

*Little Cotton Rabbits
boy bear / panda in a Fair Isle sweater*



*This brown bear is made from Cascade 220 heathers yarn in 2440 Vinci (Yarn A)
His sweater is made from Jamiesons Shetland Spindrift in 343 Ivory, 660 Lagoon, 764 cloud
and 425 mustard and his shorts are in BC Garn Allino yarn in CL31 navy.*

*More knitting patterns are available at
www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk*

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 75m/82yds)
Yarn A
- 5ply/sport weight yarn for shorts
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn for the sweater in up to 4 colours
- Scraps of black 4ply/DK yarn for the eyes and facial features
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

Notions:

- Knitting needles: A pair each of 3mm and 2.75mm
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:

approx 23cm (9 inches) from the tip of the toes to the top of the ears

Gauge:



Gauge for bear: 6 stitches x 9 rows to 1 inch

Gauge for clothes: 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch

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Thanks for buying a copy of this pattern. It is suitable for intermediate knitting skills and assumes an understanding of basic stitches and standard knitting terms. Apart from a couple of complicated shaping rows the knitting part of the pattern is quite simple and straightforward. All of the pieces are knitted flat and seamed (though if you decide to convert it to knit it in the round please bear in mind that you will lose the ability to use the seams to add structure and shape to your finished bear and it will not look the same).

I feel that it is mostly the finishing techniques (sewing up, seams etc.) that give any knitted project a polished look. I've described in detail how I try to get the neatest look to the animals that I make, how I sew up, tighten seams etc. to get a particular shape. You will need to use mattress stitch if you want to follow the instructions properly as it has the benefit of giving a flexible seam that can be gathered in. There are a few fiddly finishing bits that are worth taking extra time over and it's also worth re-doing bits if you're not happy (it sometimes takes me 2 or 3 tries to get a face exactly how I want it).

Anyway, I hope that you find the pattern enjoyable (if a bit fiddly in parts) and are pleased with the bear that you make.

Included are instructions to make a plain brown bear/polar bear or a Panda.

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Abbreviations:

These increase methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

M1L : MAKE 1 LEFT. A nice tight method of making an extra stitch. With the left hand needle pick up the connecting strand between the two needles and knit into the back of the loop to create an extra stitch. If you find this too tight for your liking you can substitute M1A (make one away) which will give a looser increase.

KLL : KNIT LEFT LOOP. Increase 1 stitch by knitting into the stitch that is 2 below the one you have just knitted... insert tip of left needle into the stitch from behind and bring the loop onto the left needle. Insert the tip of the right needle into the back loop and knit, so making an extra stitch. This is the most invisible increasing method I've found so far but if you prefer you can substitute M1L above.

M1A : MAKE 1 AWAY. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing backwards/away from you

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These decrease methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:

<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/decreases>

SSK (SLIP, SLIP, KNIT) : Slip a stitch (as if to knit it) to the right-hand needle, slip a second stitch in the same way, slip both stitches together back to the left-hand needle and knit together through the back loops.

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

P2TOG : Purl 2 stitches together

P2TOG TBL: Purl 2 stitches together through the back loops

Please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on.

Yarn suggestions:

I've always enjoyed experimenting when I knit my animals so I've used many different yarns over the years you can see some of the different ones I've made since on [flickr](#). Here are some yarn suggestions:



Cascade Alpaca Lana D'Oro in Ecreu 1030

MadelineTosh Vintage in Reindeer

Rowan Pure wool superwash Worsted in Toffee 104

* Malabrigo Worsted in Dark Earth with muzzle in Applewood 018

* The bear pictured on the right is made from the same pattern but with a colour change to lighter yarn for the muzzle on **row 24** of the head. On pages 18-19 there are instructions and yarn suggestions for making a Panda

Yarn suggestions for clothes:

Most of the clothes I make for my animals are in Rowan 4ply cotton which unfortunately is now discontinued. If you can track some down I'd recommend it (it often crops up on Ebay or Ravelry) but failing that Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply or Patons 4ply cotton both knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. Other suggestions for clothing yarn include Drops Safran, Scheepjeswol Cotton 8 and DMC Natura Just Cotton.

Tip: Before you start, get to know your yarn. Does it break easily? If so you will need to consider using a different yarn to sew up with as seaming can cause weaker yarns to snap.

Some notes on stuffing:

Stuffing soft toys and decorations can be tricky. Knitted fabric has a lot of stretch and unlike a firm woven fabric it will expand to the shape of the stuffing inside.

No matter how good your shaping is on a knitted piece, the way in which you stuff will be more crucial in determining the finished shape.

On limbs it is best not to over stuff and therefore avoid a fat sausage shape. On bodies it is fine to stuff firmly but be aware that over stuffing may mean that your bear does not sit down well.

I find that putting in small amounts of stuffing and building up a shape works best for me rather than pushing in a large wad all at once.

Extra tips:

I've written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on the Little Cotton Rabbits blog: www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:

www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits

Lots of knitters who've already used the patterns hang out there and one of us will do our best to help you. You'll also find lots of other projects made from these patterns, please come and share yours.

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The pattern instructions:

Head:

Here I've detailed a pattern for a plain brown bear which can also be worked in cream yarn to knit up a Polar bear. At the end of the pattern are notes for making a Panda (pages 18-19). You can knit the snout in a lighter brown yarn, (as pictured on page 3) simply change to a lighter yarn in the same weight at the start of **row 24**.

Starting at the back of the head and finishing at the nose. Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 11 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1:** (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
row 3: Purl
row 4: K2, (KLL, K2) 8 times, K1 (27 stitches)
row 5: Purl
row 6: K2, (KLL, K3) 8 times, K1 (35 stitches)
rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows).
row 14: K10, P1, K2, P1, K7, P1, K2, P1, K10 (the purl stitches mark where to sew the ears to later)
rows 15-23: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 9 rows in stocking stitch
row 24: K2, (K2tog) 6 times, K7, (K2tog) 5 times, SSK, K2 (23 stitches)

Turn the work so that the wrong side is facing and with an 8 inch length of **Yarn A** sew through all of the purl bumps from the back of row 24, making sure that you sew through each one in the same direction, here I have used blue yarn for contrast (*fig. 1*). Leave the two ends hanging for now.

- row 25:** Purl
row 26: Knit
row 27: Purl
row 28: K2, K2tog, K15, SSK, K2 (21 stitches)
row 29: Purl
row 30: K1, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K3, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K1 (13 stitches)
row 31: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches and use the tapestry needle to thread this tail through the remaining 13 stitches (*fig. 2*). Pull up tightly and over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue using this thread to close around an inch of the front head seam using mattress stitch. Now thread the tapestry needle with your cast-on tail and use it to begin closing the seam from the back of the head using mattress stitch and leaving an open gap through which to stuff the head (*fig. 3*).

Finally with the right side of work facing you, use a short length of **Yarn A** and sew through the loops from the cast on edge at the back of the head (I've used red thread to illustrate, *fig. 4*). Begin to gather in the seam and tie the ends together tightly inside the head to prevent it loosening again. Now it's time to stuff (see tips on stuffing on page 3).



fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3

fig. 4

I start with a tight ball of stuffing which I poke into the back of the head, packing it in firmly (*fig. 5*) then stuff the nose end lightly, pinching and manipulating the stuffing (*fig. 6*) until it takes on the shape that I want. At this point you want to tighten the ends of the thread that you sewed across the back of row 24. Pull gently on both ends until they tighten and define the snout (*fig. 7*). Here I've pulled the threads tightly to give a really defined snout but you can just pull very slightly if you want a gentler slope to the snout. You can even remove the thread if you don't want any extra definition to the snout. Once you're happy with the shape of the snout tie these two ends together to secure.



fig. 5

fig. 6

fig. 7

fig. 8

Continue stuffing the head until you're happy with the shape. I pack in quite a lot of stuffing but I tend to add little bits at a time, moulding as I go to get an oval shape and the finished head is quite firm and solid (fig. 8). When you are happy with the shape leave the seam at the bottom of the head open for now (making it easier to hide the tails ends from the ears and facial features inside the head) and set aside while you make the ears. If you are making the Panda, now is the time to thread those black ends from the eye patches through the head.

E a r s (make two the same):

Use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 3 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing the ear together and attaching to the head later. The ears are worked in garter stitch (Knit every row). Slightly smaller ears for the Panda are detailed on page 19.

row 1: (wrong side) Knit
row 2: (K1, M1A) twice, K1 (5 stitches)
row 3: Knit
row 4: (K1, M1A) four times, K1 (9 stitches)

rows 5-13: Knit each row
row 14: (SSK) twice, K1, (K2tog) twice (5 stitches)
row 15: Knit
row 16: SSK, K1, K2tog (3 stitches)
row 17: Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail and thread this end through the last 3 stitches on the needle and pull up to tighten the stitches (fig. 9). Fold the ear in half and tie the cast on and cast off ends together at the centre bottom point of the ear. At this point you need to check that you have a purl ridge running across the exact centre of the ear, you don't want a Knit row on the outside of the central bend as this will make the top of the ear too thick. If you are not sure then flip it inside-out and check that side too. One side will have a purl ridge at the centre and one will have a Knit row. Once you are happy with the folded ear thread the needle with one of the ends and sew one side of the bottom edge closed from the centre point to the edge (fig. 10). Repeat with the other side. You will finish up with an end at each corner of the semi-circular finished ear. Make a second ear the same (fig. 11). Now it's time to attach the ears to the head.



fig. 9

fig. 10

fig. 11

fig. 12

Thread the tapestry needle with one of the ends from an ear and position the ear by sewing through the top purl marker stitch on the left side of the head (fig. 12). Work backwards along the head, joining the ear by sewing alternately through the side edge of the ear and the bars between the stitches on the head. Make sure you keep in the same channel between stitches on the head as you attach most of the ear (fig. 13) but for the last two stitches change direction and join the ear at a right angle so that the point at the back of the ear is centred between the two start points. Now re-thread the needle with the other tail from the ear and use it to join the other side of the ear in the same way, starting by sewing through the bottom left marker stitch (fig. 14).



fig. 13

fig. 14

fig. 15

fig. 16

When you reach the point where the first end is hanging at the back of the ear tie the two ends together securely. Thread both ends inside the head and out of the open seam at the bottom and that's the first ear done (fig. 15). Repeat with the second ear (fig. 16). When you are happy with positioning tie all the ends from the ears together securely underneath the head, trim and poke inside the head cavity.

To embroider the face:



fig. 17

fig. 18

fig. 19

fig. 20

Thread a tapestry needle with a 7 inch length of black 4ply or DK Yarn and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out just above the centre of your gathered cast off. Then take it down the outside of the centre seam, thread into the head at the base of the mouth and out at one mouth corner (fig. 17). Take it across the front to the other mouth corner and back through the head, coming out again at the base of the mouth (fig. 18). Take the working yarn through the loop you've just made so that the mouth is also pulled down into a 'V' shape (fig. 19). Thread the end back through the head at the base of the mouth (fig. 20) and out of the open seam at the bottom of the head. Adjust the tightness of the stitches forming the mouth and knot the 2 ends of thread together securely before trimming and poke the ends inside the head.



fig. 21

fig. 22

fig. 23

To make the nose I usually use a length of thicker yarn or a doubled length of the yarn just used for the mouth. Thread a tapestry needle with an 18 inch length of this and push it up through the open bottom seam of the head and out on one side of the top corner of the nose. Begin sewing the black thread in parallel lines horizontally across the nose (fig. 21) and work downwards until you are level with the top of the mouth. You are aiming for a tapering square shape rather than a triangular one.

To give nice neat edges to the nose and to round it off slightly thread the yarn back through the head to the corner you started from and take it around the side of the nose, thread it underneath the line between nose and mouth (*fig. 22*) and back up the other side. Sew back through top corner of nose (*fig. 23*) and come out underneath head, tie off both nose thread ends and trim.

I prefer to add the eyes after closing the seam on the underside of the head, so finish joining those seams together now. I aim to get the seams to meet just behind the shaping under the chin and gently tighten the seams to give the head extra shaping before tying both ends together. Don't trim the ends as you'll use them to attach the head to the body later.

To make the eyes cut an 8 inch length of black embroidery floss or 4ply yarn (brown yarn if you're making the Panda). Starting underneath the head thread this black yarn through the head to the position for the first eye leaving a tail of around 2 inches behind. Create an anchored French Knot for each eye:

Anchored French Knot:

French Knots are a nice way of making a small decorative bobble and can be used as an eye or nose on a stuffed toy. The only problem can be that a knitted fabric tends to have large holes and so it is easy for the knot to slip to the wrong side of the work. To compensate I anchor my French Knots like this:



fig. 24

fig. 25

fig. 26

fig. 27

Thread a tapestry needle with 8 inches of yarn. Bring the needle up through the work to the point that you want the knot. Then push it back through the same point and out again one stitch away from the original point, leaving a little loop (*fig. 24*). Slide the tip of the needle through this loop and wrap the thread around the needle tip between three and five times depending on thickness of yarn – here I've wrapped 5 times with 4 ply yarn (*fig. 25*). Hold the wrapped thread in place between your finger and thumb and pull the needle all the way through to make a loose knot. Pull on the end under the head to tighten the anchor loop slightly then push the needle back down through the work (*fig. 26*) and out again underneath the head next to the start point. Gently pull both ends to tighten the knot and create a little eye socket shaping to the head (*fig. 27*). Adjust the tightness until you are happy and then tie off both ends securely before threading the ends through the head and trimming. Repeat for the second eye and set the finished head to one side while you make the body.

Body:

If you are making a brown bear/Polar bear then the body is knitted in a single colour (*fig. 28*). To make the body for a Panda simply work rows 4-9 in Black yarn and the rest of the body in cream yarn (*fig. 29*)

Starting at the neck and finishing at the bottom, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 16 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K3, (KLL, K2) 6 times, K1 (*22 stitches*)
row 3: Purl
row 4: K3, (KLL, K3) 6 times, K1 (*28 stitches*)
row 5: Purl
row 6: K3, (KLL, K4) 6 times, K1 (*34 stitches*)
row 7: Purl

rows 8 - 28: Beginning and ending with a Knit row
work 21 rows in stocking stitch

row 29: Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches and use this thread to close the seam up the back of the body using mattress stitch. Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the body easier.



Fig. 28



fig. 29

Legs (make 2 the same):

Beginning at the underside of the foot, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later. To make a Panda, knit the legs in black yarn.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K3, (KLL, K1) 4 times, K1 (22 stitches)

row 3: Purl

row 4: K3, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K5, (KLL, K1) 6 times, K2 (34 stitches)

rows 5–11: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch

row 12: K14, SSK, K2, K2tog, K14 (32 stitches)

row 13: Purl

row 14: *Tip: This row is a little complicated because it includes both decreasing and casting off in the centre of the row. It is easy to lose count and I find it helps if you count the stitches yet to be worked rather than those already knitted.*

K7, Knit the next 7 stitches casting them off as you go (18 stitches still to work), SSK and cast off, K2tog and cast off (14 stitches still to work), Knit the next 8 stitches casting them off as you go, K6 (7 stitches on either side of the cast off section giving a total of 14)

row 15: Purl across all stitches being careful to keep your tension tight across the gap (14 stitches)

rows 16–29: Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row, work 14 rows of stocking stitch

row 30: Cast off in Knit and cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches

Join the top of the foot seam by tying a 6 inch length of **Yarn A** to the back of the stitch in the middle of the open seam - I've used red thread here just to illustrate (fig. 30). Begin to close this seam by over-sewing across the gap through the outer loops of the cast off edge (fig. 31).

When you reach the top of the seam secure it and close up any small gaps by taking the needle behind one stitch on the right (fig. 32), then behind the stitch directly at the top of the seam (fig. 33), then behind one stitch on the right (fig. 34) and finally through to the inside of the work (fig. 35) where you can weave it along the seam and trim the end.



fig. 30



fig. 31



fig. 32



fig. 33



fig. 34



fig. 35

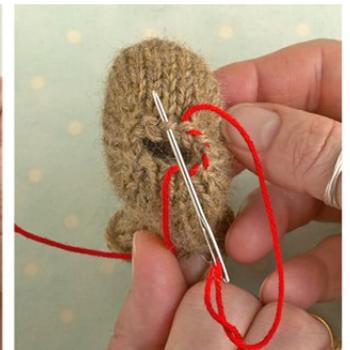


fig. 36

Start to close the back seam of the foot by threading a tapestry needle with the cast-on tail and using mattress stitch. Seam around 1 inch and leave the rest of the leg open for now to make stuffing the foot easier. Now close the seam at the underside of the foot by re-threading the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn A** and using it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot – I've used red thread here to illustrate (fig. 36) Tie both ends tightly inside the foot to fully close the bottom seam.

Now stuff the foot firmly. Take your time to get the shape that you want, adding small amounts of stuffing at a time. Don't be afraid to pull it out and start again if you're not happy with the shape, I often do. Once you're happy with the shape of the foot close the leg back seam but leave a small gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier. Stuff the leg shaft lightly. If you want your bear to sit nicely then don't stuff the top 1cm of the leg.

Finish closing the seam and tie the two ends together at the top, poking all other ends inside the leg. Repeat for the second leg. Now both legs are ready to attach to the body. Although they are both the same I often find that one looks like a right and one a left so take time to look at them and decide which one goes on which side.



fig. 37



fig. 38



fig. 39



fig. 40

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first finished leg and use this to sew it to the body. Position the leg by lining it up with the edge of the body and over-sew the leg in place through the loops

on the cast off body edge and cast off leg edge (*fig. 37*). Work all the way around the top of the leg back to the start then tie both ends together inside the body to secure. Attach the second leg in the same way (*fig. 38*) leaving a gap between both legs.

Once both legs are attached and secure turn the body inside out. Tie a 5 inch length of **Yarn A** to the inside of the body at the start of the gap between the legs. Turn the work right side out and use this thread to tightly over-sew the short seam between the legs (*fig. 39*) before threading it back inside and tying off to secure. Now the body is ready to stuff (*fig. 40*). I like to put most of the stuffing at the bottom of the body to make a fat tummy, (though don't overstuff and strain the seams) and I put less towards the neck end.

When you are happy with the body shape finish closing the seam at the back of the body but leave the neck edge open. Tie off the ends but don't trim as you'll use them to help attach the head later.

A r m s (make 2 the same):

Starting at the top of arm and finishing at the paw, use **Yarn A** and 3mm needles to cast on 10 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later. To make a Panda knit the arms in black yarn.

<p>row 1: (wrong side) Purl row 2: K2, (M1L, K2) 4 times (<i>14 stitches</i>) rows 3-25: Beginning and ending with a Purl</p>	<p>row, work 23 rows in stocking stitch row 26: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (<i>10 stitches</i>) row 27: Purl</p>
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Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of 7 inches. Thread this through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly (*fig. 41*). Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue using this thread to close the arm seam using mattress stitch. Leave a gap of around an inch and stuff the arm lightly, I prefer not to stuff the very top of the arm so that it's bit floppy. Finish closing the arm side seam and tighten it by pulling the end to get a slight curve to the arm and pulling the gathered paw end under. When you're happy with the arm shape tie both ends together.

Now it's time to attach the head. Thread the tapestry needle with one of the two threads from underneath the head and use it to sew the body and head together. Sew through the loops at the open neck edge of the body then through a whole stitch of the head (*fig. 42*), working around the underside of the head in a semi circle until you reach the ends from the top of the body seam running up the back. Tie the end you've been sewing with to the shortest body seam end and poke both inside the body. Then continue sewing up with the longer end from the body seam, knotting it to the remaining end under the chin once the head is fully joined. Thread ends through the body before trimming.

Now for the arms, thread the tapestry needle with the longer tail end of one arm and use to join the arm to the body by sewing alternately through a loop on the open top edge of the arm then through a whole stitch of the body, (*fig. 43*). Work around all of the top arm seam joining it to the body and when you reach the start point knot the ends together and thread through the body before trimming. Repeat with the second arm.



fig. 41



fig. 42



fig. 43



fig. 44



fig. 45



fig. 46

Tail:

The tail is worked as a little tapering rectangle and seamed afterwards. Using 3mm needles and **Yarn A** cast on 9 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for attaching the tail with later. To knit a Panda, knit the tail in cream yarn.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

rows 2-5 Beginning with a Knit row and ending with a Purl row work 4 rows in stocking stitch

row 6: K2, K2tog, K1, SSK, K2 (7 stitches)

row 7: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving an 8 inch tail, thread this end through the 7 stitches on the needle and pull up tightly (*fig. 44*). Over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out. Continue using this thread to close the seam using mattress stitch and when you reach the top of the seam tie both ends together to secure (*fig. 45*). Use the longer end to sew the tail on to the bear's bottom (*fig. 46*). Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming.

Now your bear is ready for some clothes, patterns for a sweater and shorts are on the next three pages.



Optional Short Trousers:

These shorts are knitted in one piece and seamed afterwards. You cast on at the waist and cast off at the bottom edge of each leg.

Use a 4ply weight yarn (here I've used BC Garn Allino but Rowan Siena 4ply works well too) and 2.75mm needles to cast on 36 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K8, M1L, K20, M1R, K8 (38 stitches)
row 3: Purl
row 4: K8, M1L, K22, M1R, K8 (40 stitches)
row 5: Purl
row 6: K8, M1L, K24, M1R, K8 (42 stitches)
row 7: Purl
row 8: K8, M1L, K26, M1R, K8 (44 stitches)
row 9: Purl
row 10: K8, M1L, K28, M1R, K8 (46 stitches)
row 11: Purl
row 12: K8, M1L, K30, M1R, K8 (48 stitches)
row 13: Purl
row 14: K8, M1L, K32, M1R, K8 (50 stitches)
row 15: Purl
row 16: K8, M1L, K34, M1R, K8 (52 stitches)
row 17: Purl
row 18: K8, M1L, K18, turn and work only on these stitches to form one leg of the shorts. (27 stitches)
row 19: Purl
row 20: K8, M1L, K19, turn (28 stitches)

Special abbreviations:

M1R : MAKE 1 RIGHT. A nice tight method of making an extra stitch. With the left hand needle pick up the connecting strand between the two needles from behind and knit into the front loop to create an extra stitch. If you find this too tight for your liking you can substitute M1T (make one towards) which will give a looser increase.

For an excellent video of the increases see here: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

row 21: Purl
row 22: K8, M1L, K20, turn (29 stitches)
row 23: Purl
row 24: K8, M1L, K21, turn (30 stitches)
row 25: Purl
row 26: Cast off loosely and cut the work from the ball, leaving a 6 inch tail for seaming later

That is one trouser leg, now rejoin the yarn at the stitches still waiting to be worked and begin on the other leg:

row 18 b: K18, M1R, K8 (27 stitches)
row 19 b: Purl
row 20 b: K19, M1R, K8 (28 stitches)
row 21 b: Purl
row 22 b: K20, M1R, K8 (29 stitches)
row 23 b: Purl
row 24 b: K21, M1R, K8 (30 stitches)
row 25 b: Purl
row 26 b: Cast off loosely and cut the work from the ball, leaving a 6 inch tail for seaming later

Before I sew up the back seam I like to block the shorts to make them neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread the tapestry needle with the cast on end and use mattress stitch to close the top 1cm of the seam.

Re-thread the tapestry needle with the cast off end of one leg and use it to join the inside leg seam up to the crotch of the shorts. Do the same for the second leg. Tie both ends together inside the shorts and use the longer end to continue seaming up the back of the shorts, leaving a gap for the tail to stick through. Weave in all the ends inside the shorts before trimming excess and your shorts are ready.



Fair Isle yoke sweater:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles – a pair of straight and a set of 4 DPNS/circular needle
- approx. 45m (50 yds) of 4ply/fingering/sock weight yarn in main colour (Yarn A) and 3 contrasting accent colours: **Yarn B**, **Yarn C**, **Yarn D**
- a small button
- a tapestry needle

Special abbreviations:

YO: YARN OVER: to make a buttonhole.

Note: on the following row make sure you work into the YO stitch so as to leave an open eyelet rather than twisting the loop closed.

M1A: MAKE 1 AWAY: make a backwards loop to create an extra stitch on the current row, with the yarn facing away from the direction of knitting

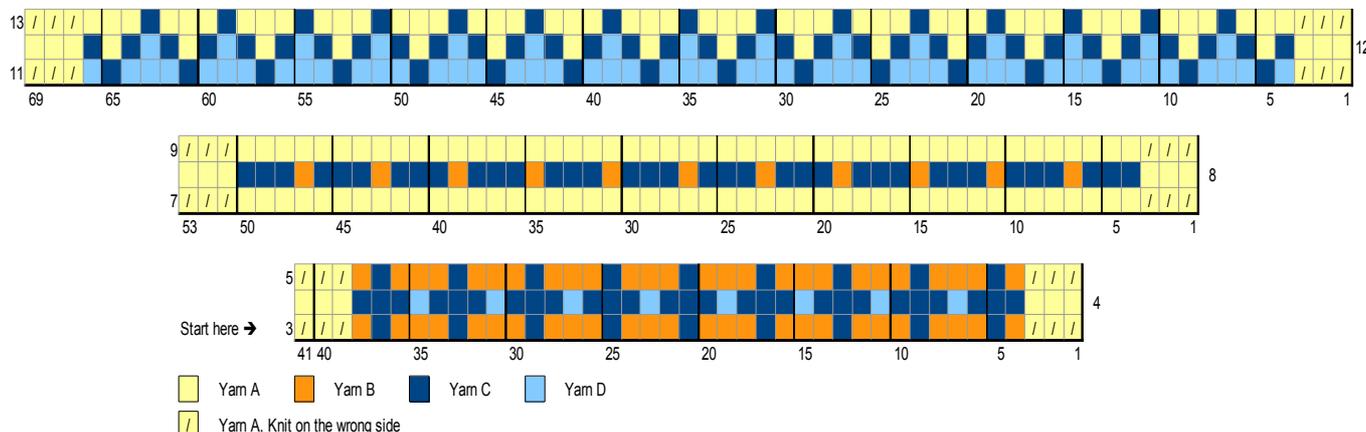
Note: Explanations and excellent video demonstrations of these abbreviations can be found on the Knitting Help website: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>



This pattern is for a moderately difficult top-down sweater which has Fair Isle patterning on the yoke. The yoke is worked flat on 2 needles but after the sleeves are separated out the rest of the body is worked in the round on double pointed needles (DPNS) or a circular needle. The sleeves are also worked in the round from the shoulder to the cuff. If you do not wish to knit in the round you can knitted the lower body and sleeves flat using the instructions given in the simple Breton stripe sweater on page 16.

charts for the colour-work bands:

Read these from the bottom up, beginning with row 3 (which is on the wrong side of the work). I've not charted rows 6 or 10 as these are increase rows worked solely in the main colour. Please also check the line by line instructions below as they give extra details.



Sweater body:

Note: When working both button bands be sure to intertwine the yarns between colour changes (as you would if working intarsia) to prevent holes. On rows 6, 7, 9 and 10 I've used the word 'intertwine' to indicate where you need to cross the 2 lengths of Yarn A as you change between them so as not to leave a hole in the work.

The sweater is knitted top down from the neck to the hem but before we start we're going to employ a little trick which will minimise the number of ends that need sewing in: Measure out 3m (3.3 yds) of Yarn A but do not cut this length from the ball. Instead, make your slip knot for the cast on at this point (*fig. 1*) and using the yarn leading to the main ball and 2.75mm needles cast on 32 stitches. You can wind the 3m attached tail-end into a little ball or onto a yarn holder as pictured and leave it hanging for now, ready to work with on row 2.



fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3

Tip: Here in *fig. 3* I've used a hair pin as a stitch holder – they're great for holding a small amount of stitches

- row 1:** (wrong side) Knit
- row 2:** K3 using both strands from the main ball and the mini ball together, K1 with the main ball strand alone, (leave the mini ball end hanging as it is now in the right place for working with at the end of row 3), (M1A, K3) 8 times, M1A, K2, YO, K2tog (41 stitches)
- row 3:** K3, measure 50cms (20 inches) along the length of **Yarn B** (*fig. 2*) and use this point to **P1**,
(Leave the length leading to the main ball of **Yarn B** at the right-hand side of the work ready to pick up on row 5 and continue using the 50cm tail end for the **Yarn B** stitches on the rest of this row),
Join in **Yarn C** (**P1**, **P3**) 8 times, **P1**, **P1**, pick up the mini ball of Yarn A and K3 (Knitting once into each doubled stitch)
- row 4:** K3 with mini ball, Join in **Yarn D**, (K3, **K1**) 8 times, **K3**, K3 with main ball
- row 5:** K3 with main ball, **P1**, (**P1**, **P3**) 8 times, **P1**, **P1**, K3 with mini ball
- row 6:** With the mini ball K4, (M1A, K3) 11 times, M1A, K1, intertwine and change to the main ball K3 (53 stitches)
- row 7:** K3 with main ball, intertwine and change to the mini ball P47, K3
- row 8:** K3 with mini ball, (**K3**, **K1**) 11 times, **K3**, K3 with main ball, cut **Yarn B** from the work as it is finished with
- row 9:** With main ball K3, P47, intertwine and change to the mini ball K3
- row 10:** K3 with mini ball, intertwine and change to main ball length K1, (M1A, K3) 15 times, M1A, K4 (69 stitches)
- row 11:** K3 with main ball, **P1**, (**P1**, **P3**), 15 times, **P1**, **P1**, K3 with mini ball
- row 12:** With mini ball K3, (**K1**, K1, **K1**, **K1**) 15 times, **K1**, K1, **K1**, intertwine and change to the main ball K3
Cut **Yarn D** and the mini ball of Yarn A from the work as they are finished with
- row 13:** K3, P3, (**P1**, P3) 15 times, K3, cut **Yarn E** from the work as it is finished with

Change to 2.75mm DPNS/circular needle and work the rest of the sweater in the round in Yarn A only.
If you prefer to work flat and seam the sweater and then use the instructions from after **row 13** on page 16)

row 14: On this row we separate out the stitches for the sleeves.

Cast off the first 3 stitches (for the placket), K8, slip next 13 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste yarn (*fig. 3*), cast on 8 stitches using **M1A***, K19, slip next 13 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste yarn, cast on another 8 stitches using **M1A***, K12 (*56 stitches*)

* I recommend using the **M1A** thumb method of casting on these stitches because when you pick the stitches up later for the arm, knitting into the front of them gives a completely seamless look.

rows 15-30: Work 16 rounds in Knit

row 31: Purl

row 32: Knit

row 33: Purl

row 34: Cast off in Purl



fig. 4



fig. 5



fig. 6

Sleeves:

Using a set of 2.75mm DPNS/circulars and Yarn A knit into each of the eight M1A cast-on stitches from the underarm by sliding the tip of the needle from front to back through each single front loop (*fig. 4*), wrapping the yarn knit-wise and drawing it through onto the right needle to make the stitch. Continue by knitting into a loop from the side of the armhole to make an extra stitch and then knit across the 13 stitches held on stitch holder. Make 1 stitch from the other side of the armhole in the same way as the first and you should find yourself back where you started with 23 stitches spread over double pointed needles/circulars.

rounds 2-12: Continue working in rounds, knitting these 23 stitches (*fig. 5*). Use the yarn tail from the first stitch as an indicator of where each row ends and a new one begins.

round 13: Purl this round

round 14: Knit this round

round 15: Purl this round

round 16: Cast off loosely in Purl and cut the work from the ball.

Making up:

There are no seams so just weave in all the ends on the wrong side. Sew the bottom of the button placket in place so that the side with the button hole overlaps the side with the button. Sew on a button in the correct place to correspond with the buttonhole (*fig. 6*) and pop the sweater on your bear.

A Simple Breton Stripe Sweater:

This pattern is for a top-down sweater which is worked flat and the back and sleeves are then seamed. If you wish you can knit the sleeves and the lower body in the round by using the instructions from **row 14** of the sweater body onwards on page 15 and at the same time keeping up the stripe pattern).

You will need 2.75mm (US 2) needles – a pair of straight and a set of 4 DPNS, approx. 35m (38yds) of 4ply/fingering/weight yarn in main colour **Yarn A** and 15m (16yds) in a contrast colour **Yarn B**.

For abbreviations see top of page 13.



Before you begin cut extra lengths of yarn to work the sleeves: cut two lengths of **Yarn A** 4.2m (4.6yds) long and two lengths of **Yarn B** 1.5m (1.6yds) long. Using 2.75mm needles and **Yarn A** cast on 32 stitches.

row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**
row 2: **K4, (M1A, K3)** 8 times, **M1A, K2, YO, K2tog**
(41 stitches)
row 3: **K3, P35, K3**
row 4: Change to **Yarn B**, **Knit**
row 5: **K3, P35, K3**
row 6: **Change to Yarn A, K4, (M1A, K3)** 11 times,
M1A, K4 (53 stitches)

row 7: **K3, P47, K3**
row 8: **Knit**
row 9: **K3, P47, K3**
row 10: Change to **Yarn B**, **K4, (M1A, K3)** 15 times,
M1A, K4 (69 stitches)
row 11: **K3, P63, K3**
row 12: **Change to Yarn A, Knit**
row 13: **K3, P63, K3**

On the next row we separate out the stitches for the sleeves:

row 14: Slip the first 12 stitches onto a stitch holder/piece of waste yarn. Join in the first 4m **Yarn A** length and **Knit** 13 stitches, then cast on 9 stitches using **M1A** thumb method (*fig. 1*), turn and work on these 22 stitches only (which form the first arm):

sleeve row 1: (wrong side) **Purl**
sleeve row 2: Change to **Yarn B** and **Knit**
sleeve row 3: **Purl**
sleeve row 4: **Change to Yarn A and Knit**
sleeve row 5: **Purl**
sleeve row 6: **Knit**
sleeve row 7: **Purl**
sleeve row 8: Change to **Yarn B** and **Knit**

sleeve row 9: **Purl**
sleeve row 10: **Change to Yarn A and Knit**
sleeve row 11: **Purl**
sleeve row 12: **Knit**
sleeve row 13: **Knit**
sleeve row 14: **Knit**
sleeve row 15: **Knit**
sleeve row 16: **Cast off in Purl**

Now sew up the seam from cuff to armpit (*fig. 2*) this will make it easier to pick up the arm hole stitches later.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

row 14 (continued): Work from the first arm onwards: slip the next 19 stitches onto a stitch holder/waste yarn. Take up the second 4m length of **Yarn A** and cast on 9 stitches using M1A thumb method then Knit the next 13, turn and work on these 22 stitches which form the second arm.

sleeve row 1: (wrong side) Purl
sleeve row 2: Change to Yarn B and Knit
sleeve row 3: Purl
sleeve row 4: Change to Yarn A and Knit
sleeve row 5: Purl
sleeve row 6: Knit
sleeve row 7: Purl
sleeve row 8: Change to Yarn B and Knit

sleeve row 9: Purl
sleeve row 10: Change to Yarn A and Knit
sleeve row 11: Purl
sleeve row 12: Knit
sleeve row 13: Knit
sleeve row 14: Knit
sleeve row 15: Knit
sleeve row 16: Cast off in Purl

Now sew up the seam from cuff to armpit and then slip all the stitches from the stitch holders/waste yarn back onto the left hand needle.

row 14 (continued): Cast off the first 2 stitches (for the placket), K9, pick up 9 stitches across the underside of the first sleeve (fig. 3), K19, pick up 9 stitches from the underside of the second sleeve, K12, M1A (60 stitches)

row 15: P12, P2tog, P7, P2tog, P17, P2tog, P7, P2tog, P9 (56 stitches)
row 16: Change to Yarn B and Knit
row 17: Purl
row 18: Change to Yarn A and Knit
row 19: Purl
row 20: Knit
row 21: Purl
row 22: Change to Yarn B and Knit
row 23: Purl
row 24: Change to Yarn A and Knit

row 25: Purl
row 26: Knit
row 27: Purl
row 28: Change to Yarn B and Knit
row 29: Purl
row 30: Change to Yarn A and Knit cut Yarn B from the work as it is no longer needed
row 31: Knit
row 32: Knit
row 33: Knit
row 34: Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball. It's worth blocking at this point if you'd like a nice neat finish (fig. 4)



fig. 4



fig. 5

Close the seam at the back of the sweater from the bottom edge upwards to the base of the placket (fig. 5). Sew the bottom of the button placket in place so that the side with the button hole overlaps the side with the button. Use the ends inside the sweater to close up any gaps around the arm holes, then weave the ends in and trim. Sew on a button in the correct place to correspond with the buttonhole and then you're finished.

Pattern instructions for a Panda



Debbie Bliss Blue faced Leicester Aran in Cream and Black
(this Panda has the bigger ears knitted from the main pattern)

Lang Yarns Carpe Diem in Black 004 and Cream 094

Yarn Stories Fine Merino & Baby Alpaca Aran in Anthracite and Cream

Above are a few suggestions for yarns to knit the Panda from.

You can make a Panda using the instructions below combined with those from the main part of this pattern. The arms and legs are knitted exactly the same as for the brown bear, simply make them in black yarn instead and the tail can be knitted in cream/white. The body can be knitted as the brown bear but with a stripe of black across the chest. Instructions for the body are on pages 7 & 8. The head however will need to be knitted differently and I like to give my pandas smaller ears so instructions for those are also below:

To make a Panda you will need approx 30m (32yds) of white/cream yarn: Yarn A and approx 45m (49yds) Black yarn **Yarn B**. Before starting cut two lengths of Yarn A from the ball of 40 inches (1m) each. Also cut two lengths from the ball of **Yarn B** of 24 inches (60 cms) each. These extra lengths will be used during the intarsia section of the face.

Panda head:

Starting at the back of the head and finishing at the nose. Use Yarn A and 3mm needles to cast on 11 stitches, leaving a tail of 6 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Purl
row 2: K2, (KLL, K1) 8 times, K1 (19 stitches)
row 3: Purl
row 4: K2, (KLL, K2) 8 times, K1 (27 stitches)
row 5: Purl
row 6: K2, (KLL, K3) 8 times, K1 (35 stitches)
rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 7 rows in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)
row 14: K10, P1, K2, P1, K7, P1, K2, P1, K10 (the purl stitches mark where to sew the ears to later)
rows 15-21: Beginning and ending with a Purl row work 7 rows in stocking stitch
row 22: K13, join in the first length of **Yarn B** and **K2**, join in 2nd length of Yarn A and K5, join in 2nd length of **Yarn B** and **K2**, join in 3rd length of Yarn A and K13

row 23: P12, **P3**, P5, **P3**, P12

row 24: K2, (K2tog) 5 times, **K2tog**, **K1**, K5, **K1**, **SSK**, (K2tog) 4 times, SSK, K2 (23 stitches)

Turn the work so the wrong side is facing and with an 8 inch length of Yarn A sew through all of the purl bumps from the back of row 24, making sure that you sew through each one in the same direction (*fig. 1*). Leave the two ends hanging for now.

row 25: P7, **P1**, P7, **P1**, P7

row 26: Knit

row 27: Purl

row 28: K2, K2tog, K15, SSK, K2 (21 stitches)

row 29: Purl

row 30: K1, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K3, (K2tog) 3 times, SSK, K1 (13 stitches)

row 31: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches and use the tapestry needle to thread this tail through the remaining 13 stitches (*fig. 2*). Pull up tightly and over-sew once to keep the seam from opening out again. Continue using this thread to close around an inch of the front head seam using mattress stitch.



fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3

fig. 4

Before you begin seaming the back of the head you need to tidy up the ends from the intarsia knitting of the face. First turn the head inside out and close up any gaps between the coloured sections. Then tie both black ends from one black eye patch together inside the head and using a tapestry needle thread them through to the right side of the head. Leave them hanging for now and repeat for the second black patch (*fig. 3*). Doing this avoids the loose black threads floating around inside the head and showing through once the head is stuffed. By bringing them to the front of the work, stuffing the head and then sewing these ends through the head they will be completely hidden and will not spoil your finished head. But more on that later.

Now continue instructions on pages 4 & 5 for closing up the head seams and stuffing.

Panda Ears (make two the same):

I tend to make the ears for my pandas smaller than those I make for the brown bear, so here are instructions for a smaller ear.

Use black worsted/DK yarn and 3mm needles to cast on 3 stitches, leaving a tail of 8 inches for sewing the ear together and attaching to the head later. The ears are worked in garter stitch (Knit every row).

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

row 2: (K1, M1A) twice, K1 (5 stitches)

row 3: Knit

row 4: (K1, M1A) four times, K1 (9 stitches)

rows 5-9: Knit each row

row 10: (SSK) twice, K1, (K2tog) twice (5 stitches)

row 11: Knit

row 12: SSK, K1, K2tog (3 stitches)

row 13: Knit

Finish the ears by following the instructions on page 5.

Continue following the main pattern instructions, making the Panda body as detailed on pages 7 & 8 and knitting the arms and legs in black yarn and the tail in cream.

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