

READY, SET, KNIT

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KAL Knit Chickens, part 4

Knitting Trivia: What came first, the chicken or the egg? No one seems to have found the answer to that one, so here's a knitting question: In knitting, what came first, the knit stitch or the purl stitch? Why? The sender of the **first** email we receive with the right answer gets a prize!

Transfer the indicated number of sts from body to second circular needle, transfer the next 15 sts to a st holder or piece of scrap cotton yarn, and leave the remaining sts on the first circular needle. Using the appropriate color yarn, graft the body sts left on the circular needles together using the Kitchener st. Leave a good tail at both ends for closing gaps.

If you haven't done the Kitchener st before, don't be nervous! Thread a tapestry needle with the appropriate yarn and pretend it is a knitting needle. Proceed as follows:

Preparation Stitches (do once only): Bring your tapestry needle through the first front st as if to knit and through the first back st as if to purl. Be sure to keep the working yarn under the 2 needles.

Kitchener Stitch (repeat to last 2 sts):

Front: Knit and off, purl.

Back: Purl and off, knit.

Ending Off (last 2 sts):

Front: Knit and off.

Back: Purl and off.

We'll have a video demo of this technique on Kathy's blog.

Bad Things Can Happen to Good Knitters

As I was $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across Bessie's back, my yarn frayed and broke. Needless to say, I was not amused. I had to undo all of my careful sewing right back to the beginning as I was afraid the rest of my yarn would fray if I tried using it again. Bessie went off to let me stew for awhile (ha ha) and I waited until the next day to attack the Kitchener again. That time, everything went well, and Bessie is now Kitchenered shut.

When the Kitchenering is done, transfer the 15 reserved sts from the holder and divide them evenly onto 3 dpns. Work tail as indicated, stuffing firmly with fiberfill as you knit.

What's next? Crown, Wattles, Tail Feathers, Eyes and Embellishments

