Angry Feet

By Elaine Fitzpatrick

The Angry Mitts were such a big hit with my grandsons that I decided to carry it a “step” further (no pun intended) and make them some angry socks! This is not a pattern for the actual socks, rather a guide so you can take your favorite top down sock pattern and turn them into your own angry birds.

Depending on the size you’re making, you’ll need the same amount of yarn as you would for a regular pair of socks. You’ll also need a few yards of the beak color, and scraps of white, black, orange, yellow, pink, blue or red. Obviously, not all the birds use the same colors!

Start with the main color of the sock and knit both the cuff and leg in a k2, p2 ribbing until you reach the heel. The foot is knit in plain stockinette. Knit until you reach the desired length of the sock, minus a row or two. To make the beak, you’ll decrease in the same manner as if you were making a wedge toe. Break your main color yarn and knit three rows with the beak color. Divide your stitches in half. Next round: knit one stitch; slip two stitches knitwise and then knit them together (SSK), knit across the first half of your stitches until the last three stitches, then knit two together (k2tog,) knit one. Repeat for the second half of your stitches. You’ve now decreased four stitches. Next round: knit all the stitches. You’ll repeat these two rounds until you have about half the number of stitches that you started with. For example, in my case, I began with 48 stitches and I’ll end when I have 24 stitches left on my needles. You want an even number of stitches per side. However, before you even start to decrease, and after
you’ve knit three rows, **STOP**. This is the point that you want to do the embroidery of the faces. Believe me when I tell you that it is so much easier to do the faces now rather than when the toe is closed. You can do it at the end, but it is very difficult. It also might be easier to just slip your stitches onto a piece of waste yarn to avoid dropping any, while you do your embroidery.

For the red bird, duplicate stitch the eyes in white. (I know, I know, this is a picture of a mitten, not a sock, but I haven’t knit a red pair and this is just to give you an idea of how the face is done!) The eyebrows are embroidered with black in the shape of a “V”. (Remember, he’s angry!) The eyes are French knots. I didn’t embroider around the eyeball, but you can if you choose to.
Blue Bird

For the blue bird, the eyes are duplicate stitched in white and the under eye is done in orange. I embroidered around each eye in black and then made French knots for the eyes. (He’s not quite as angry.)

White Bird

The white bird has an orange beak. (Trust me, I made one with a yellow beak and got a stern lecture from my four year old grandson!) For the white bird, the under eyes are duplicate stitched in yellow. I embroidered around each eye using black. The eyebrows
are straight across and extend a little beyond the eye. I did two rows of outline stitch to make them heavy. The bottom of the eye is also extended just slightly.

Yellow Bird

I didn’t knit a yellow bird, as I have three grandsons and they each have their own favorite, however, you could use the same eyes as the red bird. Embroider its eyebrows in red and at an angle.
Black Bird

For the black bird, duplicate stitch the eyes in white. The rims of the eyes are duplicate stitched in gray. The eyebrows are embroidered with red in the shape of a “V”. The eyes are French knots. Because the eyes are stitched on a black background, you don’t have to embroider around the eyeballs.

Pink Bird
Let’s not forget the girls! The pink bird’s eyelids are duplicated stitched in a lighter pink than the background color. The eyes are duplicate stitched with white. I embroidered around the eye, and eyebrows, with black. The eyes are French knots in a bright blue. For fun, I embroidered the eyes on one sock in one direction, and then shifted them to the other side on the next sock.

When you have your faces done and are happy with the results, finish knitting the socks. You’ll remember that you are decreasing four stitches every other row until you reach half your stitches.

Now, decrease, as before, on every row. When you get to a total of 8 stitches remaining, you’ll SSK and k2tog. twice (4sts.) . To end, slip 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch and pass the slipped stitch over the knit stitch, twice. Break yarn and run it through the remaining two stitches. When you fasten it off, you might have to give it a little tug to work the point of the beak into shape. (If you don’t want your beaks quite so pointy, you can always stop decreasing at the point that you like.)