Blue Bird of Happy New Year

A warm, wooly toque to brighten the new year.
Happy 2017 Everyone!

Yarn: Topsy 2 ply, 100% wool, 2 colours
Notions: 3.5mm and 4.5 circular needles,
6 stitch markers and a pompom maker

- Cast on 96 stitches, using smaller needles
- Join in the round and knit k1p1 ribbing for 12 rounds
- Switch to larger needles, knit 2 rounds and place a marker every 24 stitches (4 markers)

Print the attached chart, cut along the dashed line and tape or glue the two halves of the chart together (19 rows x 96 stitches). I knit charts from bottom right to left, bottom line to top line of chart. **You may knit the chart anyway you like!** All four birds are exactly the same, only mirrored. (I like to play with symmetry).

I highlight the chart to mark off rows that have been knit. This allows me to see the previous row as I knit the current row and I find this very helpful. I have seen other knitters do something similar with an opaque magnetic strip to mark their place in the chart but this doesn't allow them to see see the previous row. **Whatever works!**

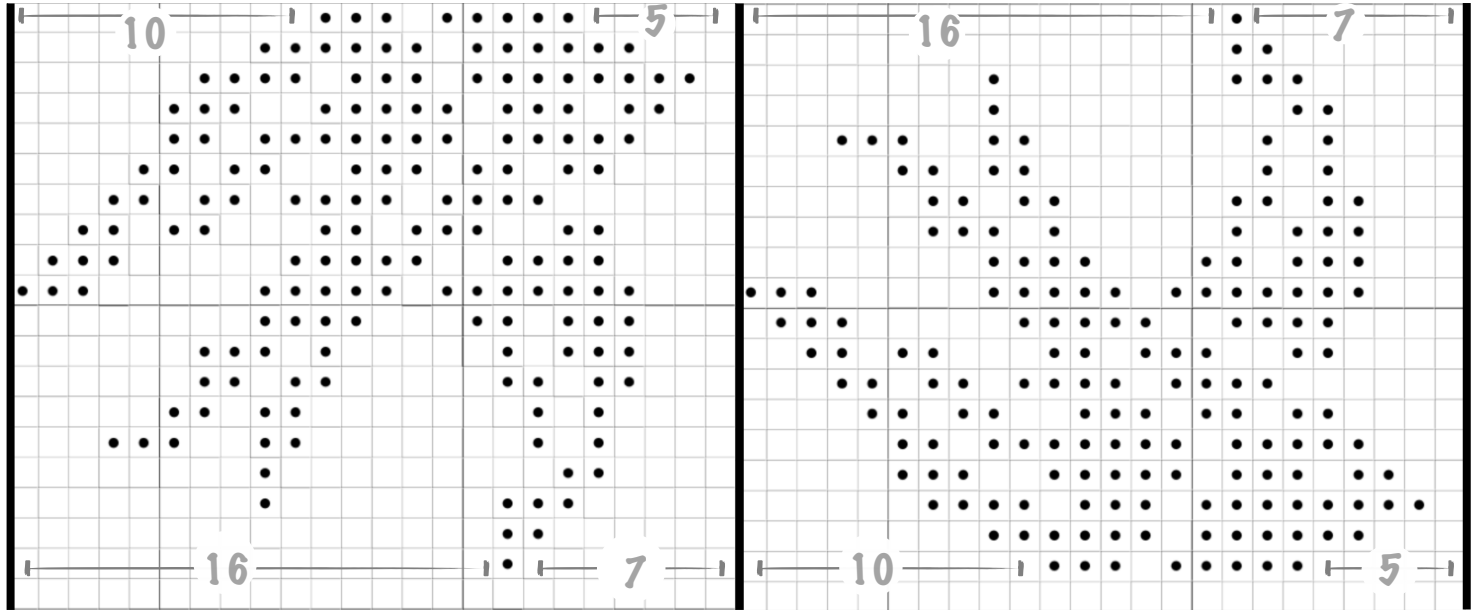
For best results carry the bird colour (left hand) below the background colour (right hand). This will help to make the birds pop up in a lovely way.

- Knit 2 rounds (after chart work), remove the old markers and place a marker every 16 stitches (6 markers)

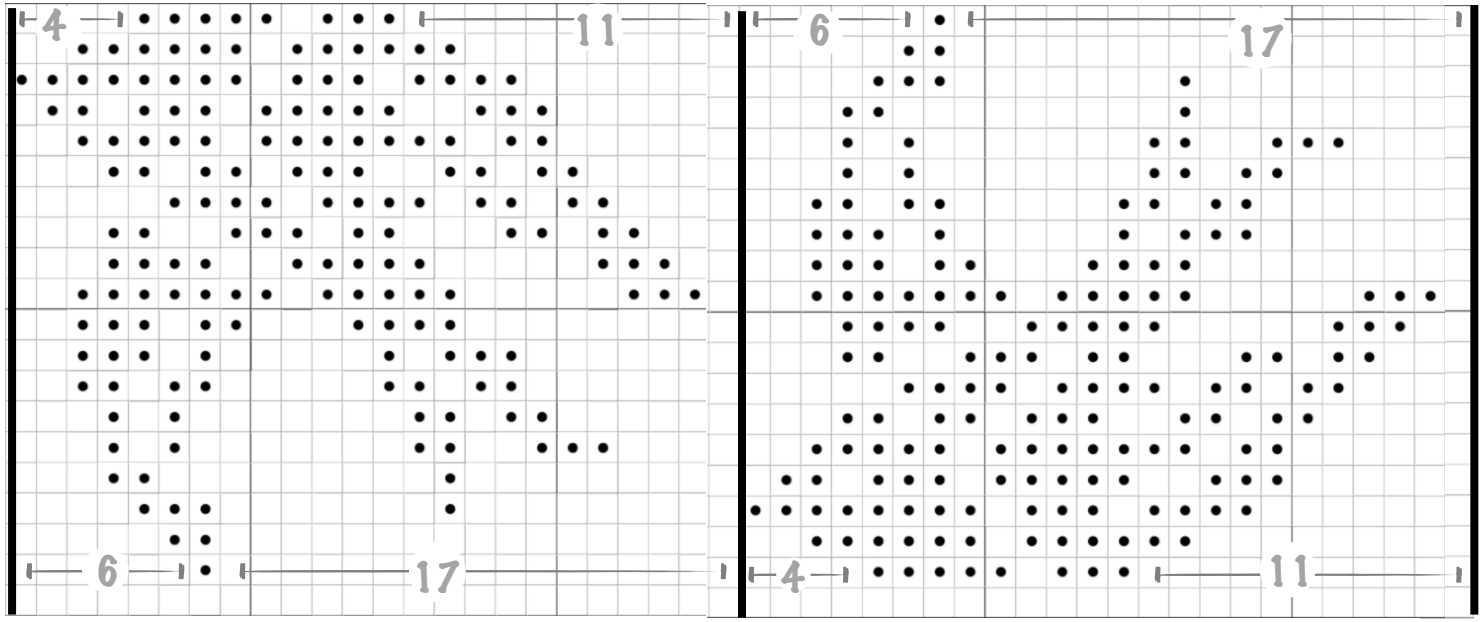
  Row1: Knit to 2 stitches before the stitch marker, k2tog, slip marker. Repeat to end of round.

  Row2: Knit.

- Repeat last two rows until there are 48 stitches remaining (8 stitches between markers)
- Repeat Row1 only until there are 24 stitches remaining (4 stitches between markers)
- K2tog for two rounds and cut yarn
- Pull end though remaining 6 stitches and weave in ends
- Add one big pompon on top. (I recommend a pompom maker!)
- Wash in warm water with your favourite wool wash. Allow to air dry. Do not skip this step. The yarn will bloom and the colour work will pop! (This works best with unprocessed wool).
- I like to steam the pompom. It makes a fluffier pompom.



0



96

72

48

Limestone Yarns 2017