



# PANDA

pattern & illustrations by susan b. anderson

## PANDA

I know I say this often after creating something new, but Panda truly is one of my favorite designs. I've only designed one other panda and it was a hand puppet found in my book *Itty-Bitty Toys*. I was excited to revisit this character after over 10 years. I feel like the new Panda has a sense of humor for some reason, maybe it's the sweet expression or the size. The finished Panda is a larger size than most of my recent designs, measuring in at close to 12-inches in length including the legs. And of course, the hooded cardigan makes everything cozy and charming.

Panda is a joy to knit as it is relatively simple compared to some of my other toys. I think you're going to fall in love with this project.

### Finished Panda measurements

8.5-inches tall when seated; 11.5-inches from the toe to the top of the head.

### Yarn

Barrett Wool Co. Wisconsin Woolen Spun Fingering Weight, 100% American Wool; (450 yards/100 grams), 1 skein each in Birch, Jam and Inkwell.

Sample used 50 grams of Birch (white), 50 grams of Jam (red), and 25 grams of Inkwell (black).

### Needles

**Panda:** US size 3 double-pointed needles  
**Cardigan:** US size 7, 24-inch circular needles and a set of double-pointed needles  
Adjust needle size to obtain the correct gauge.

### Gauge

**Panda:** 7 sts per inch in stockinette stitch  
**Sweater:** 5 sts per inch in stockinette stitch with fingering weight held doubled

### Materials

Locking stitch markers

Fiberfill

Poly pellets - *Please note that poly pellets are considered a choking hazard for infants and young children. If this is a concern, please use fiberfill only.*

Two 6mm safety eyes - *Please note that safety eyes are considered a choking hazard for infants and young children. If this is a concern, please embroidery eyes.*

Yarn needle

Waste yarn

Three 3/4-inch buttons

Sewing needle and thread to attach buttons

### Abbreviations

K Knit

P Purl

PM Place a stitch marker

SM Slip the stitch marker

N1, N2, N3 Needles 1, 2, or 3

K2tog Knit 2 stitches together

K3tog Knit 3 stitches together

Ssk Slip 2 stitches separately and as if to knit, knit the two slipped stitches together through the back loops

Kfb Knit in the front and back of the same stitch

Dpn(s) Double-pointed needles

Rnd(s) Round(s)

St(s) Stitch(es)

M1 Make one stitch by inserting the point of the left needle, from front to back, under the strand running between the stitches. Then knit the new loop through the back of the stitch.

### Construction Notes

The Panda is worked seamlessly from the bottom-up. The body is started at the base and worked to the top of the head. The top of the head is grafted together using the Kitchener stitch. The ears, arms and legs are picked-up and knit on using purl bumps as a guide for placement. The hooded cardigan is worked from the top-down and separately.



# 1. Body

Starting at the bottom with the smaller double-pointed needles and Birch (white), using the long-tail cast-on method, cast on 9 stitches placing 3 stitches on each of three double-pointed needles. Join to work in the round being careful not to twist the stitches. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch to denote the beginning of the round.

Rnd 1: Knit.

Rnd 2: (Kfb) repeat in each stitch. 6 sts per needle: 18 sts total.

Rnd 3: Knit.

Rnd 4: (Kfb) repeat in each stitch. 12 sts per needle; 36 sts total.

Rnds 5 and 6: Knit.

Rnd 7: (K1, kfb) repeat to the end of the round. 18 sts per needle: 54 sts total.

Rnds 8 and 9: Knit.

Rnd 10: (K2, kfb) repeat to the end of the round. 24 sts per needle; 72 sts total.

Rnds 11-13: Knit.

Rnd 14: (K5, kfb) repeat to the end of the round. 28 sts per needle; 84 sts total.

Rnd 15: Knit.

Rnd 16 (tail and leg placement):

N1: P2, knit to the end of the needle.

N2: K2, p8, k8, p8, k2.

N3: Knit to the last 3 stitches, p3.

Knit the next 40 rounds.

Next Rnd - decrease round: (K5, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 24 sts per needle: 72 sts total.

Cut Birch (white).

Switch to Inwell (black).

Knit 9 rounds.

**Note:** Be sure to go back after a few more rounds and weave in any ends to the inside and trim.

Next round (arm placement):

N1: K18, p6.

N2: P2, k20, p2.

N3: P6, k18.

Knit 2 rounds.

Next round (decrease round): (K4, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 20 sts per needle; 60 sts total.

At this point, place the end from the cast on stitches on a yarn needle. Take stitches going around the hole at the bottom of the body and pull tight to close the hole. Pull the end to the inside, weave in and trim.

Cut Inwell (black).

Switch to Birch (white).

If you are **NOT** concerned about a choking hazard, pour in about a 1/2-inch layer of poly pellets, and continue stuffing with fiberfill. Do not overstuff. If you **ARE** concerned about a choking hazard, use fiberfill only to stuff.

Continue to add stuffing as you work to the top of the head. Do not overstuff.



## 2. Head

Knit 3 rounds.

**Next round:**

**N1:** Knit. 20 sts.

**N2:** K10, pm, m1, pm, k10. 21 sts.

**N3:** Knit. 20 sts.

61 sts total.

**Nose Increase Rounds**

**Rnd 1:**

**N1:** Knit.

**N2:** Knit to marker, sm, m1, knit to next marker, m1, sm, knit to the end of the needle. (Increased 2 sts)

**N3:** Knit.

**Rnd 2:** Knit.

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 four more times ending with a Round 1. You will have 11 stitches in between the markers on N2.

**N1:** 20 sts.

**N2:** 31 sts.

**N3:** 20 sts.

71 sts total.

Knit 1 round.

**Next round - increase and nose placement:**

**N1:** Knit. 20 sts.

**N2:** Knit to marker, sm, m1, k5, k1 and place a locking stitch marker on this stitch directly below the needle, k5, m1, sm, knit to the end of the needle. 33 sts.

**N3:** Knit. 20 sts.

73 sts total.

Knit 1 round.

**Nose Decrease Rounds**

**Note:** I used two k2togs for the decreases for the nose. This was my preference. If you prefer you could substitute an ssk and a k2tog instead for the decreases. Either way is fine.

**Rnd 1:**

**N1:** Knit.

**N2:** Knit to the marker, sm, k2tog, knit to 2 stitches before the next marker, k2tog, sm, knit to the end of the needle. (Decreased 2 sts)

**N3:** Knit.

71 sts.

**Rnd 2:** Knit.

**Rnd 3 - safety eye placement (mark the eye stitches with a locking stitch marker if you are embroidering the eyes):**

**N1:** Knit. 20 sts.

**N2:** K3, knit the next stitch, then push the safety eye into the center of this stitch directly below the needle, knit to the last 4 stitches on the needle slipping stitch markers as you go, knit the next stitch, then push the safety eye into the center of this stitch directly below the needle, k3. 31 sts.

**N2:** Knit. 20 sts.

71 sts.

**Important note:** After you work several more rounds go back and snap the backings onto the safety eyes.

**Rnd 4:** Repeat Round 1. 69 sts.

**Rnd 5:** Knit.

**Rnds 6-8:** Repeat Round 1. 63 sts.

There are now 3 stitches in between the stitch markers on N2.

**Rnd 9:**

**N1:** Knit. 20 sts.

**N2:** Knit to the marker, remove marker, k3tog, remove marker, knit to the end of the needle. 21 sts.

**N3:** Knit. 20 sts.

61 sts total.

**Rnd 10:**

**N1:** Knit. 20 sts.

**N2:** K10, k2tog, k9. 20 sts.

**N3:** Knit. 20 sts.

60 sts total.

Knit the next 8 rounds.

## Head Continued

### Top of Head Decrease Rounds

**Rnd 1:** (K3, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 16 sts per needle; 48 sts total.

**Rnd 2:** Knit.

**Rnd 3:** (K2, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 12 sts per needle; 36 sts total.

**Rnd 4:** Knit.

**Rnd 5 - rearrange the stitches onto 2 needles:**

Knit the first 9 sts from N1 onto N3.

Place the last 3 sts from N1 onto N2.

Place the first 3 sts from N3 onto N2.

You now have 18 sts on each of two double-pointed needles.

Finish any remaining stuffing. Be sure to stuff and push out a little on the nose section as you stuff. Do not overstuff.

Cut the yarn leaving an 18-inch end. Place the end on a yarn needle. Use the Kitchener stitch to graft the top of the head closed. Pull the end to the inside and trim to stay inside.

## 3. Ears

See photo for Ear Pick-Up

Both ears are made the same so start on either side.

On the end of the grafted seam at the top of the head, and using the seam as the center, in the row directly below pick up 5 consecutive stitches by inserting the tip of one of the double-pointed needles under the right leg of each stitch. Skip one row below. In the next row below with a second double-pointed needle, repeat picking up 5 consecutive stitches in the same way and directly below the first needle.

5 stitches are now on each of two double-pointed needles. 10 sts total.

You will be working in the round on two double-pointed needles starting on the lower needle. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch of the lower needle.

With Inkwel (black), knit 5 rounds.

**Next round - decrease round:** (Ssk, k1, k2tog) repeat on each needle. 3 sts per needle; 6 sts total.

Cut the yarn leaving an 8-inch end and place the end on a yarn needle. Graft the end of the ear together using the Kitchener stitch. Pull the end to the inside and trim to stay inside.

Repeat the same steps for the second Ear on the other end of the grafted seam at the top of the head.



Ear Pick-Up

## 4. Nose and Mouth Embroidery

With an 18-inch cut length of the Inkwel (black) fingering weight placed on a yarn needle, start where you left the stitch marker to mark the nose placement. Take five straight stitches, going over about 3 stitches at the center of the nose. Then going down from the center of the nose take a couple of straight stitches to create a line. To make the smile take a couple of straight stitches to form a curve extending on both sides from the bottom of the line.

**Eye Embroidery Option:** With the same yarn used for the nose, take 2 or 3 tiny straight stitches over the marked stitch for the eye.

## 5. Tail

See photo for Tail Pick-Up

The place to pick up the stitches for the tail is marked with 5 purl bumps on the lower back of the body. Begin working here for the tail.

In the row directly below the 5 purl bumps, pick up 5 consecutive stitches by inserting the tip of one of the double-pointed needles under the right leg of each stitch. Skip the purl bump row. In the next row directly above the purl bumps, repeat picking up 5 consecutive stitches in the same way on a second double-pointed needle.

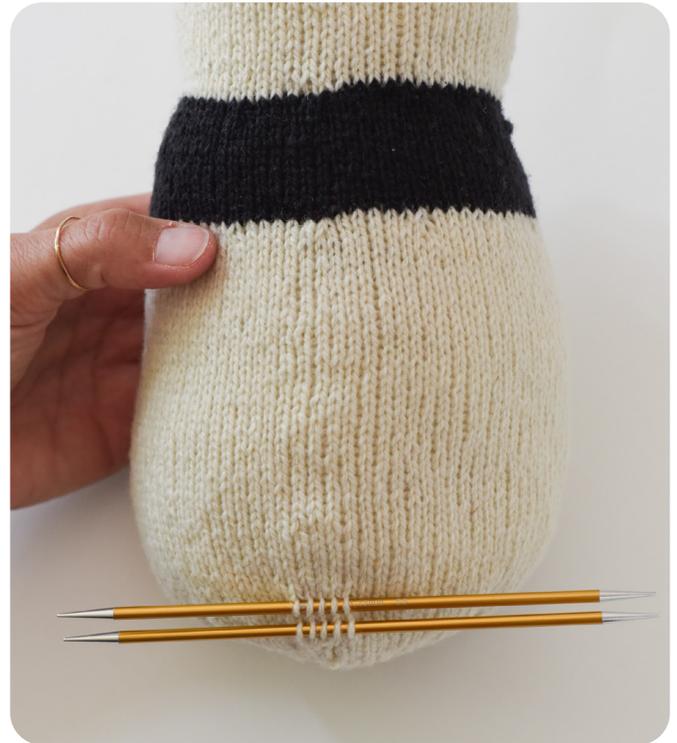
5 stitches are now on each of two double-pointed needles. 10 sts total.

You will be working in the round on two double-pointed needles starting on the lower needle. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch of the lower needle.

With Inkwel (black), knit 3 rounds.

**Next round - decrease round:** (Ssk, k1, k2tog) repeat on each needle. 3 sts per needle; 6 sts total.

Cut the yarn leaving an 8-inch end and place the end on a yarn needle. Graft the end of the ear together using the Kitchener stitch. Pull the end to the inside and trim to stay inside.



Tail Pick-Up

## 6. Arm (make two)

See photo for Arm Pick-Up on pg. 6

The arm placement is marked on either side of the body with the 8 purl bumps in the black stripe. Both arms are worked the same so start on either side.

In the row directly below the 8 purl bumps, pick up 8 consecutive stitches by inserting the tip of one of the double-pointed needles under the right leg of each stitch. Skip the purl bump row. In the next row directly above the purl bumps, repeat picking up 8 consecutive stitches in the same way.

8 stitches are now on each of two double-pointed needles. 16 sts total.

You will be working in the round on two double-pointed needles starting on the lower needle. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch of the lower needle.

## PANDA



Arm Pick-Up

### Arm Continued

With Inkwel (black), knit 20 rounds.

Stuff the arm very lightly with fiberfill. Don't put very much fiberfill in the arms, they should lay flat down against the body.

### Hand

**Next Round - increase round:** (Kfb, knit to the last stitch on the needle, kfb) repeat on each needle. 10 sts per needle; 20 sts total.

Knit 6 rounds.

**Next round - decrease round:** (K3, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 8 sts per needle; 16 sts total.

Knit 1 round.

**Next round - decrease round:** (K2, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 6 sts per needle; 12 sts total.

Knit 1 round.

**Next round - decrease round:** (K1, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 4 sts per needle; 8 sts total.

Stuff the hand with fiberfill and form into a ball-shape. Do not overstuff.

Cut the yarn leaving a 6-inch end. Place the end on a yarn needle. Pull the end through the remaining stitches and pull up tight to close the hole. Pull through again to secure. Pull the end to the inside and trim to stay inside.

Repeat on the other set of purl stitches for the arm on the other side.

## 7. Leg (make 2)

See photo for Leg Pick-Up on pg. 7

The leg placement is marked on bottom and front of the body with the 8 purl bumps. Both legs are worked the same so start with either set of purl bumps.

In the row directly below the 8 purl bumps, pick up 8 consecutive stitches by inserting the tip of one of the double-pointed needles under the right leg of each stitch. Skip the purl bump row. In the next row directly above the purl bumps, repeat picking up 8 consecutive stitches in the same way.

8 stitches are now on each of two double-pointed needles. 16 sts total.

You will be working in the round on two double-pointed needles starting on the lower needle. Place a stitch marker on the first stitch of the lower needle.

With Inkwel (black), knit 20 rounds.

Stuff the leg lightly with fiberfill. You can add a little more than for the arms.

**Next Round - increase round:** (Kfb, knit to the last stitch on the needle, kfb) repeat on each needle. 10 sts per needle; 20 sts total.

## Leg Continued

Knit 6 rounds.

**Next round - decrease round:** (K3, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 8 sts per needle; 16 sts total.

Knit 1 round.

**Next round - decrease round:** (K2, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 6 sts per needle; 12 sts total.

Knit 1 round.

**Next round - decrease round:** (K1, k2tog) repeat to the end of the round. 4 sts per needle; 8 sts total.

Stuff the foot with fiberfill and form into a ball-shape. Do not overstuff.

Cut the yarn leaving a 6-inch end. Place the end on a yarn needle. Pull the end through the remaining stitches and pull up tight to close the hole. Pull through again to secure. Pull the end to the inside and trim to stay inside.

Repeat on the other set of purl stitches for the second leg.



Leg Pick-Up

## 8. Hooded Cardigan

**Yarn note:** The sample sweater in the photos was worked holding two strands of fingering weight together throughout. A worsted weight would also work. The gauge for the cardigan is 5 stitches per inch in stockinette stitch. I worked the cardigan on US size 7 needles but make sure your gauge is accurate when selecting needle size.

**Important BWC Kit Note:** If you have the kit from Barrett Wool Co., wind the skein of Jam (red) into a cake where you have access to both ends or wind it into two separate balls. You need access to two strands at the same time.

The pattern is written for a fingering weight yarn held doubled throughout.

With Jam (red) held doubled, and the larger size circular needles, cast on 55 stitches using the long-tail cast-on method. Work back and forth on the circular needle. You are beginning at the top of the neckline.

**Row 1:** (K1, p1) repeat to the last stitch, k1.

**Row 2:** (P1, k1) repeat to the last stitch, p1.

**Row 3 (buttonhole row):** K2, bind off 2 stitches, knit to the end of the row.

**Row 4 (buttonhole row):** K2, purl to the bound off stitches, cast on 2 stitches using the backwards loop method, k2.

**Row 5:** Knit.

**Row 6:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 7:** (K2, kfb) repeat to the last 4 stitches, k4. 72 sts.

**Row 8:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 9 (armhole placement):** K10, place the next 10 stitches on waste yarn, cast on 10 stitches using the backwards loop method, k32, place the next 10 stitches on waste yarn, cast on 10 stitches using the backwards loop method, k10.

**Row 10:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 11:** Knit.

**Row 12:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 13 (buttonhole row):** K2, bind off 2 stitches, knit to the end of the row.

**Row 14 (buttonhole row):** K2, purl to the bound off stitches, cast on 2 stitches using the backwards loop method, k2.

## Hooded Cardigan Continued

**Row 15:** K6, then repeat (k9, kfb) to the last 6 stitches, k6. 78 sts.

**Row 16:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 17:** Knit.

**Row 18:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 19:** Knit.

**Row 20:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 21:** Knit.

**Row 22:** K2, purl to the last 2 stitches, k2.

**Row 23 (buttonhole row):** K2, bind off 2 stitches, knito to the end of the row.

**Row 24 (buttonhole and increase row):** K2, purl 10, pfb, purl to the bound off stitches, cast on 2 stitches using the backwards loop method, k2. 79 sts.

**Row 25:** (K1, p1) repeat to the last stitch, k1.

**Row 26:** (P1, k1) repeat to the last stitch, p1.

**Rows 27 and 28:** Repeat Rows 25 and 26.

Bind off in pattern.

## 9. Sleeve (make 2)

Both sleeves are made the same. Start on either side and use the larger size double-pointed needles. Place the stitches being held on waste yarn onto a double-pointed needle.

**Rnd 1:**

**N1:** With the yarn held doubled, and starting at the 5th stitch, counting from the left side of the cast on stitches, with a double-pointed needle, pick up and knit 5 stitches, then pick up and knit 1 stitch in the gap. 6 stitches.

**N2:** Knit across the 10 stitches. 10 sts.

**N3:** Pick up and knit 1 stitch in the gap, pick up and knit 5 stitches. 6 sts.  
22 sts total.

Place a stitch marker on the first stitch on N1 to denote the beginning of the round.

**Rnd 2:**

**N1:** K4, k2tog. 5 sts.

**N2:** Knit. 10 sts.

**N3:** K2tog, k4. 5 sts.  
20 sts total.

Knit 10 rounds.

For the next 4 rounds, repeat (k1, p1) to the end of each round.

Bind off loosely in pattern.

Cut the yarn leaving a 6-inch end. Pull the end through the remaining stitch. Place the end on a yarn needle, weave in to the inside and trim.

Weave in the end from the start of the sleeve to the inside and trim.

Repeat on the other side for the second sleeve.

## 10. Hood

*Quick tip for picking up the hood stitches:* Before you start, place a stitch marker on the 10th stitch in from both top edges to see where you need to start and stop picking up.

With the yarn held doubled, and the larger size circular needles, start on the 10th stitch in from the left-front top edge (as you are looking at the front of the cardigan), and begin picking up and knitting 1 stitch in each stitch across the neck edge of the cardigan, and pick up 1 extra stitch along the way, ending 10 stitches before the end of the top edge. 36 sts.

Begin working back and forth on the circular needle.

**Row 1:** K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

**Row 2:** K15, then repeat (kfb) six times, k15. 42 sts.

**Row 3:** K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

**Row 4:** Knit.

**Rows 5-18:** Repeat Rows 3 and 4.

**Row 19:** K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

**Row 20 (ear-hole row):** K3, bind off 3 stitches, knit to the last 6 stitches, bind off 3 stitches, knit to the end of the row.

**Row 21 (ear-hole and decrease row):** K3, cast on 3 stitches using the backwards loop method, p9, repeat (p2tog) six times, p9, cast on 3 stitches using the backwards loop method, k3. 36 sts.

**Row 22:** Knit.

**Row 23:** K3, purl to the last 3 stitches, k3.

**Rows 24-31:** Repeat Rows 22 and 23 four more times.

## Hood Continued

Divide the stitches so there are 18 stitches on the two needles.

**Tip for circular needles:** Place all of the stitches onto the cord. Now pull the cord out in between the 18th and 19th stitches so you have 18 stitches on the tips of the circular needles with the points facing the same direction.

You can use the points of the circular needles or you can transfer the stitches onto two double-pointed needles. Cut the yarn leaving an 18-inch end. Place the end on a yarn needle and use the Kitchener stitch to graft the top of the hood closed. Do not weave in the end.



## 11. Tassel

Place your pointer finger at the point of the hood. Wrap the end, still on the yarn needle, around your finger and pull the end through the point of the hood three times. Now tightly wrap the yarn around the base of the loops several times and pull the end to the inside of the hood. Weave in the end and trim. Cut the loops.

## 12. Finishing

Weave in all ends to the inside and trim.

Soak the cardigan in cold water and wool wash for 15-20 minutes. Squeeze out excess water and lay flat to dry.

With a sewing needle and thread, sew on three 3/4-inch buttons across from the buttonholes.



PANDA

