by row description alone take care you have understood the concept of short rows and know how to make the double stitch.

After you have 'knit to the end' or 'knit back to the beginning' you are at the end of a row. **All** other turns after a row are short row turns. This means you are turning within a row and ALWAYS have to make a double stitch.

Double stitches count as normal stitches, they are just deformed stitches.

So when I say for example 'knit 40' after the turn of a short row, you make the double stitch and knit another 39 stitches, 40 stitches in total.

Glossary:

Fat uneven numbers are right side rows.

Fat even numbers are wrong side rows.

The other numbers are stitches;

k means knit

p means purl

- | | |
|--|--|
| 01 cast on 130 | 02 k 125 |
| 03 k 95 (change to feather yarn after 2) | 04 k 40 |
| 05 k 45 | 06 k 40 |
| 07 k 45 | 08 k 40 |
| 09 k 45 | 10 k 40 |
| 11 k 45 | 12 k 40 |
| 13 k 45 | 14 k 40 |
| 15 k to the end (45) | 16 k 3 p 41 |
| 17 k 40 | 18 k 39 p 6 |
| 19 k 40 | 20 k 39 p 6 |
| 21 k 40 | 22 k 39 p 6 |
| 23 k 40 | 24 k 39 p 6 |
| 25 k 40 | 26 k 39 p 6 |
| 27 k 40 | 28 k 91 |
| 29 k to the end (change to background yarn after 2) | 30 cast off 15, k 3 |
| 31 k to the end (4) | 32 k 5 |
| 33 k to the end | 34 k 9 |
| 35 k to the end | 36 k 10 |
| 37 k to the end | 38 k 14 |
| 39 k to the end | 40 k 15 |
| 41 k to the end | 42 k 100 |
| 43 k 46
more times)..... | 44 k 41 (repeat rows 43 and 44 five |
| 55 k to the end | 56 k 65 |
| 57 k to the end | 58 k 60 |
| 59 k to the end | 60 k 25 |
| 61 k to the end | 62 k 20 |
| 63 k to the end | 64 k 15 |
| 65 k to the end | 66 k 10 |
| 67 k to the end | 68 k 5 |
| 69 k to the end | 70 k back to the beginning (115) |
| 1 cast off 10, k to the end | 2 cast on 25, k back 125 |

End last feather after row 28 and work a finish in background yarn.

Minibird

Some people asked me what to do for making the Dreambird bigger or smaller from neck to waist. If you want to make it bigger I recommend thicker yarn and bigger needles, it is the easiest way. But if you want to make a mini bird for your little daughter or granddaughter you may not want to knit with thinner yarn.

So I made a row by row description for those of you who want to knit a Mini Bird. You cast on less stitches, everything is done in steps of 4 instead of 5. At the end of the first feather you cast off 8 stitches on the neck side and cast on 20 stitches on the feather tip side. Then you start all over again. The following pictures show the process after row 13, 25, 34 and 64. I included the pins for those who want to understand what is going on. **These pictures are only valid for the mini version,** because the number of pins is **different**.

Row 13, half feather



Row 25 full feather



Row 34 after working off dark pins



Row 64 full feather after completing the whole first triangle



- | | |
|---|--|
| 01 cast on 104 | 02 k 100 |
| 03 k 80 (change to feather yarn after 2) | 04 k 36 |
| 05 k 40 | 06 k 36 |
| 07 k 40 | 08 k 36 |
| 09 k 40 | 10 k 36 |
| 11 k 40 | 12 k 36 |
| 13 k to the end (40) | 14 k 3 p 36 |
| 15 k 36 | 16 k 35 p 5 |
| 17 k 36 | 18 k 35 p 5 |
| 19 k 36 | 20 k 35 p 5 |
| 21 k 36 | 22 k 35 p 5 |
| 23 k 36 | 24 k 77 |
| 25 k 96 to the end (change to background yarn after 2) | 26 cast off 12, k 2 |
| 27 k to the end (3) | 28 k 4 |
| 29 k to the end | 30 k 7 |
| 31 k to the end | 32 k 8 |
| 33 k to the end | 34 k 80 |
| 35 k 37 | 36 k 33 |
| 37 k 37 | 38 k 33 |
| 39 k 37 | 40 k 33 |
| 41 k 37 | 42 k 33 |
| 43 k 37 | 44 k 33 |
| 45 k to the end (60) | 46 k 56 |
| 47 k to the end | 48 k 52 |
| 49 k to the end | 50 k 48 |
| 51 k to the end | 52 k 24 |
| 53 k to the end | 54 k 20 |
| 55 k to the end | 56 k 16 |
| 57 k to the end | 58 k 12 |
| 59 k to the end | 60 k 8 |
| 61 k to the end | 62 k 4 |
| 63 k to the end | 64 k back to the beginning (92) |

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