

Sprang bird



Sprang is an old braiding technique, done with stretched yarns. You will need a frame for this, but if you want to try sprang, a simple “frame” of a piece of cardboard will do (see link below about frames for sprang).

If you have never done sprang before, have a look at the links below first (video’s at my You Tube kanaal Sprangria)

- Frames for sprang -
 - In this video I show several different frames for sprang. One of these frames is made from cardboard - to be able to use this frame you will also need 1 or more bobbins for your yarn.
https://youtu.be/1zTZld_173M
- Preparing a sprang
 - Here I use 2 colors, but you can choose to use just 1 color as well
<https://youtu.be/0uBOi-4G9IM>
- Sprang basic Z-twist - the plait row
 - The plait row in normal interlinked sprang (always followed by an overplait row
<https://youtu.be/l29WC-rUDqA>
- Sprang basic Z-twist - overplait row.
 - The overplait row in normal interlinked sprang
<https://youtu.be/2TgKCgrn8ec>
- Sprang, the last rows
 - For the last rows in sprang you use a crochet hook instead of your hands.
<https://youtu.be/zj4hi-DUwLc>

For this sprang bird I used cotton crochet yarn with several colors in one skein. To get a similar effect with yarn with only 1 color in it, you can set up the sprang with different colors next to each other. Of course this bird could also be made with just 1 color.



Start: 24 pairs, 20 cm.

Work till the middle in normal interlinked sprang, alternating between plait row and overlait row

If you don't know how to do this - have a look at the videos about this

When the sprang part is ready, you will have to finish the sprang as described below. Finish off the threads at both sides.

First we finish the top with crochet, making picots:
Attach the yarn in the most right loop with a slip stitch, chain 1, 1 single crochet (sc) in each of the next 7 loops (8 loops finished), [ch(ain) 3, 1 sc in the third loop from the hook, 1 sc in each of the next 2 loops] 3x, [ch 3, 1 sc in the third loop from the hook, 1 sc in the next loop] 10 x, finish off.



The top after finishing the loops with crochet.



Turn the work in such a way that the bottom part is now on top.

The bottom has to be worked in mirror image of the top:

Attach the yarn in the first loop with a slip stitch, ch 4, 1 sc in the third chain from the hook, [1 sc in the next loop, chain 3, 1 sc in the third loop from the hook] 9 x (10 loops finished), [1 sc in each of the next 2 loops, ch 3, 1 sc in the third loop from the hook] 3 x, 1 sc in each loop till the end.

Now we will finish the middle:

Put the yarn in a blunt needle. With the picots at the right side of the work you start at the right side of the work, insert the needle through 17 loops and pull through, leave the needle in the thread and start now to chain the remaining loops at the left side, using only a crochet hook (no extra yarn) - this will become the beak of the bird. When you have done this, pick up the needle again and pull the needle through the last loop, thus securing this loop. Then - from this side - take the needle back through the 17 loops.



Take the work from the frame now, removing the safety cord, pull the yarn tight and - at the back side of the work! - take the needle again from the starting point of the beak till the side through all the 17 loops (see picture).

Cut the yarn, pull, tie both ends of the yarn together and secure the threads. Also secure all the other threads.

By pulling the yarn you will see how the head is already a bit formed.

For the sewing part of the bird you can use normally sewing thread and use a double thread of this for the parts you have to pull at the yarn, or use a bit stronger thread for this.

Pin and sew (preferably at the inside) first of all the complete middle back seam from the top till the bottom, till just before where the picots start.

Then decide the size of the head. Put a pin and sew the seam for the head from the top till the pin. With the right side out, fill the head.

With a strong or a double thread form the neck, going around through all the stitches a couple of times and pulling the thread firmly. Also form the beak in this way.



Then fold one of the parts of the middle front a little to the outside (see picture) and pin and sew this. Do the same with the other part.

Fill the bird now and then close the middle front seam.





Also close the underside now, just above the picots
(They have to remain free at the outside).



At the front you can form the 2 legs now.

Finally give your bird a pair of eyes. You can either use beads for this or just embroider them.