

Tiny Barn Owl Decoration



This tiny barn owl is worked in the round in stranded colourwork, with the wings knitted on afterwards. The owl is wet felted into a neat miniature of itself before embroidering the eyes, beak and feet. You need to use a feltable yarn (100% wool and not superwash treated).

The finished owl is about 8cm tall when knitted in 4-ply/fingering weight (e.g. Jamieson's Spindrift and 7cm tall in 3-ply /light fingering (e.g. Jamieson & Smith Heritage Naturals or Cascade 2020 Fingering).

Abbreviations

K: knit
 P: purl
 K2tog: knit 2 together
 P2tog: purl 2 together

You will need

3.25mm double pointed needles

Stitch marker

22m colour A, gold or brown feltable 4-ply/fingering yarn (5.1g of Jamieson's Spindrift in Scotch Broom) or 19m 3-ply/light fingering yarn (4.3g of Jamieson & Smith Heritage Naturals or 3.7g of Cascade 220 fingering)

10m in colour B, cream or white feltable 4-ply/fingering yarn (2.3g of Jamieson's Spindrift in Natural White) or 9m 3-ply/ light fingering yarn (2.0g of Jamieson & Smith Heritage Naturals or 1.8g of Cascade 220 fingering)

70cm of black stranded embroidery thread (for embroidering the eyes, beak and feet)

25cm of white stranded embroidery thread or sewing thread (for embroidering the eye sparkle)

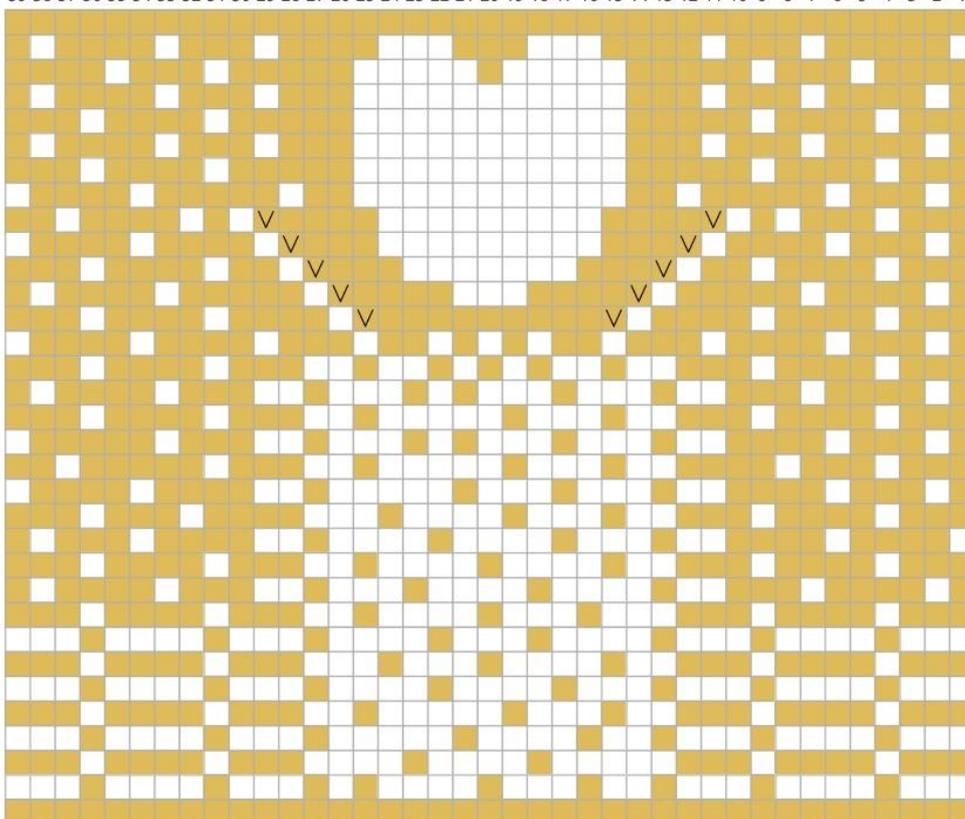
Tapestry needle

Scrap of stuffing (I used 4.2g of carded lambswool for 4-ply owls and 3.0g for 3-ply owls)

A binder clip or bulldog clip, jaws at least 3cm wide (for holding the owl in shape while drying)

Bakers twine, embroidery thread or fine ribbon for making a hanging loop, 25cm (optional).

39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



■ A
 □ B
 √ pick up for wings



Embroidering the owl's face:
 You can use pins with coloured heads to temporarily mark where to sew the eyes and beak

39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Tiny barn owl pattern version 1, 7 March 2023, by Woollen Wave,
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Cast on 39 stitches in A. Place marker for the beginning of the round. Join to work in the round, being careful not to twist.

Knit rounds 1-33 of chart. The chart shows 'V' symbols where the wings will later be picked up; ignore these symbols while knitting the chart.

Round 34: In colour A, K2tog x19, k1, (20 stitches)

Thread a needle with 25cm of A and thread through stitches. Turn the owl inside out, gently pull ends tight to close head and knot securely. Turn the owl the right way out. All the yarns suggested here snap easily under tension, so it's safest to use a new length of yarn to close up the head, rather than use the temptingly handy yarn tail.

Stuff the owl, not too hard as it will shrink when felted (if you are using a light synthetic filling, you will need a smaller weight than 3.0g or 4.2g of wool stuffing I used). Fold and sew closed the tail using the A cast on end: sew from the middle of the tail front to the middle of the tail back, then from the left tail edge to the right tail edge.

Gently pull tight so that the tail edges form an X shape when viewed from below, squash the X into a flat tail and sew across the bottom of the tail.

Knit on the wings

Left wing

Pick up (but do not knit) both legs of the 5 stitches marked as 'V' on the chart to LH of face (10 stitches). With A and starting at the stitches closest to the owl's front:

Row 1 (RS): Knit, (10 stitches)

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rows 3 - 10: Repeat rows 1-2.

Row 11: K2tog, k8, (9 stitches)

Row 12: P7, p2tog, (8 stitches)

Row 13: K2tog, k6, (7 stitches)

Row 14: P5, p2tog, (6 stitches)

Row 15: K2tog, k4, (5 stitches)

Row 16: P3, p2tog, (4 stitches)

Row 17: K2tog, k2, (3 stitches)

Row 18: P1, p2tog, (2 stitches)

Row 19: K2tog. Break yarn and thread through remaining stitch



Right wing

Pick up (but do not knit) both legs of the 5 stitches marked as 'V' on the chart to RH of face (10 stitches). With A and starting at the stitches furthest from the owl's front:

Row 1 (RS): Knit, (10 stitches)

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rows 3 - 10: Repeat rows 1-2.

Row 11: K8, k2tog, (9 stitches)

Row 12: P2tog, p7, (8 stitches)

Row 13: K6, k2tog, (7 stitches)

Row 14: P2tog, p5, (6 stitches)

Row 15: K4, k2tog, (5 stitches)

Row 16: P2tog, p3, (4 stitches)

Row 17: K2, k2tog, (3 stitches)

Row 18: P2tog, p1, (2 stitches)

Row 19: K2tog. Break yarn and thread through remaining stitch

Finishing Sew the wing tips to the back of the owl so that they meet about 1.5cm from the tip of the tail; make this secure to survive the vigorous felting process.

To shape the owl's neck, use the cast on yarn end from the right wing to sew across the back of the neck to the back of the left wing, pull a little tight to gently cinch in the neck, secure.

Lose the remaining yarn ends inside the owl.

Wet felt by very roughly washing the owl, with a little detergent or hand soap, alternating very hot water with cold water. After about 6 minutes of vigorous felting, the owl should have shrunk down to about 8cm in 4-ply or 7cm in 3-ply, with little stitch structure visible. Squeeze out the water, pressing between towels. Shape the owl, flattening its face, rounding the top of its head and flattening its tail. You may have to pull open the wings if they have felted into rolls. Clamp the tail flat with a binder clip, just beneath the wing tips. Dry somewhere warm. Felted wool often becomes hairy; if yours has, you can carefully trim all over the owl with sharp scissors.

Embroider the eyes, beak and feet using 2 strands of black stranded embroidery thread. To embroider the eyes, first embroider a five-armed asterisk about 5mm diameter. Bring the needle out in the middle of the asterisk and weave under and over alternate arms of the asterisk, spiralling out from the centre until the arms are full and the eye is round. To help make the barn owl face pattern, sew a little stitch running from the inner bottom corner of the eye towards the beak. Add a sparkle to the owl's eyes by sewing two tiny stitches in a cross in white sewing or embroidery thread.

Add a hanging loop by threading a needle with 25cm of embroidery thread, bakers string, or fine ribbon and sewing through the very top of the owl's head, knot and trim.

You can hide your embroidery thread securing under the owl's wing

* You are very welcome to use this pattern for personal or charitable purposes; please credit Woollen Wave *



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