



# TAWNY OWL

knitting pattern  
by Claire Garland aka Dot Pebbles©

How to Make video is here  
- <https://youtu.be/UKHy05owbqk>

## TAWNY OWL PAGE 1

FINISHED SIZE approx. 20cm/ 8in tall

YARN Unless otherwise stated, multiple strands of yarn are used together throughout this pattern. The exact combinations of yarn to be used are indicated by multiple letters, my yarn choices and amounts are written as parenthesis:

**A - Off-white DK/aran mohair** (1 x 25g ball Drops Brushed Alpaca Silk shade 01 Off White)

**B - Beige DK** (1 x 25g ball Rowan Alpaca Merino DK shade 101 Saxon)

**C - Beige DK/aran mohair** (1 x 25g ball Drops Brushed Alpaca Silk shade 04 Light Beige)

**D - Dark Brown lace/4-ply mohair** (1 x 25g ball Drops Kid-silk shade 15 Dark Brown)

**E - Dark rust DK** (1/2 x 50g ball Drops Alpaca shade 9025 Hazelnut)

**F - Ochre lace/4-ply mohair** (1 x 25g ball Drops Kid-silk shade 30 Curry)

NEEDLES Pair 4mm/ US 6 knitting needles

TENSION 11 rows and 8 sts over 5cm with suggested yarns and 4mm/ US 6 needles

EXTRAS Toy filling or scraps fabric or yarn for stuffing; stitch markers; length yellow cotton or wool yarn for the beak; 18mm brown toy safety eyes; (3in) bird wire legs (RESOURCE - makerss.co.uk - I used the white 'large' legs); glue for sticking yarn to wire

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

**W+Tk** bring working yarn to the front of the work, slip next stitch knit-wise onto the RH needle, take working yarn to the back, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tk (wrap and turn knit)

**W+Tp** take working yarn to the back of the work, slip next stitch purl-wise onto the RH needle, bring working yarn to the front, slip the slipped stitch back onto the LH needle, turn the knitting = W+Tp (wrap and turn purl)

All other abbreviations can be found at the end of the pattern

**NOTE** - I have used Cable Cast On throughout

## FRONT

Begin at the point beneath the beak, with yarn **ABC** (three strands yarn held together) cast on 2sts, continue as follows:

**Row 1** inc) Kfb, k1 - 3sts

**Rows 2, 4 & 6**

**Row 3** inc) K1, kfb, k1 - 4sts

**Row 5** inc) Kfb all sts - 8sts

**Row 7** inc) Kfb all sts - 16sts

**Row 8** Purl

**Row 9** dec) **PM** (place marker) for **Head Back Position Marker** [k1, k2tog] five times, k1 - 11sts.

**Row 10** Purl

**Row 11** inc) Cast on 11 sts for Breast, k22 - 22sts

**PM** at each end last row for left and right **Neck Markers** (use a different colour from head back marker so not to cause confusion, in fact, you'll find it helpful later to use a similar colour to my markers if you can)

**Rows 12-30** Beginning with a purl row work 19 rows stocking stitch

**Row 31** K1, kfb, k5, skpo, k4, k2tog, k to last 2 sts, kfb, k1

**Row 32** Purl

**Rows 33-40** Repeat last 2 rows four times

**COLOUR CHANGE:** Cut yarn **C**, join yarn **D**, continue with **ABD** as follows:

**Row 41** dec) K1, kfb, k5, [skpo, k2tog] twice, k to last 2 sts, kfb, k1 - 20sts

**Row 42** Purl

**Row 43** dec) K1, kfb, k4, [skpo, k2tog] twice, k to last 2 sts, kfb, k1 - 18sts

**Rows 44, 46, 48 & 50** Purl

**Row 45** dec) K1, kfb, k3, [skpo, k2tog] twice, k to last 2 ss, kfb, k1 - 16sts

**Row 47** dec) K1, kfb, k2, [skpo, k2tog] twice, k2, kfb, k1 - 14sts

**Row 49** dec) K1, skpo, [k3, k2tog] twice, k1 - 11sts

**Row 51** dec) K1, skpo, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 - 9sts

## TAIL

**Row 52** Purl. **PM** at each end last row for left and right **Tail Markers**

**Row 53** inc) K1, kfb, k to last 2 sts kfb, k1 - 11sts

**Row 54** Purl

**Rows 54-60** Repeat last 2 rows three times - 17sts

**Rows 61-66** Work six rows stocking stitch. **PM** at each end of third row for left and right **Tail Fold Markers**

**Row 67** dec) Skpo, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 15sts

**Row 68** Purl

**Rows 69-72** Repeat last 2 rows twice - 11sts

**Rows 73-78** Work six rows stocking stitch.

Cast off for Tail Back.

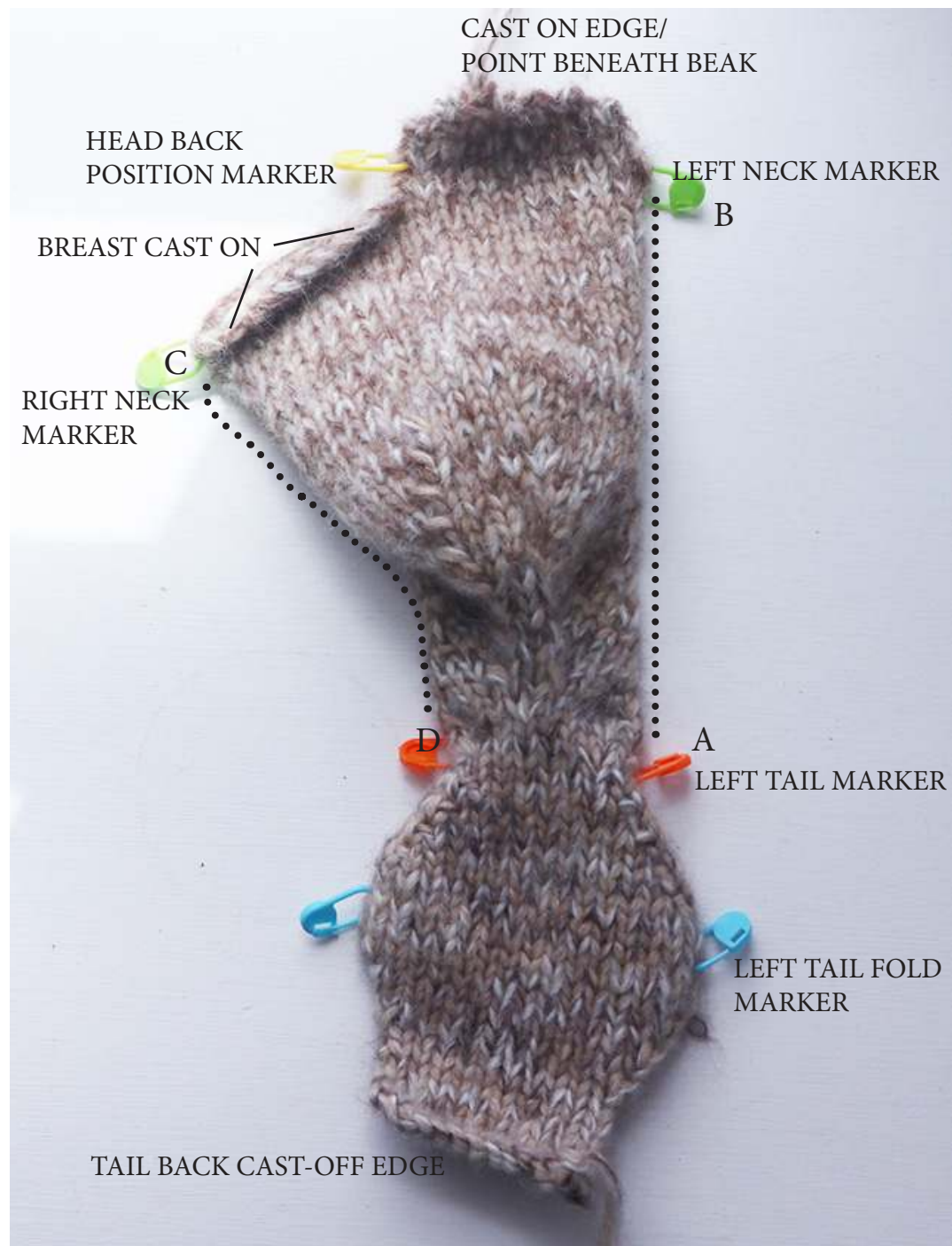


FIG. 1

## BENEATH WINGS/ FLANK

**Left Side**

Beginning at owl's left Tail Marker, RS facing, with yarn **ADE** pick up and knit 23 sts along to owl's left Neck Marker (*see Fig. 1, dotted line from A to B*)

**Row 1** Purl**Work short rows to shape Left Flank**

Short row 1 K22, W+Tk (wrap and turn knit, *see page 1*)

Short row 2 P22

Short row 3 dec) K2tog, k19, W+Tk

Short row 4 P20

Short row 5 dec) K2tog, k17, W+Tk

Short row 6 P18

Short row 7 dec) K2tog, k15, W+Tk

Short row 8 P16

Short row 9 K15, W+Tk

Short row 10 P15

**Row 2** Knit - 20 sts

**Row 3** Purl

**Row 4** dec) Knit to last 2 sts, k2tog - 19sts

**Rows 5-6** dec) Repeat last 2 rows once - 18sts

Cast off purl-wise for Left Flank Seam (*see Fig. 2*).



## BENEATH WINGS/ FLANK

**Right Side**

Beginning at owl's right Neck Marker, RS facing, with yarn **ADE** pick up and knit 23 sts along to owl's right Tail Marker (*see Fig. 1, dotted line from C to D*)

**Row 1** Purl

**Row 2** Knit

**Work short rows to shape Right Flank**

Short row 1 P22, W+Tp (wrap and turn purl, *see page 1*)

Short row 2 K22

Short row 3 dec) P2tog, p19, W+Tp

Short row 4 K20

Short row 5 dec) P2tog, p17, W+Tp

Short row 6 K18

Short row 7 dec) P2tog, p15, W+Tp - 20sts

Short row 8 K16

Short row 9 P15, W+Tk

Short row 10 K15

**Row 3** Purl

**Row 4** dec) K2tog, k to end - 19sts

**Rows 5-6** dec) Repeat last 2 rows once - 18sts

Cast off purl-wise for Right Flank Seam.

Remove tail fold markers.

**Join Flank Seam**

WS together match Left Flank Cast-off Edge with Right Flank Cast-off Edge and join both cast-off edges together with mattress stitch (*see Figs. 2 & 3. join side A to side B*)

**Join Tail Seam**

Fold the tail at Tail Fold Markers with WS together. Ease the row ends together and mattress stitch along the row ends so joining the tail sides - leave the cast-off edge un-sewn (*see Fig. 4. fold at the tail fold markers and join dotted lines - left tail side is shown as already sewn* ).



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5

## HEAD BACK

Beginning at Head Back Position Marker, RS and breast facing you, with yarn ADE pick up and knit 11 sts evenly along Breast cast-on edge to Right Neck Marker (*see Fig. 5, dotted line from A to B*)

Remove head back position marker

**Row 1** inc) Cast on 15sts for Mantle, **PM for Mantle/ Neck Marker**, purl across all 26sts

**Rows 2-9** Work eight rows stocking stitch

**Row 10** dec) K2, [k2tog, k3] four times, k2tog, k2 - 21sts

**Rows 11, 13 & 15** Purl

**Row 12** K

**Row 14** dec) [K1, k2tog] seven times - 14sts

**Row 16** dec) K2tog seven times - 7sts

**Row 17** dec) P2, p3tog, p2 - 5sts

Cut yarn and thread through all 5 sts and pull up tight before securing yarn end for Top of Head Point (*see Fig. 6*)



FIG. 6



## MANTLE & NECK

Beginning at Mantle/ Neck Marker, RS facing and top of head point towards you, with yarn **DEF** pick up and knit 15 sts evenly along the Mantle cast-on edge from mantle/ neck marker across to owl's Right Neck Marker (*see Fig. 7, dotted line from A to B*)

**Row 1** Purl

**Row 2** dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog - 13sts

**Rows 3-10** dec) Repeat last 2 rows four times - 5sts

**Row 11** P1, p3tog, p1 - 3sts

**Row 12** dec) K3tog.

Fasten-off for Mantle Point and remove right neck marker (*see Fig. 7*)

## Join Mantle to Flank

WS together, working on one side at a time, match Left Neck Marker with the Mantle Marker and match the Mantle Point with the top of the Flank Seam, pin together if you like, then, working either side of the seam, carefully mattress stitch the mantle cast-on edge with flank row ends (*see Fig 8, joining dotted line to dashed line on each side respectively, Figs. 9 & 10 shows seams sewn*).

Remove left neck marker.

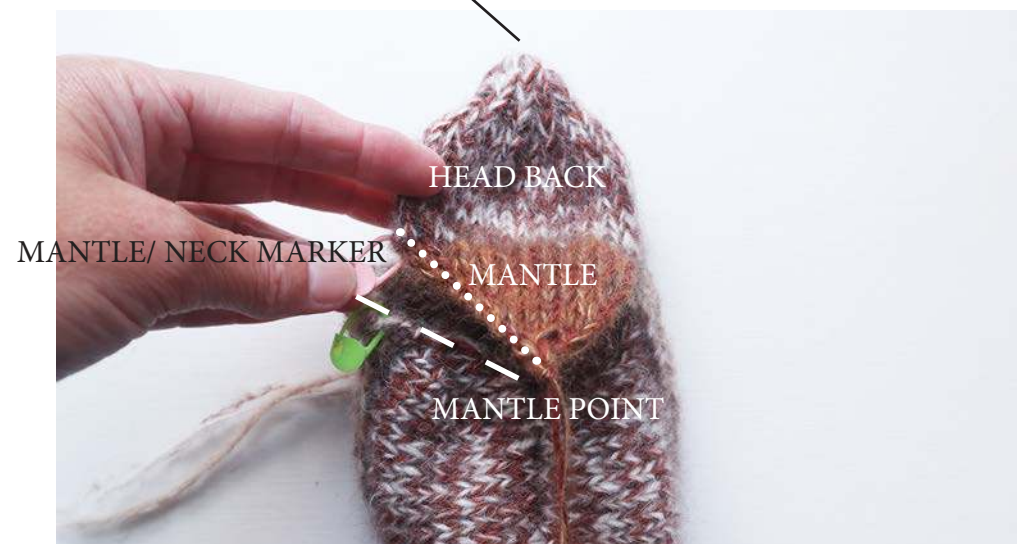




FIG. 9



FIG. 10



FIG. 11



FIG. 12



FIG. 13



## EYE SOCKET FEATHERS

**Owl's Left Eye**

RS facing and top of head towards you, beginning at the Top of Head Point, with yarn **AF**, pick up and knit 10 stitches along row ends from Head Back to Mantle Marker; then pick up and knit 8 sts from mantle marker along Throat row ends to Under Beak Tip (from the very start of the pattern) (*see Figs. 11 & 12, dotted lines from A to B, B to C*) - 18sts

**Rows 1 & 3 Purl**

**Row 2** inc) [Kfb, k1] nine times - 27sts

**Row 4** dec) [K2tog, k1] nine times - 18sts

Cut yarn **F**, join on yarn **A** (from other end of the ball), continue with **AA**:

**Rows 5-6** Beginning with a purl row work two rows stocking stitch

**Work short rows to shape left eye socket feathers**

Short row 1 P10, W+Tp

Short row 2 K10

Short row 3 P9, W+Tp

Short row 4 K9.

Cast off all 18 sts purl-wise for Left Inner Eye Seam (*see Fig. 13*).

**To join Left Eye Socket**

\*Fold the cast-off edge in half with RS together and back stitch to join the cast-off edges. Turn out to RS\*\* (*see Figs. 14 & 15*).

Remove Mantle Marker.



FIG. 14



FIG. 15



**Owl's Right Eye**

RS facing and tail end towards you, beginning at the Under Beak Tip with yarn **AF** pick up and knit 8 stitches evenly all along row ends from Throat; then pick up and knit 10 sts from edge of throat along Head Back row ends up to the fastened-off Top of Head Point (*see Fig. 15, dotted lines from A to B, B to C*) - 18sts

**Rows 1 & 3 Purl**

**Row 2** inc) [Kfb, k1] nine times - 27sts

**Row 4** dec) [K2tog, k1] nine times - 18sts

Cut yarn **F**, join on yarn **A** (from other end of the ball), continue with **AA**:

**Row 5 Purl****Work short rows to shape right eye socket feathers**

Short row 1 K10, W+Tk

Short row 2 P10

Short row 3 K9, W+Tk

Short row 4 P9.

Cast off all 18 sts for Right Inner Eye Seam.

**To join Right Eye Socket**

Join as Left Eye from \* to \*\*

Then, for both eye sockets - Working on one eye socket at a time, match the row ends and mattress stitch together - this will leave you with a kind of pocket/ bulge which sits proud of the eye socket and which you will push into the eye socket after completing both eye sockets (*see Figs. 16 & 17*).



FIG. 16



FIG. 17

Stuff the head then push your 'pockets' into their sockets with your thumbs (*see Fig. 18*) - refer to the pictures (*see see Figs. 19 & 20*) for the finished 'look'. Then add the eyes - it's a little more fiddly doing it this way but it helps with the correct placement of the eyes and once the eyes are in placed with their backs fastened on then the pockets are also secured within the sockets.



FIG. 18



FIG. 19



FIG. 20

## BEAK

Work a couple of long stitches with the yellow cotton yarn and secure the end  
(see Fig. 21)

Really take time over the face - it's the most important part. Work around the eyes, moulding with your fingers and add finishing touches, maybe embroidered feathers around the beak with single strands of mohair and nostrils for the nose.



FIG. 21



WING PRIMARIES - these refer to the wings above the tail/ beneath the flank

### Left Wing Primary

Beginning just above the tail at the owl's Left tail Marker, with yarn **ABF**, pick up and knit 13 sts along to the flank seam (see Fig. 22, dotted line from A to B, shown as already picked up and completed)

**Row 1** Purl

### Work short rows to shape left wing tips

Short row 1 inc) Kfb, k9, W+Tk

Short row 2 P11

Short rows 3-6 inc) Repeat last 2 rows twice - 16sts

Cast off all 16sts for Left Primaries Seam

### Right Wing Primary

With with yarns yarn **ABF**, beginning at the flank seam pick up and knit 13 sts along to the tail edge at the Right Tail Marker (see Fig. 23, dotted line from C to D)

### Work short rows to shape right wing tips

Short row 1 inc) Pfb, p9, W+Tk

Short row 2 K11

Short rows 3-6 inc) Repeat last 2 rows twice - 16sts

Cast off all 16sts purl-wise for Right Primaries Seam

Remove tail markers.



FIG. 22

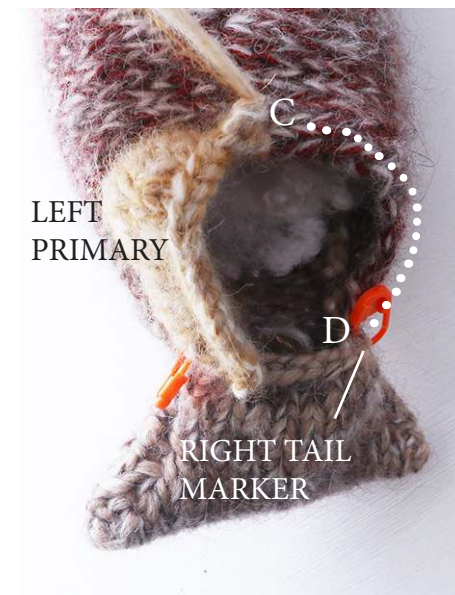


FIG. 23



FIG. 24

**Join Primaries Seam**

Have RS together - this can be a little tricky to twist the knitting so that the knit sides are facing (you can mattress stitch if you really struggle with this), back stitch the cast-off edges together right down to the wing tips (*see Fig. 24, join dotted lines together*).

NOTE: This seam creates a kind of valley - this is how it should look (*see Fig. 25*)



FIG. 25

Finish stuffing the body of the owl.

**NOTE:** the tail and under the wing primaries are not stuffed with toy filling.

Sew the triangular tip over onto the tail - either squared up or set at a jaunty angle, like I did if you wish (*see Fig. 25, the dashed lines showing where you'll join under the wings to the top of the tail*).

**WINGS**

The wings are knitted then sewn on independently as follows:

**Left Wing**

With yarn **AEF** cast on 5sts

**Row 1** inc) Kfb, k to last stitch, kfb - 7sts

**Row 2** Purl

**Rows 3-4** inc) Repeat last 2 rows once - 9sts

**Row 5** inc) K2, kfb, k to last stitch, kfb (for the inside edge of the left wing) - 11sts

**Rows 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16** Purl

**Row 7** inc) K3, kfb, k to last stitch, kfb - 13sts

**Row 9** inc) K1, kfb, k2, kfb, k to last stitch, kfb - 16sts

**Row 11** inc) K2, kfb, k3, kfb, k to last stitch, kfb - 19sts

**Row 13** inc) K3, kfb, k4, kfb, k to last stitch, kfb - 22sts

**Row 15** inc) K4, kfb, k5, kfb, k to last stitch, kfb - 25sts

**Row 17** dec) K2tog (for front of left wing), knit to end - 24sts

**Row 18** dec) Purl to last 2 sts, p2tog - 23sts

**Rows 19-30** dec) Repeat last 2 rows six times - 11sts

**Row 31** dec) K1, skpo, k to last 2sts, k2tog - 9sts



**Row 32** dec) Purl to last 2 sts, p2tog - 8sts

**Rows 33-34** dec) Repeat last 2 rows once - 5sts

**Row 35** dec) K1, skpo, k2 - 4sts

**Row 36** dec) P2, p2tog - 3sts

**Row 37** dec) K1, skpo - 2sts

**Row 38** dec) P2tog.

Fasten off for Left Wing Point.

### Right wing

With yarn **AEF** cast on 5sts

**Row 1** inc) Kfb, k to last stitch, kfb - 7sts

**Row 2** Purl

**Rows 3-4** inc) Repeat last 2 rows once - 9sts

**Row 5** inc) Kfb, k to last 3 sts, kfb, k2 (for the outer edge of the right wing - 11sts

**Rows 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16** Purl

**Row 7** inc) Kfb, k6, kfb, k3 - 13sts

**Row 9** inc) Kfb, k7, kfb, k2, kfb, k1 - 16sts

**Row 11** inc) Kfb, k8, kfb, k3, kfb, k2 - 19sts

**Row 13** inc) Kfb, k9, kfb, k4, kfb, k3 - 22sts

**Row 15** inc) Kfb, k10, kfb, k5, kfb, k4 - 25sts

**Row 17** dec) Knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 - 24sts

**Row 18** dec) P2tog, purl to end - 23sts

**Rows 19-30** dec) Repeat last 2 rows six times - 11sts

**Row 31** dec) K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog, k1 - 9sts

**Row 32** dec) P2tog, purl to end - 8sts

**Rows 33-34** dec) Repeat last 2 rows once - 5sts

**Row 35** dec) K2, k2tog, k1 - 4sts

**Row 36** dec) P2tog, p2 - 3sts

**Row 37** dec) K2tog, k1 - 2sts

**Row 38** dec) P2tog.

Fasten off for Right Wing Point.

### Join Wings to the Flank and Wing Primaries

Working with one wing at a time, RS of wing facing up towards you, align the cast-on edge to the diagonal created at the mantle. Oversew to join along that cast-on edge (*see Figs. 26, 27 & 28*).

Work a couple of stitches to hold the very top of each wing in place against the neck.

Allow the fronts of the wings to curl over and following the shaping created along the picked up stitches between breast and flank oversew the front of the wing in place along that picked-up stitch edge (*see Fig. 26*).

Oversew along the inside edges of both wings (*see Fig. 29*).

Sew the wing tips down over the top of the primaries allowing the very tips to be free of sewing (*see Fig. 29*).



FIG. 26



FIG. 27



FIG. 28

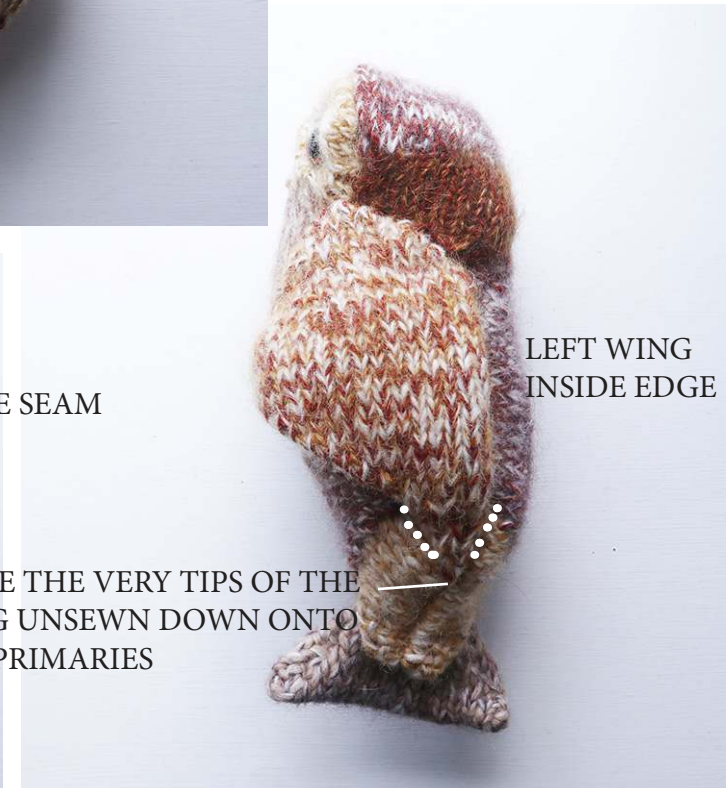


FIG. 29



## TALONS

If you're using wire legs, brush them with glue then wrap lengths yarn B around and around the wire legs, finally push the wire legs (talons) into the body near the shaping and whip stitch covered wire legs to the front of the body to secure in place (*see Fig. 30*).



FIG. 30



\* AND A BIT OF SELF PROMOTION....

I am on Instagram [@dotpebbles\\_knits](https://www.instagram.com/dotpebbles_knits) #freebeefridayknits

And I blog over here - <http://dotpebbles.blogspot.co.uk>

And have patterns here - <http://www.ravelry.com/people/dotpebbles>

You're welcome to knit with me anytime! \*