

# Spotted Hen Pillow



A MOREHOUSE ORIGINAL

INSPIRED BY ITO YAKUCHU



- Size** 16" x 16"  
**Yarn** 2 skeins of Morehouse Merino Gator Yarn (sport weight yarn with tight twist, 225 yards per skein)  
**Needles** 24" circular needle #3 or #4 (size to obtain gauge); 1 additional needle, same size or slightly larger, for bind-off  
**Gauge** 5 stitches = 1 inch over stockinette stitch  
**Other Materials** Felt for appliqué, 1 eye 8mm, stuffing for pillow or 16" x 16" pillow form (stuffing is not included in Kit)

Pillow cover is knit in the round using a circular needle. Cast on 166 stitches. Join and knit 120 to 122 rounds (you should have enough yarn left-over for bind-off and for sewing pillow together at other end). Bind off using three-needle bind-off as follows: locate middle of round and pull out loop of circular needle; twist loop into figure 8. Now put the two needle shafts at ends of circular needle parallel to each other. With additional needle knit first stitch (on needle shaft closest to you) together with last stitch (on needle shaft in back). Knit these 2 stitches as one stitch. Knit second stitch together with second-to-last stitch; then bind off first stitch. Continue this way, knitting stitches from needle in front together with stitches from needle in back, then binding off.

**Finishing:** to soften pillow and to felt it slightly for a tighter fabric, wash pillow in washing machine (there should be no shrinkage). Set washing machine on knit or gentle cycle and use warm water for wash and rinse cycles (do not switch water temperatures between wash and rinse). Add some mild soap—small amount of dishwashing liquid works well.

Lay pillow flat to dry and let it dry completely before sewing on felt (see separate instructions and template for cutting out felt). Position body of hen slightly to the right of center of pillow (bind-off edge at top). Sew felt to pillow using ordinary sewing thread. Take care not to stitch through back of pillow case (insert piece of paper or folded newspaper into pillow case while sewing). Do not add plastic eye—stuff pillow first, then add the eye.

Stuff pillow using pillow form or stuffing. Before sewing cast-on edge together, add eye to rooster head: with knitting needle or large darning needle poke hole through felt where eye will be positioned. Insert eye through felt and pillow case, then apply washer on inside of case (caution: washer cannot be removed once it is clipped onto shaft. Make sure eye is in right position before adding washer). Sew bottom of pillow together, using left-over yarn.

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# Hen Template

Cut out felt pieces—use scissors with sharp tips.  
Use ordinary sewing thread for sewing.

1. Sew moss-green feather pieces on body.
2. Sew dots on body and brown feather on head.
3. Pin body on pillow—positioning body slightly to the right of center on pillow.
4. Pin legs on pillow, tucking legs under body (see grey dotted lines). Sew legs on pillow; then sew body on pillow.
5. Sew Wattle and Comb on pillow, butting up to Head.
6. Insert eye: with knitting needle or large darning needle poke hole through felt where eye will be positioned. Insert eye through felt and pillow, then apply washer on inside of pillow case (caution: washer cannot be removed once it is clipped onto shaft. Make sure eye is in right position before adding washer).

