

OWL

A Free Crochet Design By Karen Klemp



*Materials: 3 balls of Schoppel Wolle Ambiente sock yarn, color Heckenrosen, 100% virgin wool, 155 m (170 yds) per ball; small amount of black sock-weight yarn
1 small bag of fiber fill (I bought a big bag and have lots left for making additional owls).*

Sizes G-6 (4 mm) and D-4 (3.25 mm) crochet hooks – gauge isn't terribly important for this project but you will need one hook a few sizes smaller than the other

*Note: Leave longish tails when working the ears and topknot – you may use that extra yarn for sewing the ears, the top of the head closed and the top knot. **As shown, the owl is 10" high (including the ears) and about 20" around.***

TO BEGIN: With Ambiente yarn, make 2 eyes as follows and set aside:

Round 1: Chain 2, work 12 dc in 2nd ch from hook. Join with sl st to 1st dc of round. Do not turn.

Round 2: Ch 1, 2 fpdc in each dc around (24 sts). Join with sl st to first fpdc of round.

Round 3: Ch 1, fpdc in 1st st, bpdc in next st, alternate fpdc and bpdc around. Join with sl st in first fpdc of round.

Round 4: Ch 1, fpdc in 1st fpdc, 2 bpdc in next bpdc; alternate 1 fpdc, 2 bpdc around (36 sts). Join with sl st in first fpdc of round.

Round 5: Ch 1, fpdc in ea fpdc and bpdc in ea bpdc around. Join with sl st in first fpdc of round. Fasten off.

With black sock yarn, make two eye centers as follows and set aside:

Follow Rounds 1 and 2 for eyes above. Fasten off.

BASE: With Ambiente sock yarn, chain 2

Round 1: 12 dc in 2nd ch from hook. Join with sl st to first st of round. Do not turn unless instructed to do so.

Round 2: ch 1, beginning in same st where sl st was worked, 2 dc in ea st around (24 sts). Join with sl st to first st of round.

Round 3: ch 1, dc in same st where sl st was worked, *2 dc in next st, dc in following st; rep from * around, ending with 2 dc in last st (36 sts). Join with sl st to first st of round.

Round 4: ch 1, dc in same st as joining, dc in next st, *2 dc in next st, 1 dc in ea of next 2 sts; rep from *; end with 2 dc in last st (48 sts). Join with sl st in first st of round.

Round 5: ch 1, dc in same st as joining, dc in ea of next 2 sts; *2 dc in following st, 1 dc in ea of next 3 sts; rep from *; end with 2 dc in last st (60 sts). Join with sl st in first st of round.

Round 6: ch 1, dc in same st as joining, dc in ea of next 3 sts, *2 dc in following st, 1 dc in ea of next 4 sts; rep from *; end with 2 dc in last st (72 sts). Join with sl st in first st of round.

Round 7: ch 1, dc in same st as joining, dc in ea of next 4 sts, *2 dc in following st, 1 dc in ea of next 5 sts; rep from *; end with 2 dc in last st (84 sts). Join with sl st in first st of round.

Round 8: ch 1, sc in front loop only (FLO) of same st as joining, sc in FLO of ea st around. Join with sl st under both loops of first st of round.

BODY: Round 9: ch 1, dc in ea st around (84 sts). Note: It is a good idea to put a locking stitch marker in stitch 42 and another one in stitch 84 so you can keep track of the sides of your owl and the last stitch in each round. This will be important with it comes time to work the ears and topknot.

Round 10: ch 1, front post double crochet (fpdc) in same st as joining, *back post double crochet (bpdc) in next st, fpdc in following st; rep from *; end with bpdc in 1st st. Join with sl st to first st of round.

Round 11: ch 1, bpdc in same st as joining, *fpdc in next st, bpdc in following st; rep from * around; end with fpdc in last st. Join with sl st to first st of round.

Repeat Rounds 10 and 11 four times.

NECK: Change to size D-3 (3.25 mm) hook and repeat just Round 10 four more times.

HEAD: Change back to larger hook.

Round 1: ch 1, dc in 1st st, *sc in next st, dc in following st; rep from * around; end with sc in last st. Join with sl st to first st of round.

Round 2: Ch 1, sc in same st as joining, *dc in next st, sc in following st; rep from * around; end with dc in last st. Join with sl st to first st of round.

Rep rounds 1 and 2 until head is 4 inches high.

Ears and Top Knot:

Ear Back #1: Row 1: Sl st in st to left of joining, ch 1, sc in same st and in next 7 sts (8 sc). Turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, st in 1st st, sk next st, sc in next 6 sts (7 sc). Turn.

Row 3: Ch 1, sc in ea st across. Turn.

Row 4: Ch 1, sc in 1st st, sk next st, sc in next 5 sts (6 sc). Turn.

Row 5: Rep Row 3.

Row 6: Ch 1, sc in 1st st, sk next st, sc in next 4 sts (5 sc). Turn.

Row 7: Rep Row 3.

Row 8: Ch 1, sc in 1st st, sk next st, sc in next 3 sts (4 sc). Turn..

Row 9: Rep Row 3.

Row 10. Ch 1, sc in 1st st, sk next st, sc in next 2 sts (3 sc). Turn.

Row 11: Rep Row 3.

Row 12: Ch 1, sc in 1st st, sk next st, sc in next st (2 sc). Turn.

Row 13. Ch 1, sc 2 together. Fasten off.

Topknot: Reattach yarn in next st from left side of Ear Back # 1, ch 1, sc in same st and in next 23 sts (24 sc). Turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in 1st st, sk next st, sc to last 2 sts, sk next st, sc in last st. (22 sc). Turn.

Row 3: Ch 1, sc in ea st across. Turn.

Rows 4 – 21: Repeat Rows 2 and 3.

Row 22: Ch 1, sc in 1st st, sk next st, sc in last st (2 sc.) Turn.

Row 23: Ch 1, sc 2 together. Fasten off.

Ear Back # 2: Attach yarn in next st to left of topknot base, ch 1, sc in same st and in each of next 7 sts (8 sc). Turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in 1st 6 sts, sk next st, sc in last st (7 sc). Turn.

Row 3: Ch 1, sc in ea st across. Turn.

Row 4: Ch 1, sc in 1st 5 sts, sk next st, sc in last st (6 sc). Turn.

Row 5: Repeat Row 3.

Row 6: Ch 1, sc in first 4 sts, sk next st, sc in last st (5 sc). Turn.

Row 7: Repeat Row 3.

Row 8: Ch 1, sc in first 3 sts, sk next st, sc in last st (4 sc). Turn.

Row 9: Repeat Row 3.

Row 10: Ch 1, sc in first 2 sts, sk next st, sc in last st (3 sc). Turn.

Row 11: Repeat Row 3.

Row 12: Ch 1, sc in first st, sk next st, sc in last st. (2 sc). Turn.

Row 13: Ch 1, sc 2 together. Fasten off.

Sk next 2 sts. Reattach yarn in following st, and work Ear Front # 1, following instructions for Ear Back # 1.

Reattach yarn in next st to left of Ear Front # 1, ch 1, sc in same st and in next 23 sts (24 sc). Turn.

Row 2: Do not chain, sk 1st st, sc in next 22 sts, sk last st. Turn.

Row 3: Do not chain, sk 1st st, sc in next 20 sts, sk last st. Fasten off.

Reattach yarn in next st and follow instructions for Ear Back # 2.

Now you are ready to stuff your owl and close up the ears and head. Sew the two open sides of the ears shut, leaving the bottom open for stuffing. Sew the eyes on the front of the owl on either side of where the top knot will come in between. I put a little fiber fill under each eye as I was sewing it in place to make the eyes bulge out a bit.

Once the owl is nice and puffy with fiber fill (more is better), close up the top of the head, and then pull the top knot down in between the eyes, whip stitching it in place. I also put fiber fill in the top knot to make it stand out a little.

Whip stitch the black eye centers in place on top of the eyes.