

## Wonky knit owl

You need:

**String** – e.g. kitchen string, twine, yarn, etc.

**Two pencils** – or pens, chopsticks, knitting needles, etc. as long as the sides are smooth.

**Buttons** – two per owl. If you don't have any, scavenge an old shirt for buttons, or you can use beads, or cut out circles from colored paper.

**Paper** – yellow construction paper, or colorful bits from your newspaper or magazines.

**Scissors**

**Twigs** – optional

**Pushpins** – optional

Instructions:

With the palm of your hand facing you, wind the string around your index and middle fingers and when you bring it about, cross over the first round, creating an "X" then continue winding the string around the back of your fingers back to the front.

Flip your hand over, taking one of your pencils (we'll call it the yellow pencil), stick the pointed end under the string nearest your nails, pull the second string under and through the first string and pull entire thing off your hand. You should have a loop on your pencil. Pull the two side strings apart gently to tighten. This is known as a "cast on". We will cast on five more stitches as follows:

With the yellow pencil in your non-dominant hand (the pointed end is the working end), take the long end of the string and drape it over your index finger and grasp using your other fingers. While also grasping the short end of the string to the yellow pencil, take the second pencil (blue pencil) and insert it through the loop and behind the yellow pencil and grab the string on your index finger and pull it through generously. And then transfer that loop from the blue pencil to the yellow pencil. You now have two cast on stitches. Repeat those steps until you have six stitches complete. Those are the owl's toes!

To create the owl's body and head, you will continue making the same stitch, known as the "knit stitch" for as many rows as you desire. The only difference is that after you pull the string from your index finger and through the loop, you will leave the loop on your blue pencil. This will leave five stitches on your yellow pencil. Repeat until all stitches are off your yellow pencil and on your blue pencil. That's your first row. Repeat as desired.

Once your owl is the size you like, glue two buttons on as eyes, and cut a small triangle out of paper for a beak. Use pushpins to attach him to the wall, or tie the end of the short string to the other side of the owl head and hang. You can leave the owl on your pencil and hang as is, or transfer to a twig.