

## Artificial "Bird" Nests

Source: <http://www.bevscountrycottage.com/nest.html>

These **tightly stitched** "bird" nests are used to hold very young hatchling birds that need to stay warm until their feathers come in or other young animals. These nests are from the size of a half-soda can, up to a size of a premie hat. This is a great way to use up scrap yarn. It is best if you use yarn that is not too fuzzy as their toes tend to get snagged on the fuzz.



### **Crocheted Artificial Bird Nest**

You can make up any pattern where you crochet a flat circle using single crochet (increasing the number of stitches with each row so that the circle doesn't curl), and then when it's about 3 - 5 inches across, you continue to single crochet but do NOT add on any stitches. This will build the "wall" of the hat that stands straight up.

You will need:

Several yards of Worsted weight yarn.

Size H hook

**Starting ring:** Crochet 3 chains using 2 or even 3 strands of yarn held together, and slip stitch last chain to first chain to make a loop or ring.

Round 1: Chain 2 (this counts as your first "stitch"), work between 10 – 15 single crochets into the ring (depending on what thickness yarn you are using). Slip stitch the last single crochet to the top stitch in the chain 2 that started this round.

Round 2: Chain 2. Single crochet into each of the next two stitches, then do 2 single crochets into the next stitch, single crochet into the next two stitches, then 2 single crochets in the next stitch. And on and on around the circle. Slip stitch your last single crochet into the top of the chain 2 that started this round.

Round 3, 4, 5, 6, and on: Repeat Round 2 over and over, until your circle is at least 3" big. You can make your nest with a bottom as small as 3" big, up to maybe 6" big.

Once you have made the bottom of the nest from 3" to 6" big, from all rounds thereafter, crochet ONE single crochet into each stitch. You will see your "sides" begin to form. Crochet until the sides are about 2 – 3" high. Bind off and weave in loose ends.

### **Knitted Artificial Bird Nest**

Directions:

On size 5 dpn's cast on 54 stitches (dividing up into 18 sts/needle). Work in knit (stockingette is automatic on dpn's) stitch for approximately 3 inches. Begin decreasing for the crown as follows:

Next row: \*K 7, k 2 tog\* repeat to end

Next row: \*K 6, k 2 tog\* repeat to end

Next row: \*K 5, k 2 tog\* repeat to end

Nest row: \*K 4, k 2 tog\* repeat to end

Next row: \*K 3, k 2 tog\* repeat to end

Next row: \*K 2, k 2 tog\* repeat to end

Next row: \*K 1, k 2 tog\* repeat to end

Clip off yarn leaving a tail of about 6 inches.

Using yarn needle, slide yarn needle under all stitches on needles, and draw tight to close up the end. Knot

### **Loom Knitted Artificial Nest**

These must be tightly knitted.

Using a newborn sized [loom](#), and 2 strands of worsted weight or rug yarn held together, wrap the loom 3 times around. Now lift 1 wrap over 2 (double stitch) around. Wrap again so there are 3 wraps. Continue lifting 1 wrap over 2 wraps until nest is about 3 inches from first row.

Remove using gathering method. Weave in ends of yarn to hide.

Push the top down a little to make it nest like. Also, the one made in the photo was made using fluffy soft yarn, threading it onto a yarn needle and weaving it in and out around and around. It adds extra softness.

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