

## Knitting Directions for 8 Inch Nests

**\*\*\* Please work with heavy tension on the yarn, as this makes for tighter, more stable nests that are less likely to get toes or claws caught in them.**

5 mm double-pointed needles

1. Using 2 strands of yarn, cast on 108 stitches; then divide evenly among 4 dpns.
2. Work in stockinette (all K stitches) until the nest is approximately 3" tall or height requested.
3. Purl one row, and then start to decrease:
4. Row 1) K14, K2tog—repeat to end
5. Row 2) K13, K2tog—repeat to end
6. Row 3) K12, K2tog—repeat to end
7. Row 4) K11, K2tog—repeat to end
8. Row 5) K10, K2tog—repeat to end
9. Row 6) K9, K2tog—repeat to end
10. Row 7) K8, K2tog—repeat to end
11. Row 8) K7, K2tog—repeat to end
12. Row 9) K6, K2tog—repeat to end
13. Row 10) K5, K2tog—repeat to end
14. Row 11) K4, K2tog—repeat to end
15. Row 12) K3, K2tog—repeat to end
16. Row 13) K2, K2tog—repeat to end
17. Row 14) K1, K2tog—repeat to end

\*\*\*See tip #4 below to determine if you want to continue in this pattern for one more row.

Cut yarns, leaving a 6" tail. Slide yarn on needle, draw tight to close up end (put a few stitches across the gap if need be) Weave in yarn and cut off.

### **Tips**

- To make sure the nest is tight and washable, use two strands of washable yarn (using two different colors to make counting stitches easier). Use three strands if the yarn is very fine.
- Use 5 mm double-pointed needles—You can use circular needles if you prefer.
- When doing K2tog, it seems to be easier to knit through the back loops rather than the front. If you're still having problems with K2tog, try using a crochet hook to pull the yarn through.
- Only decrease to the point where you have a small, easily closed gap in the bottom of the nest; otherwise there can be a bump on the bottom that can make the nest unstable.
- Directions given are for nests that are about 8" across.
- The yarn should not be fuzzy so toes don't get caught

Adapted from the original 4 inch nest design by Barbara Johnson, friend of Native Songbird Care and Conservation.