

I do not knit and therefore have not tried this pattern, but our volunteers have been using it for awhile. Please remember to keep the tension tight on the yarn to ensure a tight knit with no loose loops.

5 mm double-pointed needles

Knitting Directions

1. Using 2 strands of yarn, cast on 54 stitches; then divide evenly among 4 dpns.
2. Work in stockinette (all K stitches) until the nest is approximately 3" tall.
3. Purl one row, and then start to decrease:
4. Row 1) K7, K2tog—repeat to end
5. Row 2) K6, K2tog—repeat to end
6. Row 3) K5, K2tog—repeat to end
7. Row 4) K4, K2tog—repeat to end
8. Row 5) K3, K2tog—repeat to end
9. Row 6) K2, K2tog—repeat to end
10. Row 7) K1, K2tog—repeat to end
11. 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 4" across. Cast on fewer stitches for smaller nests. They knit up so quickly, it's easy to experiment. (If the nest is much smaller, start the decrease with K6, K2tog.)

- The yarn should not be fuzzy so toes don't get caught

Many thanks to Barbara Johnson, friend of Native Songbird Care and Conservation, for designing these magnificent knitted nests.

