

Angry Mitts

By Elaine Fitzpatrick



My grandsons, nieces and nephews all love those Angry Birds. The idea for these mitts came to me as I was falling asleep one night. They are really simple to make and require just a little embroidery.

Start with your favorite worsted weight mitten pattern that's worked in the round and from the cuff up. I have my very own pattern that was handed down to me from my grandmother, but this free pattern <http://www.freevintageknitting.com/mittens/615-mittens-pattern.html> is almost identical to the one I use. I like a nice tight fabric so I use U.S. size 4 needles and worsted weight yarn which gives me a gauge of 6 stitches and 8 rows to the inch. I also use one long circular needle and magic loop, but you can adapt to two circulars or double pointed needles, if you prefer.

You'll need approximately 100 yards of worsted weight yarn for the body of the mitten, depending on what size you're making, a few yards of the beak color, and scraps of white, black, orange, yellow or red. I also used black sock yarn for my embroidery, but you could also use embroidery floss.

My mittens had 36 stitches, but the technique is pretty much the same for any size. Start with the main color of the mitten and knit it until you reach approximately 1 ½ inches from the top. Break your yarn and knit one round with the color of the beak.

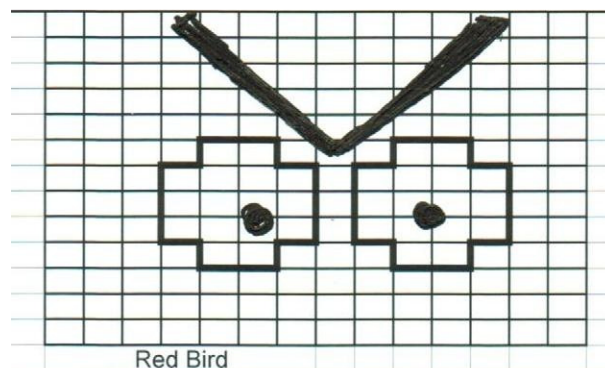
The top is decreased in the same manner as a sock. Divide your stitches in half. Next round: knit one stitch; slip two stitches knitwise and then knit them together (SSK), knit across the first half of your stitches until the last three, then knit two together (k2tog.) knit one. Repeat for the second 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 36 stitches and I'll end when I have 20 stitches left on my needles. You want an even number of stitches per side. **HOWEVER**, before you begin your subsequent decreases, and after you've knit two 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 top of the mitten 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.

Red Bird



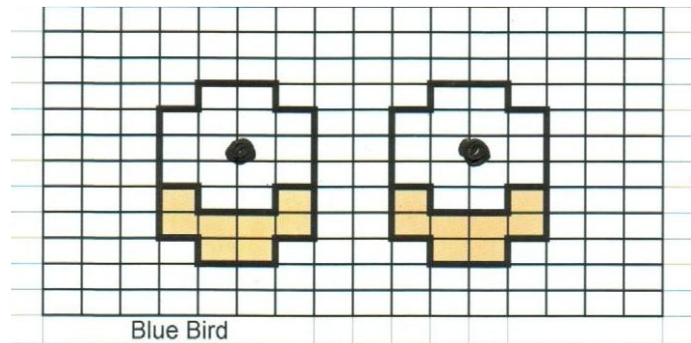
For the red bird, duplicate stitch the eyes in white. The eyebrows are embroidered with black sock yarn in the shape of a "V". (Remember, he's angry!) The eyes are French knots. I didn't embroider around the eyeball on my mitts, but you can if you choose to.



Blue Bird



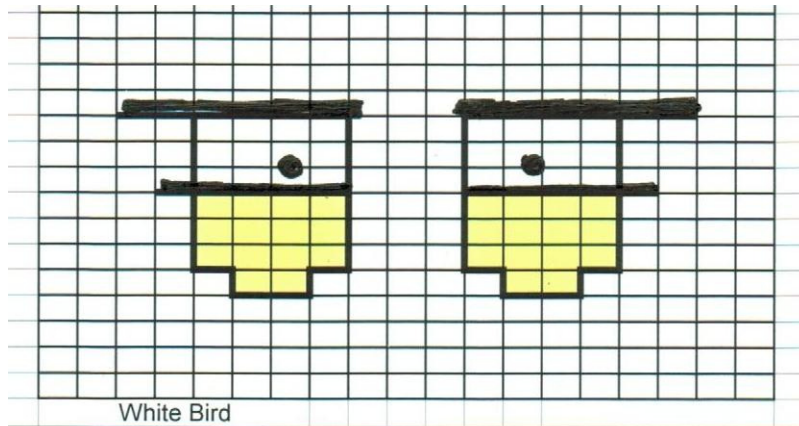
For the blue bird, the eyes are duplicate stitched in white and the under eye is done in orange. I embroidered around each eye in black and then made French knots for the eyes. (He's not quite as angry.)



White Bird

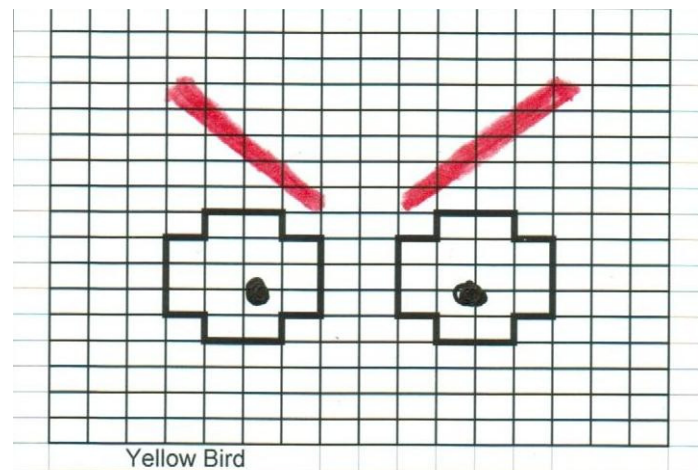


The white bird has an orange beak. (Trust me, I made one with a yellow beak and got a stern lecture from my four year old grandson!) For the white bird, the under eyes are duplicate stitched in yellow. I embroidered around each eye using the sock yarn. The eyebrows are straight across and extend a little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



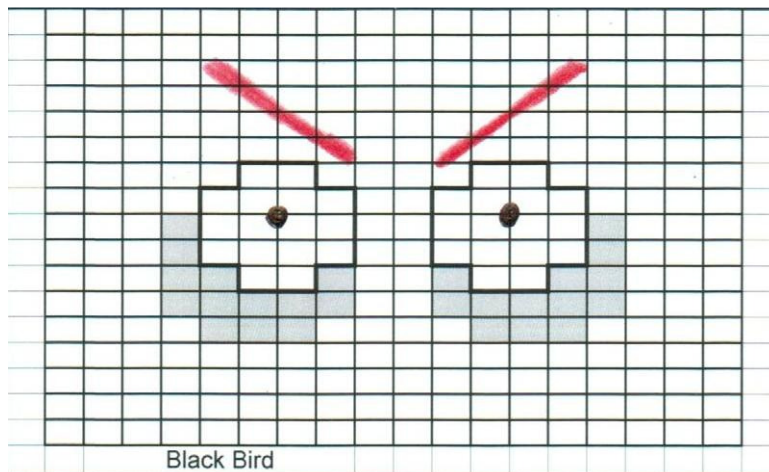
Yellow Bird

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.



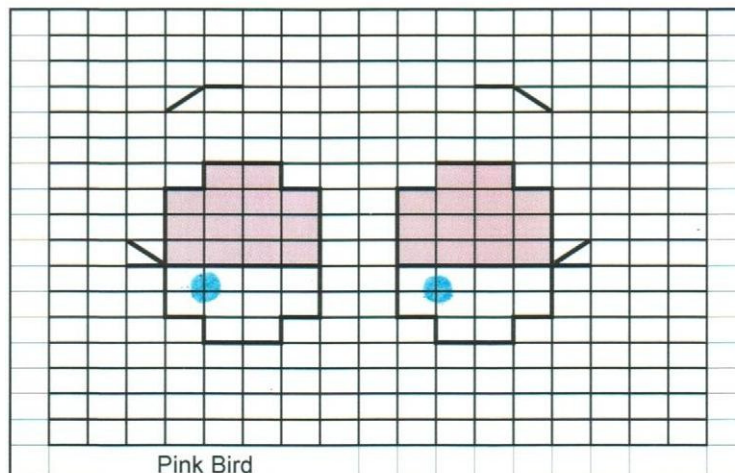
Black Bird

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 duplicated stitched with white. I embroidered around the eye, and eyebrows, with black. The eyes are French knots in a bright blue.



When you have your faces done and are happy with the results, finish knitting the mittens. 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.

For the second mitten, make sure that you embroider on the opposite side, otherwise you'll end up with either two right mittens or two left ones!

