

TINY PERCHING PIGEONS

By Anna Hrachovec

of Mochimochi Land

These cuties are so fast to knit, a flock of them will be hopping off your needles in no time! Unlike the real thing, everyone can love a knitted pigeon, so brighten up your local park or city block with some colorful new neighbors. Then snap a photo and add it to the Mochimochi Friends Flickr group! [flickr.com/groups/347915@N23](https://www.flickr.com/groups/347915@N23)



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Pattern

Body (worked bottom to top)

With Color 1, CO 6 sts onto 3 needles and join in a rnd.

- » Rnd 1: [kfb] 6 times (12 sts)
- » Rnd 2: [kfb, k1] 6 times (18 sts)
- » Rnd 3: knit
- » Rnd 4: [kfb, k2] 6 times (24 sts)
- » Rnds 5 and 6: knit
- » Rnd 7: [kfb, k3] 6 times (30 sts)
- » Rnds 8-12: knit (5 rnds)
- » Switch to Color 2.
- » Rnds 13 and 14: knit
- » Rnd 15: [k2tog, k3] 6 times (24 sts)
- » Rnds 16 and 17: knit
- » Rnd 18: [k2tog, k2] 6 times (18 sts)
- » Rnd 19: knit
- » Rnd 20: [k2tog, k1] 6 times (12 sts)

Stuff the piece, then break the yarn, and draw tightly through sts with the tapestry needle.

Embroidered Features

With Color 1, embroider the beak by making a vertical stitch about 3 sts down from top gathered sts. Stitch back over it once or twice more to thicken, and then make a smaller horizontal stitch just above it.

With the black, embroider the eyes on either side of the beak, placed about 3 sts from the top gathered sts and 4 sts to either side of the beak.

Wings (Make 2)

Turn the body so that the top faces you, and with Color 2, pick up and knit 6 sts in a row, just above the color change on the body.

Note: Be sure that the bars between stitches that you use to pick up from are Color 2, and not Color 1.

ABBREVIATIONS

CO cast on	together (decreases by 1 stitch)
rnd round	
k knit	st st stockinette stitch
st(s) stitch(es)	(knit on right side, purl on wrong side)
kfb knit into front and back of stitch (increases by 1 stitch)	p2tog purl 2 stitches together (decreases by 1 stitch)
k2tog knit 2 stitches	

MATERIALS

Yarn

- » **Fingering-weight yarn in 2 colors, plus small amount of black.**
- » **Knit Picks Palette yarn: Color 1 (lighter shade): 23718 (Blush), 23724 (Sky), 24558 (Custard) Color 2 (darker shade): 24568 (Cosmopolitan), 24583 (Cyan), 24554 (Orange).** But any scrap yarn from a sock-knitting project will do! You can also use thicker yarn and larger needles for a bigger bird.
- » **Needles: Set of size 1 US (2.25 mm) double-pointed needles**
- » **Small tapestry needle**
- » **Stuffing** I recommend polyester fiberfill, but yarn scraps will also work in a pinch.
- » **Pipe cleaner**

Gauge

Doesn't matter, as long as your stitches are tight enough so that stuffing won't show through them.

Finished Size

About 1.25" (3 cm) tall

***Samples made with knitpicks.com/Palette+_YD5420132.html**

Turn to work the wing straight.

- » Row 1: purl
- » Row 2: k1, [kfb] 4 times, k1 (10 sts)
- » Rows 3-5: work 3 rows st st
- » Switch to Color 1 (without breaking Color 2).
- » Rows 6 and 7: work 2 rows st st
- » Switch to Color 2.
- » Row 8: k1, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k1 (8 sts)
- » Row 9: purl
- » Switch to Color 1.
- » Row 10: k1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1 (6 sts)
- » Row 11: purl
- » Switch to Color 2.
- » Row 12: k1, [k2tog] twice, k1 (4 sts)
- » Row 13: [p2tog] twice (2 sts)

Break the yarn and draw tightly through sts with the tapestry needle. With the end still threaded on the tapestry needle, tack the tip of the wing down, next to cast-on sts of the body.

Note: For the second wing, begin picking up stitches from the other direction (because you always pick up stitches from right to left).

Finishing

Cut two 2" (5 cm) pieces of pipe cleaner. (Cut longer pieces if you've made a bigger pigeon with thicker yarn, or if you want to be able to perch your pigeon on a thick railing or other large item.)

Insert 1 pipe cleaner into the small opening formed when you cast on for the body, and poke it back out a few stitches forward and to one side. Repeat with the second pipe cleaner for the other foot, so that the 2 pieces cross.

Bend the feet in a curve for perching.

With Color 2, embroider flecks onto the breast with duplicate stitch. Or, if you're not familiar with this technique, you can just make little stitches with Color 2.

Weave in the loose ends, then find a perch for your pigeon at home, or release it into the wild!



About the Author

Anna Hrachovec is a designer of cute and crafty stuff living in Brooklyn. She has appeared on The Martha Stewart Show, and her one-of-a-kind knitted toys have been exhibited in galleries in the US and Japan. Her blog and pattern shop can be found at mochimochiland.com.