

# Calypso

## The Kooky Owl

*by Sharon Maher*

*laughing purple goldfish designs*

This adorable crochet owl works up in no time, using three strands of yarn held together as one, and a large hook. The pattern is written for four different sizes of owl.

Personally, I find them highly addictive – and right now I just can't stop making them!

Everyone loves owls. They're perfect gifts for a New Arrival, Child's Birthday, or even a Graduation Gift.

And if you don't like the idea of working three strands together – just opt for a bulkier yarn instead.



**Yarn Used**

Carnival Soft 8 ply (DK)  
100% Acrylic  
80g/153m, 2.8oz/167yds

C1 Eggplant, 1 ball  
C2 Grey, 1 ball  
C3 Teal, 1 ball  
C4 White, 1 ball

**Eyes:** Less than 10g of C4

**Body:** Uses C1, C2 and C3  
Mini – 15g each colour  
Small – 25g each colour  
Medium – 40g each colour  
Large – 60g each colour

**Notions**

6.5 mm crochet hook (US K)  
  
3.5 mm crochet hook (US E)  
  
Wool needle  
  
Embroidery needle  
  
2 x buttons for eyes (any size)  
  
Small piece of thick felt for beak  
  
Yellow embroidery thread, 30cm  
  
Polyfill stuffing, less than 50g

**Finished Size**

Mini – 10 cm (4 in) tall  
  
Small – 14 cm (5 ½ in) tall  
  
Medium – 18 cm (7 in) tall  
  
Large – 22 cm (8 ¾ in) tall

**Gauge (tension)**

For the sample, 10 sts and 12 rows  
measure 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in, worked  
in sc (US) using 6.5 mm hook.

Exact gauge is not important, but  
stuffing in the finished toy should not be  
visible between your stitches.

If necessary, change the hook size to  
suit your tension.

**Abbreviations**

Standard US abbreviations are used.

**Special stitches****Adjustable magic ring – AMR**

- Make a loop of yarn by wrapping in a clockwise direction around two fingers on the left hand
- Pinch the point where the yarn meets, between the thumb and forefinger
- Slide fingers out so that the ring can be used
- Place crochet hook into the centre of the ring, and pull a loop of the working yarn through – this is the starting point for the round
- Work as the pattern instructs for the remainder of the round – all stitches are worked around both the ring and the tail
- When completed, the beginning tail can be pulled tight, closing the ring

**Pattern notes**

The owl is worked in the round from the base to the top. All other pieces are attached to the main body.

## PATTERN BEGINS

Please note that the sample owl photographed on the front page is a Small Owl.

### Body

The body is worked with three strands of yarn worked together as one.

Use one strand each of C1 (Eggplant), C2 (Grey) and C3 (Teal).

Begin at base.

Use the 6.5 mm hook.

Please note that the body is worked in spirals, do NOT join the rounds.

Use your stitch marker to keep track of the beginning of each round.

<b>Mini Owl</b> 10cm (4 in) tall	Work to the end of Round 4 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> on p4 – 24 sc. Work 10 rounds of sc. Leave a 45 cm (18 in) tail for seaming and fasten off.
<b>Small Owl</b> 14 cm (5 ½ in) tall	Work to the end of Round 5 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> on p4 – 30 sc. Work 15 rounds of sc. Leave a 45 cm (18 in) tail for seaming and fasten off.
<b>Medium Owl</b> 18 cm (7 in) tall	Work to the end of Round 6 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> on p4 – 36 sc. Work 20 rounds of sc. Leave a 45 cm (18 in) tail for seaming and fasten off.
<b>Large Owl</b> 22 cm (8 ¾ in) tall	Work to the end of Round 7 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> on p4 – 42 sc. Work 25 rounds of sc. Leave a 45 cm (18 in) tail for seaming and fasten off.

### Eyes

The eyes are worked with a single strand of C4 (White).

Begin at the centre of eye.

Use the 3.5 mm hook.

Please note that the eyes are worked in spirals, do NOT join the rounds.

Use your stitch marker to keep track of the beginning of each round.

<b>Mini Owl</b> 10cm (4 in) tall	<b>Left eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 4 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 24 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off. <b>Right eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 3 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 18 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off.
<b>Small Owl</b> 14 cm (5 ½ in) tall	<b>Left eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 5 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 30 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off. <b>Right eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 4 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 24 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off.
<b>Medium Owl</b> 18 cm (7 in) tall	<b>Left eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 6 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 36 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off. <b>Right eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 5 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 30 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off.
<b>Large Owl</b> 22 cm (8 ¾ in) tall	<b>Left eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 7 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 42 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off. <b>Right eye</b> – Work to the end of Round 6 of the <u>Basic Increase Instructions</u> – 36 sc. Leave a 30 cm (12 in) tail for attaching and fasten off.

### **Basic Increase Instructions**

Start	Use the appropriate yarn to make an AMR.
Round 1	Ch 1, 6 sc into ring, tighten tail – 6 sc.
Round 2	2 sc in each st – 12 sc.
Round 3	* 2 sc in next st, sc; repeat from * around – 18 sc.
Round 4	* 2 sc in next st, 2 sc; repeat from * around – 24 sc.
Round 5	* 2 sc in next st, 3 sc; repeat from * around – 30 sc.
Round 6	* 2 sc in next st, 4 sc; repeat from * around – 36 sc.
Round 7	* 2 sc in next st, 5 sc; repeat from * around – 42 sc.

### **Assembly**

Turn	The sample owl has been turned inside out, so that the back of the stitches are showing. If you would like the same effect, now is the time to do this.
Attach Eyes	Lay the owl down flat, with the finishing tail at the top right corner. Position the eyes at the centre of the face. The eyes on the sample owl are placed face down, so that the back of the stitches are showing. The left eye should sit 2 rows down from the top of the head. The right eye should sit 4 rows down from the top of the head. Stitch eyes in place using back stitch and the long tails left for this purpose.
Embroider	Add simple embroidery detail using C3 (Teal). Work a running stitch around 2/3 of the Left Eye. Make long stitch eyelashes on the Right Eye.
Add Buttons	Position the buttons toward the inner edges of the eyes. Use yellow embroidery thread to secure them in place.
Beak	Cut a beak shape from thick felt. Position between the eyes, on a slight angle. Stitch in place using yellow embroidery thread. Add a small amount of fabric glue if needed to secure the rest of the beak.
Stuff	Stuff the owl approximately 2/3 full with polyfill.
Seam	Use whipstitch to seam across the top of the head, with the long tail left for this purpose.
Prepare Tassels	Cut 16 x 25 cm (10 in) lengths of C1 (Eggplant) yarn.
Attach Tassels	Use 8 lengths of yarn for each side. Thread the yarn through each corner at the top of the head. Tie in a double knot to secure.



Mini Owl:



Medium Owl:



Large Owl:



## experiment

Play around with different yarns.

Using one strand of novelty yarn with two plain strands gives an excellent result

Try using up all your scraps of yarn. Just knot them all together and team them with a plain yarn for stability.

Don't like the reverse side of your stitches showing? Then leave them the right way around. But novelty yarns in particular look more effective from the back of the stitches.

Use odd buttons.

Try embroidering closed eyes for an adorable sleeping owl...

Or one of each for a winking owl.

Cut different shapes for a more unusual beak.

Braid your tassels.

Replace the tassels with curlicues: Make a length of approx. 15 ch. Work 5 sc into 2<sup>nd</sup> ch from hook. Then work 5 sc into each ch across.

Try making them in different lengths by alternating the number of starting chain for each one. Make them in different thicknesses by using hdc or dc instead of sc.

Use a plain yarn to create a formal tassel such as the one in my online tutorial here: <http://laughingpurplegoldfish.blogspot.com.au/2008/07/make-tassels-from-yarn.html>

Try mismatched tassels for a really odd look.

Use sc to close the head, instead of seaming.

**And don't waste time weaving in any ends! Just secure them and leave them inside the owl...**