

Little Cotton Rabbits bear/Panda girl in a plaid dress



*This brown bear is made from Cascade 220 heathers yarn in 2440 Vinci (Yarn A)
Her dress and shoes are made from DMC Natura Just Cotton
in 05 blue layette (Yarn B) and 02 Ivory (Yarn C)*

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

Materials:

- Worsted or light Aran yarn (approx 65m/71yds)
Yarn A
- 4ply/fingering weight yarn for the clothes and shoes in 2 colours: Yarn B & Yarn C
- Scraps of black 4ply/DK yarn for the eyes and facial features
- Scraps of coloured yarn for the shoe 'buttons'
- Toy stuffing
- A tiny button

Notions:

- Knitting needles: A pair each of 3mm, 2.75mm and 2.5mm
- 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.

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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.

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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.

B o d y:

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 cast on and work **rows 1-3** in cream yarn, work **rows 4-9** in black yarn and work rows **10-14** in cream yarn, then change colour for the panties (*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)
rows 7-13: Beginning and ending with a Purl row,

work 7 rows in stocking stitch

row 14: Change to 2.5mm needles and K3, (KLL, K5) 6 times, K1 (40 stitches)

Cut **Yarn A** from the work as it is no longer needed

row 15: Join in **Yarn B** and Purl

row 16: Purl

row 17: Purl

rows 18-32: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work 15 rows in stocking stitch

row 33: 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)

Begin with the shoes which are made as a separate piece. Starting at the underside of the shoe, use [Yarn B](#) and 2.5mm needles to cast on 14 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

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 5–14: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit row, work 10 rows in stocking stitch

row 15: This row is a little complicated because it includes both decreasing and casting off as you work across 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:

P13 casting off as you go (at this point you should have 1 stitch on your right needle and 21 stitches still to work on the left needle), P2tog and cast off, P4 casting off as you go (1 stitch on your right needle and 15 stitches still to work), P2tog tbl and cast off. Cast off the remaining stitches in Purl.

Now you need to pick up stitches from the cast off edge of the shoe to form the top of the foot. You could use a sharp tipped or smaller sized needle for the first row, but remember to swap back to the 2.5mm afterwards:

row 1: (right side) With [Yarn B](#) and 2.5mm needles pick up and Knit the 6 central stitches from the cast-off edge of the shoe (that is the central 4 stitches and the 2 decrease stitches either side of them, fig. 30) like so: From the front of the work push the tip of the needle through a purl loop on the back of the cast-off edge, wrap the yarn around once Knit-wise and draw through, placing each picked up stitch on the right hand needle in turn

rows 2-10: Beginning and ending with Purl rows, work 9 rows in stocking stitch.

Cut the yarn from the ball and keep these 6 stitches held on the left hand needle.



fig. 30

fig. 31

fig. 32

fig. 33

Now you will need to pick up more stitches to form the shaft of the leg (*figs. 31 and fig. 32*).

row 1: (right side) Leaving a tail of 7 inches for seaming with later, use **Yarn A** to pick up and Knit the first 5 stitches from the far right side of the shoe cast-off edge. Ignore the remaining 8 cast off stitches on the right side and continue by knitting across the 6 stitches from the top of the foot. Ignore the first 8 cast-off stitches on the left side and pick up and Knit the last 5 stitches (the last stitch will be at the very edge of the work). Be sure to keep your tension as tight as possible across the gaps. (*16 stitches*)

rows 2 –16: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 15 rows in stocking stitch

row 17: Cast off in Knit

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of around 5 inches for sewing the leg to the body with later. Make a second leg in exactly the same way.

To finish the legs and body: Shoe strap (make 2 the same)

Use **Yarn B** and 2.5mm needles to cast on 12 stitches (leaving a tail of 7 inches for sewing up later) and then Knit back across them casting off as you go. Cut work from the ball leaving another tail for sewing up.

Thread a tapestry needle with the shorter end from the strap and attach it to the one side of the shoe at the top of the foot section (*fig. 33*). Sew through a couple of times to ensure it's secure and leave the end on the inside of the work. Thread the longer end inside and tie both ends together, and then use this longer thread to begin closing the two vents between the top of the foot and the sides of the shoe, like so:

Sew alternately through 1 loop from the back of the cast off edge of the shoe and 1 'bar' between the two outermost stitches of the top of the foot section, working down towards the toe of the shoe (*fig. 34*). You should run out of loops on the shoe side and still have 2 'bars' on the foot side which is exactly right as this is what helps to give the shoe it's curved shaped toe.

Thread the yarn to the inside of the work and catch up the **Yarn B** loops from the back of the toe of the shoe (*fig. 35*). At this point you need to gently tighten the yarn slightly, gathering in the section that you have just sewn up.



fig. 34

fig. 35

fig. 36

fig. 37

Continue to sew up the second vent in the same way, skipping the first 2 'bars' in order to get a curve to mirror the one on the right side of the shoe and working up towards the leg (*fig. 36*). When you have fully closed the vent thread the yarn to the inside and gently tighten until both sides of the foot are even.

Attach the strap to the opposite side of the shoe using the **Yarn B** end from sewing up the foot. Sew through a few times to secure (*fig. 37*) and then tie off all of the ends inside the shoe and sew along a seam before trimming excess. Use mattress stitch to start closing the back seam of the shoe with the cast-on tail from the bottom of the shoe. Leave a small gap at the top of the shoe to make stuffing the foot easier.



fig. 38

fig. 39

fig. 40

fig. 41

Re-thread the tapestry needle with a spare length of **Yarn B** and use it to gather up the loops in the bottom of the foot (*fig. 38*) I've used red thread here just to illustrate. Tie both ends tightly inside the shoe to fully close the bottom shoe 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 are happy, close the back seam of the shoe entirely and tie ends together before poking inside. Thread the tapestry needle with the long end of **Yarn B** from the bottom of the leg section and use this to close the seam up the back of the leg using mattress stitch (*fig. 39*). Leave a gap at the top to make stuffing the leg easier.

Stuff the leg lightly and if you want your cat 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. For the second leg you need to follow all of the finishing steps above but attach the strap to the opposite side of the foot. To make a 'button' on the strap at the outside of each shoe use contrasting coloured yarn (around 5 inches) to make a French Knot (*fig. 40*). Follow the instructions for the anchored French knot on page 8 above but wrap the yarn 6 times. Now both legs are ready to attach to the body (*fig. 41*).

Thread the tapestry needle with the longer end from the top of the first leg and use this to sew it to the body. Make sure that you have the correct leg in position – the French Knot should be on the outside of the foot. Position the leg by lining it up with the edge of the body with the foot facing forward. Sew the leg in place through the Purl loops from the back of the body cast off edge and the front loop of the leg cast off edge (*fig. 42*). Work 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 leaving a gap between both legs (*fig. 43*).



fig. 42

fig. 43

fig. 44

fig. 45

Once both legs are attached and secure turn the body inside out. Find the longest end from the tops of legs, thread it along the seam and to the outside of the work at the start of the gap between the legs. Turn the work right side out and tightly over-sew (whip stitch) the short seam between the legs (*fig. 44*) before threading the end back inside and tying off to secure.

Now the body is ready to stuff (*fig. 45*). 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. Now for the arms.

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.

row 1: (wrong side) Purl

row 2: K2, (M1L, K2) 4 times (*14 stitches*)

rows 3-23: Beginning and ending with a Purl row, work 21 rows in stocking stitch

row 24: K1, SSK, K2, K2tog, SSK, K2, K2tog, K1 (*10 stitches*)

row 25: Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a tail of 7 inches.

Thread The tail end through the remaining 10 stitches and pull up tightly (*fig. 46*). 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. 47*), 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 to attach 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. 48*). 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. 46



fig. 47



fig. 48



fig. 49

fig. 50

fig. 51

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. 49). 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. 50). Use the longer end to sew the tail on to the bear's bottom (fig. 51). Tie off ends and thread through the body before trimming.

Now your bear is ready for some clothes. Patterns for 2 versions of a top down dress are on the next 3 pages.



A top down plaid dress:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- **Yarn B**: blue 4ply weight yarn
- Yarn C: cream 4ply weight yarn
- a small button

Special abbreviations:

PFB, PURL FRONT AND BACK: Purl twice into the stitch, once into the front loop of the stitch and once into the back loop

P1TBL, PURL 1 THROUGH THE BACK LOOP: Purl once into the back loop of the stitch

M1T : MAKE 1 TOWARDS. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing forwards/towards you

You will need 4ply/fingering weight yarn in 2 contrasting colours: **Yarn B** & Yarn C. Before you begin cut an extra 20 inch length of **Yarn B** which you can join in on row 15 and knit double with the working yarn to give a nice neat increase, *see **row 15** for details.

Starting at the neck of the dress use 2.75mm needles and **Yarn B** to cast on 29 stitches leaving a 12 inch tail to make a crochet loop with later.

row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**

row 2: **K7, M1A, K1, M1T, K13, M1A, K1, M1T, K7**
(33 stitches)

row 3: **P7, P1tbl, P15, P1tbl, P9**

row 4: **K7, M1A, K3, M1T, K13, M1A, K3, M1T, K7**
(37 stitches)

row 5: **P7, P1tbl, P17, P1tbl, P11**

row 6: **K7, M1A, K5, M1T, K13, M1A, K5, M1T, K7**
(41 stitches)

row 7: **P7, P1tbl, P19, P1tbl, P13**

row 8: **K7, M1A, K7, M1T, K13, M1A, K7, M1T, K7**
(45 stitches)

row 9: **P7, P1tbl, P21, P1tbl, P15**

row 10: **K7, M1A, K1, M1A, K7, M1T, K1, M1T, K13, M1A, K1, M1A, K7, M1T, K1, M1T, K7**
(53 stitches)

row 11: **P7, P13** casting them off as you go (12 stitches actually cast off), **P13, P13** casting them off as you go (12 stitches actually cast off), **P7**

You should now have 7 stitches, a gap, 14 stitches, a gap, 8 stitches (*fig. 1*)

row 12: **K6, SSK, cast on 5 using M1A, K12, SSK, cast on 5 using M1A, K7** (37 stitches)

row 13: **Purl**

row 14: **Knit**



fig. 1



fig. 2

The next row is an increase row at the waist. You can get a really neat increase by joining in an *extra 20 inch length of **Yarn B** and holding it double with the working yarn to create 2 stitches on the needle for each one worked (*fig. 2*). On the following row you simply work into each individual stitch on the needle. *Note:* Be sure to leave long tails at either end of the extra length of **Yarn B** so that you can weave them in securely.

row 15: **P2** with the working yarn, hold the extra 20 inch length of **Yarn B** alongside the working yarn and **P33** with both lengths held together (*fig. 2*), **P2** with working yarn only (70 stitches)

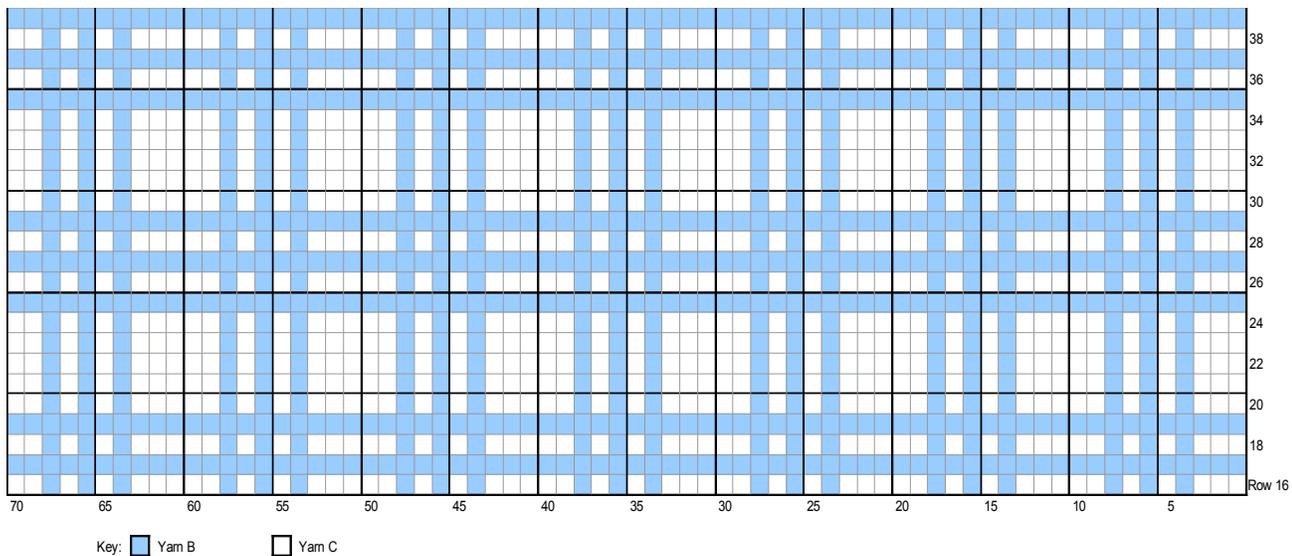
If you prefer you can work **row 15** as follows: P2, (PFB) 33 times, P2 (70 stitches)

From this point down to the hem the skirt is knitted in the round, so switch now to either DPNS or a circular needle depending on your preference. If you prefer to work from a chart there is one below.

Note: I found I got the neatest finish by stranding **Yarn B** below **Yarn C** and carrying the yarn across the 5 stitch gaps rather than catching up any floats (for a detailed explanation of stranded knitting see the tutorial here): www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2013/05/knitting-tips-fairisle-colourwork.html

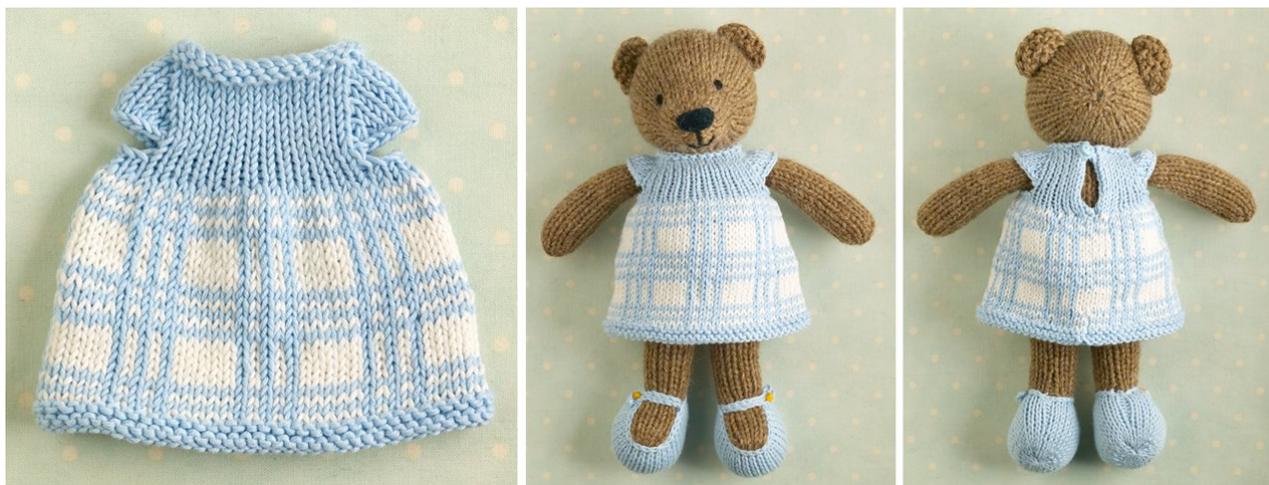
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>round 16: Join in Yarn C and K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 17: Knit in Yarn B only</p> <p>round 18: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 19: Knit in Yarn B only</p> <p>rounds 20-24: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 25: Knit in Yarn B only</p> <p>round 26: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 27: Knit in Yarn B only</p> <p>round 28: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 29: Knit in Yarn B only</p> | <p>rounds 30-34: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 35: Knit in Yarn B only</p> <p>round 36: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 37: Knit in Yarn B only</p> <p>round 38: K3, (K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K5) 6 times, K1, K1, K1, K1, K1, K2</p> <p>round 39: Knit in Yarn B only and cut Yarn C from the work as it is finished with</p> <p>round 40: Purl</p> <p>round 41: Knit</p> <p>round 42: Purl</p> <p>round 43: Cast off in Purl</p> <p>Cut the work from the ball leaving a short tail for weaving in later.</p> |
|---|---|

charted instructions for the dress pattern:



To finish:

Using the cast-on tail and a fine crochet hook (around 2mm) make a chain of 6 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop and weave in the end, working downwards to the waist. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side as a fastening for the dress. It's worth blocking the dress to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine. To finish off weave in all the yarn ends inside the dress and trim excess. Pop the dress on your bear.



A simple striped dress:

If you don't like working in the round or stranding with 2 colours at once here is a simpler dress that is worked flat in alternate stripes of 2 rows each.

Use the instructions on page 13 to cast on and work the bodice up to **row 14**. On **row 15** follow the instructions as written but use Yarn C instead of Yarn B and then continue as follows:

- row 16:** Knit in Yarn C
- row 17:** Change to Yarn B and Purl
- row 18:** Knit
- row 19:** Change in Yarn C and Purl
- row 20:** Knit
- rows 21-36:** Repeat rows 17-20 four times

- Cut Yarn C from the work as it is no longer needed.
- row 37:** Change to Yarn B and Purl.
- row 38:** Knit
- row 39:** Knit
- row 40:** Knit
- row 41:** Knit
- row 42:** Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball leaving a 6 inch tail for seaming with later.

To finish use the cast-on tail and a fine crochet hook (around 2mm) make a chain of 6 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop and weave in the end, working downwards to the waist. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side as a fastening for the dress.

Before I sew up the back seam I like to block the dress to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread a tapestry needle with the cast-off tail and join the seam up the middle of the back using mattress stitch. Finish the seam at the waist (row 15) and tie the ends together before weaving them in along the inside seam and trimming excess. Weave in all the yarn ends from inside the dress and trim excess and pop the dress on your bear.



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).

<p>row 1: (wrong side) Knit row 2: (K1, M1A) twice, K1 (<i>5 stitches</i>) row 3: Knit row 4: (K1, M1A) four times, K1 (<i>9 stitches</i>) rows 5-9: Knit each row</p>	<p>row 10: (SSK) twice, K1, (K2tog) twice (<i>5 stitches</i>) row 11: Knit row 12: SSK, K1, K2tog (<i>3 stitches</i>) row 13: Knit</p>
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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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