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DK
WEIGHT



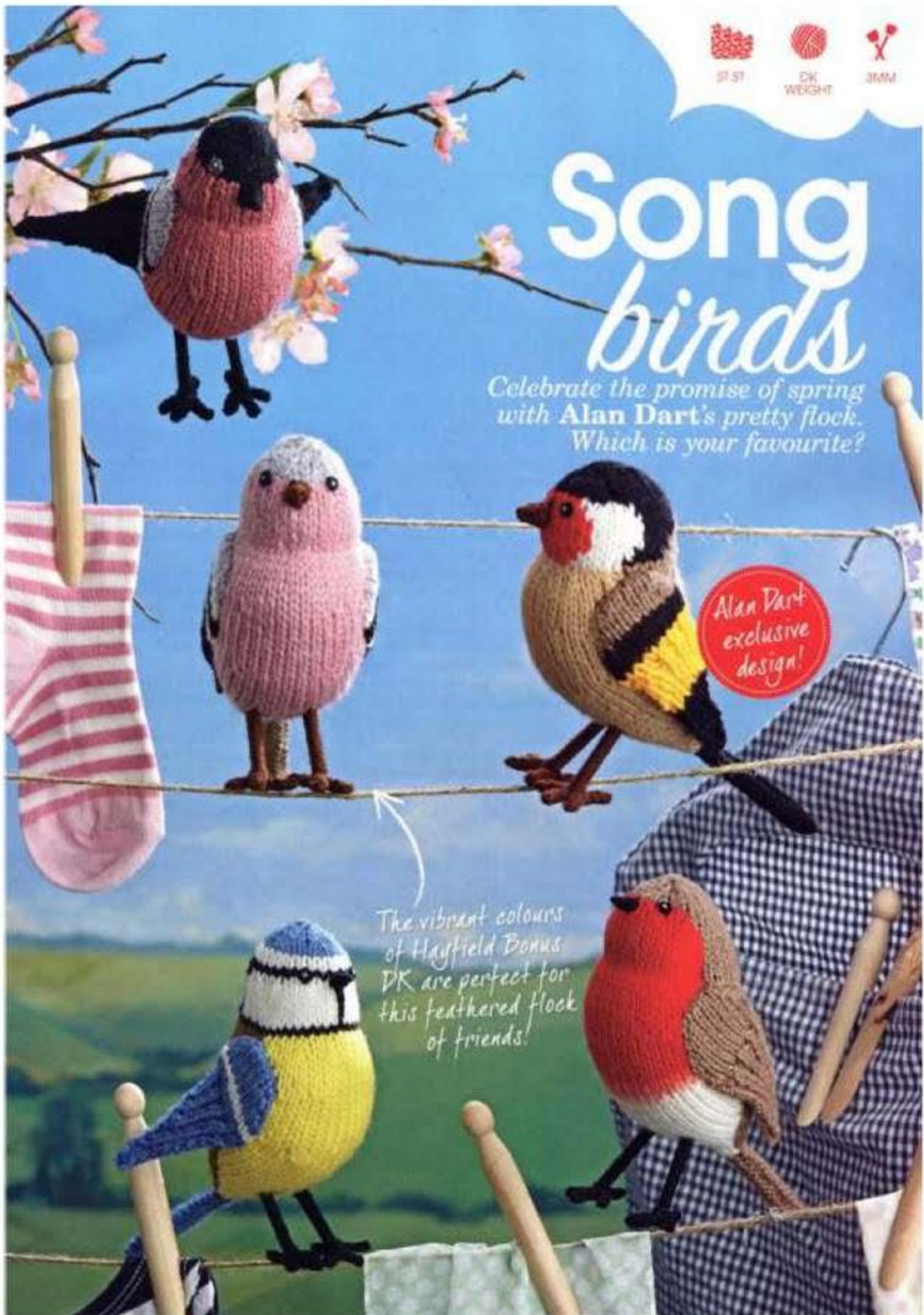
3MM

Song *birds*

Celebrate the promise of spring
with **Alan Dart's** pretty flock.
Which is your favourite?

Alan Dart
exclusive
design!

The vibrant colours
of Hagfield Bonus
DK are perfect for
this feathered flock
of friends!



MATERIALS

YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield, Bohus DK (100% acrylic, 100g/280m)
- 1 each of each: Walnut (927), Cream (812), Bright Lemon (819), Rosie Pink (810), Tulip (826), Wheat (816), Denim (994) and Moss Green (792)
- Hayfield, Bohus Toytime DK (100% acrylic, 25g/70m)
- 1 each of each: Silver Grey (838), Signal Red (977), Sunflower (978), Black (965) and Chocolate (947)
- 1m lengths of white and dark grey DK yarns
- A pair of 3mm needles
- A stitch holder
- Toy stuffing
- Six 20cm long thin plastic drinking straws
- Clear adhesive
- Double-sided sticky tape
- Red and pink pencils
- Hair spray
- For yarn stockists Sirdar & Hayfield 01924 231682 www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension: 26 sts and 36 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 3mm needles

TENSION

5in (12.5cm) tall and 6in (15cm) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 92



Few sounds lighten our hearts like the sound of bird song. So we were thrilled when Alan Dart's pretty birds arrived in the *Simply Knitting* office. With a cheery robin, bullfinch, blue tit, chaffinch and goldfinch to choose from, you can just knit your favourite or make the whole flock.

We think they'd make a wonderful Mother's Day gift, but as designer Alan advises, if you fancy making one for a child, make sure it's safe. "If you are making these birds for a very young child, omit the tail and leg straws and simply sew the feet directly on to the body," he says.

Whoever you knit your birds for, they're sure to be overjoyed.

Start knitting here...

NOTE

Use 3mm needles throughout and cast on by using the cable (two needle) method. This is most important when knitting the smaller pieces. Also begin all pieces with a K row, unless otherwise stated, and always work 'inc 1' by knitting into the front and back of the stitch.

ROBIN

BODY BACK (MAKE 1)

Cast on 6 sts with Walnut for back edge.

*St at 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next 3 rows.

[12 sts]

P 1 row.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Repeat the last 2 rows 2 more times.

[18 sts]

St at 3 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Repeat the last 4 rows once more.

[22 sts]**

St at 11 rows.

1st dec row (K3, k2tog) to last 2 sts, K2.

[18 sts]

St at 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row. [20 sts]

2nd dec row K3, (k2tog, K2) to last st,

K1. [16 sts]

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row. [18 sts]

Break yarn and sl sts on to stitch holder.

BODY FRONT (MAKE 1)

Cast on 6 sts with Cream for back edge.

*St at 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next 7 rows.

[20 sts].

P 1 row.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

Repeat the last 2 rows 2 more times.

[26 sts]**

P 1 row.

***SHAPE CHEST

1st row K23, yf, sl 1, yb, turn.

2nd row Sl 1, P20, yb, sl 1, yf, turn.

3rd row Sl 1, K17, yf, sl 1, yb, turn.

4th row Sl 1, P14, yb, sl 1, yf, turn.

5th row Sl 1, K11, yf, sl 1, yb, turn.

6th row Sl 1, P8, yb, sl 1, yf, turn.

7th row Sl 1, K to end.

8th row P across all sts. [26 sts]****

Change to Signal Red and st at 2 rows.

Work from **** to **** once more.

St at 8 rows.

1st dec row K2, (K2 tog, K2) to end.

[20 sts]

St at 2 rows.

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

[18 sts]

2nd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [12 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row.

[10 sts].

JOIN FRONT AND BACK FOR HEAD

Next row With Walnut, K8, skpo from front sts, then k2tog, K16 from held back sts. [26 sts]

P 1 row.

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

1st dec row K2, (k2tog, K1) to end.

[18 sts]

P 1 row.

2nd dec row (K2tog) to end. [9 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TAIL (MAKE 1)

Cast on 16 sts with Walnut and garter st 7 rows.

Cast off.

RIGHT WING (MAKE 1)

*Cast on 7 sts with Walnut for front edge and st at 2 rows.

Inc row Inc 1, K to last 2 sts, inc 1, K1.



"What a cheery little fellow! Pay careful attention to your seaming and sewing up to make sure he has a perfect finish."

Catherine Kemp, 2002, Knit & Sew



P 1 row.
Repeat the last 2 rows once more. [11 sts]
St at 6 rows.

RIB PATTERN

Row 1 K1, (P1, K1) to end.
Row 2 P1, (K1, P1) to end.
Repeat the 2 rib rows once more.**
Keeping rib pattern correct, dec 1 st at beg of next row.
Dec 1 st at end of next row.
Repeat the last 2 rows 2 more times.
[5 sts]
Rib 2 rows.
Dec 1 st at beg of next row. [4 sts]
Dec 1 st at end of next row. [3 sts]
Rib 2 rows.
Dec row Sl 1, k2tog, pssso, break yarn and draw through st.

LEFT WING (MAKE 1)

Work as given for right wing from * to **.
Keeping rib pattern correct, dec 1 st at end of next row.
Dec 1 st at beg of next row.
Repeat the last 2 rows 2 more times.
[5 sts]
Rib 2 rows.
Dec 1 st at end of next row. [4 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg of next row. [3 sts]
Rib 2 rows.
Dec row Sl 1, k2tog, pssso, break yarn and draw through st.

BEAK (MAKE 1)

Cast on 3 sts with Black and P 1 row.
1st dec row K1, k2tog. [2 sts]
2nd dec row P2tog, break yarn and draw through st.

FEET (MAKE 2)

Cast on 5 sts with Black.
Cast off 3 sts, sl st on right-hand needle on to left-hand needle.

*Cast on 4 sts.

Cast off 3 sts, sl st on right-hand needle on to left-hand needle.**
Work from * to ** 2 more times. [5 sts]
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Unless otherwise specified, sew seams and join pieces using mattress stitch, working with right side of knitting uppermost. A one-stitch knitted seam



Use a red coloured pencil to gently shade the white yarn into the red.



The beak is sewn on, then pinched into shape and set using hair spray.

STEP-BY-STEP INCREASE 1 BY KNITTING INTO FRONT AND BACK



1 Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch and knit as normal, but don't drop it from the left-hand needle.



2 Then take the right-hand needle behind the left and insert the tip of the needle down through the back of the stitch on the left-hand needle.



3 Wrap the yarn round the tip of the right-hand needle to knit the stitch. Bring the needle through to make the stitch, keeping it on the right-hand needle.



4 Take the stitch off the left-hand needle. You will have increased one stitch by knitting twice into the original stitch, first at the front, then at the back.

The two legs and tail form a sturdy 'tripod' for the bird to stand up on.



turning has been allowed on most pieces to accommodate this method.

Starting at gathered top edge of head, join front and back pieces together, sewing down to cast on edges. Now, starting at head joining row, join opposite sides of front and back pieces, this time stopping 2.5cm away from cast on edges. Stuff head and body firmly through this opening, and then join remainder of seam, leaving back edges open. Shape head by working a gathering thread of matching yarn across front of body, sewing through every knitted stitch on the 4th row below the first decrease row. Draw up slightly to shape head, then fasten off ends of yarn at each side seam.

Oversew cast on and cast off edges of tail piece together, then fold one end in half and oversew across, leaving opposite end open. Insert a large knitting needle into tail to open, then cut a 10cm length of drinking straw to stiffen tail, and spread glue over first 5cm of straw. Carefully remove needle and insert glued end of straw into tail, then pinch tail flat between fingers and

thumb. Insert large knitting needle into back opening of body and turn round to make a hole in stuffing. Remove needle and insert straw extending at top of tail into hole, then sew tail to back of body.

Make feet by oversewing cast on and cast off edges of each toe together to make firmer. You should now have a cross shape, and if you bend the two side toes forward this will form a bird's foot shape. Cut two 6cm lengths of drinking straw for legs and mark 4cm up each one with a pencil. Wrap this section with double-sided sticky tape, then, starting at top point, bind each leg closely with Black yarn, leaving a length of yarn at base of leg. Glue base of leg to centre of foot and leave to set, wrap remaining binding yarn once round base of leg and darn end into back toe, then trim away excess. Mark leg positions on body front with pins, placing 10 knitted rows up from back edge and spacing 4 knitted stitches apart. Insert large knitting needle into one point and turn round to make a hole in stuffing. Spread glue over exposed straw at top of leg, carefully remove needle, and insert leg into hole so that top 6mm of bound section is covered. Repeat with remaining leg, then place bird on a flat surface to check that it stands correctly. The leg and tail straws should act as a tripod.

When embroidering eyes, fasten off ends of yarn at sides of body where they will be hidden by wings. Mark eye positions with pins, spacing 6 knitted stitches apart. Draw out a single strand from a length of Black yarn then use the remaining 2 strands to embroider a circle of 6 very tiny chain stitches for each eye, and remove pins. Draw out a single strand from a length of white yarn and use this to embroider a tiny straight stitch in the centre of each eye for gloss.

Starting at gathered end, oversew side edges of beak together, then position and sew beak to head. Using red pencil, shade the last three knitted rows of Cream section on body front to blend into Signal Red chest.

Pin wings in position, then sew each one in place round stocking stitch section, leaving ribbed section unsewn.

Coat beak and feet with hair spray. Pinch beak into shape, then stand bird on a flat surface and pinch toes into shape and leave to set.

BULLFINCH

Following instructions as given for Robin, make tail and feet in Black.

BODY BACK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts with Silver Grey or back edge.

Work as given for Robin's body back from * to **.

St st 5 rows.

*****Cast off** 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows.

[16 sts]

Dec 1 st at beg of next 2 rows. [14 sts]

1st dec row K4, (k2tog, K3) twice.

[12 sts]

St st 2 rows.

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

[14 sts]

2nd dec row (K2, k2tog) 3 times, K2.

[11 sts]

Inc 1 st at beg and end of next row.

[13 sts]

Break yarn and sl sts on to stitch holder.****

BODY FRONT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts with Cream for back edge.

Work as given for Robin's body front from * to **.

Change to Tulip and P 1 row.

Work as given for Robin's body front from





*** to ****.
St at 2 rows.
Work as given for Robin's body front from *** to ****.
St at 2 rows.
***** Cast on 3 sts at beg of next row. [32 sts]
Inc 1 st at beg of next 2 rows. [34 sts]
1st dec row K2, (k2tog, K2) to end. [26 sts]
St at 2 rows.
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [24 sts]
2nd dec row (K1, k2tog) to end. [16 sts]
Dec 1 st at beg and end of next row. [14 sts]*****

JOIN FRONT AND BACK FOR TOP OF HEAD

Next row With Black, K12, skpo from front sts, then k2tog, K11 from held back sts. [25 sts]
St at 3 rows.

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

1st dec row (K1, k2tog) to last st, K1. [17 sts]
P 1 row.
2nd dec row K1, (k2tog) to end. [9 sts]
Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS (MAKE 2 PIECES)

Work as given for Robin's wings, casting on with Silver Grey and working 6 rows Silver Grey, 2 rows Black, 2 rows Cream, and then remainder in Black.

BEAK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts with Black and P 1 row.
1st dec row Skpo, K2, k2tog. [4 sts]
2nd dec row (P2tog) twice. [2 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Assemble in same manner as given for Robin, but work gathering thread through every stitch on first decrease row to shape head. Use dark grey yarn to embroider eyes, and pink pencil to shade top of Cream section on body front.

BLUE TIT

Following instructions as given for Robin, make beak and feet in Black, and tail in Denim.

BODY BACK (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts with Moss Green for back edge.
Work as given for Robin's body back from * to **.
St at 5 rows.
1st dec row (K3, k2tog) to last 2 sts, K2. [18 sts]
P 1 row.
Break yarn and sl sts on to stitch holder.

BODY FRONT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts with Bright Lemon for back edge.
Work as given for Robin's body front from * to **.
P 1 row.
Work as given for Robin's body front from *** to ****.
St at 2 rows.
Work as given for Robin's body front from **** to *****.
St at 2 rows.
1st dec row K2, (K2, k2tog) to end. [20 sts]
P 1 row.



Wrap a drinking straw tightly with tape and yarn to create the legs.



Ribbing on the wing adds texture while drawing in the shape.





Spend time positioning the eyes and beak to get the bird's personality just right!

Join front and back for head, next row: With Black, K18, skpo from front sts, then k2tog, K16 from held back sts. [36 sts]

WORKMARKINGS

Use a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twist yarns where colours meet to prevent a hole forming.

Row 1 P5 Cream, P8 Black, P23 Cream.

Rows 2 & 4 K24 Cream, K6 Black, K6 Cream.

Rows 3 & 5 P6 Cream, P6 Black, P24 Cream.

Row 6, 2nd dec row With Cream, (K2, k2tog, K1, k2tog) 3 times, K1, with Black, (K1, k2tog) twice, K2, k2tog, with Cream K1, k2tog, K1. [26 sts]

Change to Black and P 1 row.

Change to Cream and st st 2 rows.

Change to Denim and st st 2 rows.

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

1st dec row K2, (k2tog, K1) to end. [18 sts]

P 1 row.

2nd dec row (P2tog) to end. [9 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS

(MAKE 2)

Work as given for Robin's wings, casting on with Denim and working 6 rows Denim, 2 rows Cream, and then remainder in Denim.

TO MAKE UP

Darn in ends of yarn on head markings, then assemble in same manner as given for Robin, but work gathering thread through every stitch on last row knitted in Bright Lemon to shape head. Embroider a vertical line of chain stitch

in Black up centre front of head, between knitted Black rows, before sewing beak in place, and omit pencil shading.

CHAFFINCH

Following instructions as given for Robin, make feet in Chocolate and tail in Walnut. Make beak in Chocolate as given for Bullfinch.

BODY BACK

Cast on 6 sts with Walnut for back edge. Work as given for Robin's body back from * to **.

St st 5 rows.

Change to Silver Grey and st st 2 rows.

Work as given for Bullfinch's body back from *** to ****.

BODY FRONT (MAKE 1 PIECE)

Cast on 6 sts Rosie Pink for back edge. Work as given for Robin's body front from * to **.

P 1 row.

Work as given for Robin's body front from *** to ****.

St st 2 rows.

Work as given for Robin's body front from *** to ****.

St st 2 rows.

Work as given for Bullfinch's body front from ***** to *****.

JOIN FRONT AND BACK FOR TOP OF HEAD

Next row With Silver Grey, K12, Skpo from front sts, then k2tog, K11 from held back sts. [25 sts]

P 1 row.

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

1st dec row (K1, k2tog) to last st, K1. [17 sts]

P 1 row.

2nd dec row K1, (k2tog) to end. [9 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS

(MAKE 2)

Work as given for Robin's wings, casting on with Silver Grey and working 3 rows Silver Grey, 2 rows Cream, 4 rows Black, 2 rows Cream, and then remainder in Black.

TO MAKE UP

Assemble in same manner as given for Robin, but work gathering thread through every knitted stitch on the 2nd row below the first decrease row to shape head. Use Chocolate yarn to bind legs, and omit pencil shading.

GOLDFINCH

Following instructions as given for Robin, make feet in Chocolate and tail in Black. Make beak in Chocolate as given for Bullfinch.

BODY BACK (MAKE 1)

Cast on 6 sts with Walnut for back edge. Work as given for Robin's body back from * to **.

St st 7 rows.

1st dec row (K3, k2tog) to last 2 sts, K2. [18 sts]

P 1 row.

WORKMARKINGS

Use a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twist yarns where colours meet to prevent a hole forming.

Row 1 K5 Black, K8 Walnut, K5 Black.

Row 2 P2 Cream, P4 Black, P6 Walnut, P4 Black, P2 Cream.

Row 3 K3 Cream, K4 Black, K4 Walnut, K4 Black, K3 Cream.

Row 4 P3 Cream, P5 Black, P2 Walnut,



P5 Black, P3 Cream.

Row 5 K3 Cream, K12 Black, K3 Cream.

Row 6 P3 Cream, P12 Black, P3 Cream.

Row 7 K2 Cream, K14 Black, K2 Cream.

P 1 row Black.

Break yarn and sl sts on to stitch holder.

BODY FRONT (MAKE 1)

Cast on 6 sts with Wheat for back edge. Work as given for Robin's body front from * to **.

P 1 row.

Work as given for Robin's body front from *** to ****.

St at 2 rows.

Work as given for Robin's body front from *** to ****.

St at 4 rows.

Dec row K2, (K2, k2tog) to end. [20 sts]

P 1 row.

WORK MARKINGS

Use a separate ball of yarn for each colour change, and twist yarns where colours meet to prevent a hole forming.

Row 1 K6 Cream, K8 Signal Red, K6 Cream.

Row 2 P5 Cream, P10 Signal Red, P5 Cream.

Rows 3 & 5 K4 Cream, K12 Signal Red, K4 Cream.

Rows 4 & 6 P4 Cream, P12 Signal Red, K4 Cream.

Row 7 K5 Cream, K10 Signal Red, K5 Cream.

Row 8 P6 Cream, P8 Signal Red, P6 Cream.

JOIN FRONT AND BACK FOR TOP OF HEAD

Next row With Black, (K2, k2tog, K1, k2tog) twice, K2, k2tog, skpo from front sts, then (k2tog) twice, (K2, k2tog, K1,

k2tog) twice from held back sts.

[26 sts]

P 1 row.

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

1st dec row K2, (k2tog, K1) to end.

[18 sts]

P 1 row.

2nd dec row (K2tog) to end. [9 sts]

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle, draw up tightly and fasten off.

RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS (MAKE 2)

Work as given for Robin's wings, casting on with Walnut and working 6 rows Walnut, 4 rows Black, 8 rows Sunflower, and then remainder in Black.

TO MAKE UP

Darn in ends of yarn on head markings, then assemble in same manner as given for Robin, but work gathering thread through every stitch on last row knitted in Wheat to shape head. Use Chocolate yarn to bind legs, and omit pencil shading.

Are you knitting this? Share your photos and stories at www.themakingspot.com/SK-103. Next month, look out for Alan's Easter bunny. Issue 104, April, is on sale Wednesday 20 February 2013.



Use a single strand of white thread for the centre of the birds' eyes.



Always work an 'inc 1' by knitting into the front and back of a stitch.

