

Cockerel & hen

Strutting about, shaking their tail feathers – and usually making something of a din – hens and cockerels are some of the most striking creatures on the farm. They are knitted here in some fairly traditional hues, but the colour choices are up to you. And if your fingers are feeling nifty, don't forget to complete your loving couple by knitting them a few tiny eggs.



You will need

3 g³/₈ oz (7 m/8 yd) rust DK yarn
for the cockerel

3 g³/₈ oz (7 m/8 yd) white DK yarn
for the hen

Small amounts of bright red, orange,
black and dark grey DK yarns

Small amount of yarn in three different
shades of beige for the eggs

10 g³/₈ oz polyester toy filling

Size 3 mm (US 2/3) knitting needles

Size 2.25 mm (US 1) knitting needles

A yarn needle to sew your work together

An embroidery needle

Doll (for both)

Body & head

Side 1

Make 1

- ◇ Using size 3 mm (US 2/3) needles, cast on 4 sts in rust (white).
- ◇ First row: Inc1, K1, inc1, K1. (6 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Next row: [Inc1] twice, K1, [inc1] twice, K1. (10 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Next row: [Inc1] twice, K5, [inc1] twice, K1. (14 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Next row: Inc1, K to end. (15 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Rep last 2 rows twice more. (17 sts)
- ◇ Next row: Cast off 9 sts pwise, K to end. (8 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ For cockerel only: Break rust yarn and join black yarn.
- ◇ Cockerel and hen next row: K1, k2tog, K to end. (7 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Rep last 2 rows once more. (6 sts)
- ◇ Next row: K1, k2tog, ssk, K1. (4 sts)
- ◇ Next row: [P2tog] twice. (2 sts)
- ◇ Next row: K2tog. (1 st)
- ◇ Break yarn and pull it through rem st.

Side 2

Make 1

- ◇ Using size 3 mm (US 2/3) needles, cast on 4 sts in rust (white).
- ◇ First row: Inc1, K1, inc1, K1. (6 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Next row: [Inc1] twice, K1, [inc1] twice, K1. (10 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Next row: [Inc1] twice, K5, [inc1] twice, K1. (14 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Next row: K to last 2 sts, inc1, K1. (15 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Rep last 2 rows twice more. (17 sts)
- ◇ Next row: K.
- ◇ Next row: Cast off 9 sts kwise, P to end. (8 sts)
- ◇ For cockerel only: Break rust yarn and join black yarn.
- ◇ Cockerel and hen next row: K to last 3 sts, ssk, K1. (7 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P.
- ◇ Rep last 2 rows once more. (6 sts)
- ◇ Next row: K1, k2tog, ssk, K1. (4 sts)
- ◇ Next row: [P2tog] twice. (2 sts)
- ◇ Next row: K2tog. (1 st)
- ◇ Break yarn and pull it through rem st.



Wings

Make 2

- ◇ Using size 3 mm (US 2/3) needles, cast on 4 sts in rust (white).
- ◇ Work 6 rows in st st, beg with a K row.
- ◇ Next row: K2tog, ssk. (2 sts)
- ◇ Next row: P2tog. (1 st)
- ◇ Break yarn and pull it through rem st.

Tail feathers

Make 1 set

- ◇ For the cockerel, cut five 12-cm (4¾-in) lengths of black yarn and four lengths of rust yarn.
- ◇ For the hen, cut seven 12-cm (4¾-in) lengths of white yarn and two lengths of dark grey yarn.
- ◇ Gather together and secure around the middle with a length of matching yarn.

Comb

Make 1

- ◇ Separate a length of red yarn into two strands.
- ◇ Using size 2.25 mm (US 1) needles, cast on 4 sts in one strand of red yarn.

- ◇ First row: Cast off 2 sts (1 st on RH needle), K1. (2 sts)
- ◇ Next row: K.
- ◇ Next row: Cast on 2 sts, cast off 2 sts (1 st on RH needle), K1. (2 sts)
- ◇ Next row: K.
- ◇ Next row: Cast on 2 sts, cast off all rem sts.

Making up

With the two body sides RS together, oversew around each bird, leaving the base open for turning and stuffing. Turn the birds RS out, stuff and then sew the gap closed.

For the cockerel, using a split length of black yarn, work a number of vertical straight stitches just below the base of the black neck, using the photograph as a guide.

Secure the wings by oversewing the top and bottom of the front part of the wing to the body; the outer edges of the wings should be free.

Sew each comb in place on top of the head. Using a split length of red yarn, work two small loops just below the beaks for the wattles.

Dampen the tail feather yarns and separate some of the strands. Secure at the tail end of each bird and trim the strands.



Split a length of black yarn into two strands and use these to work two French knots for the eyes. Split a short length of cream yarn into two strands and use these to work a circle of chain stitch around the eyes of the cockerel. Do the same for the hen, using a short length of beige yarn. Using a single separated strand of black yarn, work three straight lines above the hen's eyes to represent eyelashes.

Using a separated length of orange yarn, make a French knot for the beak, winding the yarn three times around the needle instead of twice.

Eggs

Make 3, each in a different shade of beige

- ◇ Separate a length of beige yarn into two strands.
- ◇ Using size 2.25 mm (US 1) needles, cast on 3 sts in one strand of beige yarn.
- ◇ First row: [Inc1] 3 times. [6 sts]
- ◇ Next and every WS row: P.
- ◇ Next RS row: [Inc1] 6 times. [12 sts]
- ◇ Next RS row: K.



- ◇ Next RS row: K2tog, K3, k2tog, K3, ssk. [9 sts]
- ◇ Next RS row: [K2tog] twice, K1, [ssk] twice. [5 sts]
- ◇ Next RS row: K2tog, K1, ssk. [3 sts]
- ◇ Break yarn and thread it through rem sts.

Making up

Fold the piece lengthways, with RS together, and oversew half way up the main seam. Turn the piece RS out and stuff lightly. Finish sewing the seam, using mattress stitch.

