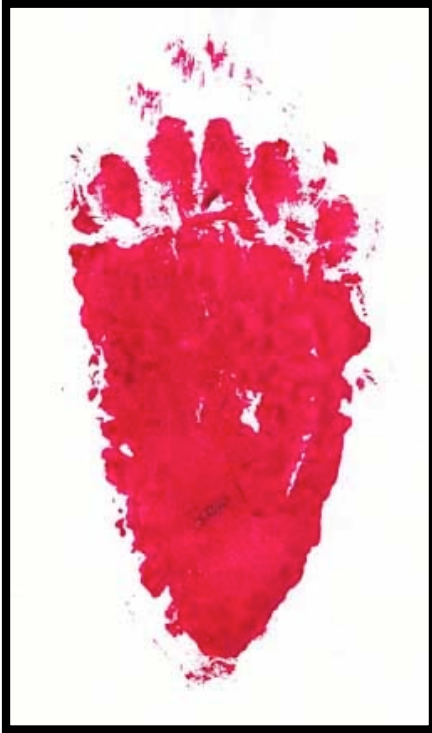


# Bear Mittens



This pattern is made to benefit the Animals Asia Foundation ([www.animalsasia.org](http://www.animalsasia.org)), a Hong Kong-based charity dedicated to ending cruelty and restoring respect for all animals in Asia. This pattern is sized for the Malayan Sun Bear (more info at [www.oregonzoo.org/Cards/Bears/bear.malayan.sun.htm](http://www.oregonzoo.org/Cards/Bears/bear.malayan.sun.htm)). Rescued bears must be anaesthetized for veterinary care. It's important that they stay warm and comfortable during this process but, just as for humans, bears' extremities are the first things to chill. These booties will help their paws stay warm while they're asleep. Whether you make one or a whole set (four... not a pair... a quad?) you'll be helping bears recover.

*Finished size:* Allowing for some breathing space and the bears' sizable claws, the finished length should be about 18 inches (1½" toe + 10½" foot + 6" cuff) and the width at the widest part of the foot about 7".

*Needles:* Directions are given for either: one 12" circular, two circular needles, five double-pointed needles, or straight needles. Adjust needle size to obtain gauge.

*Yarn:* Yarn must be machine-washable and dryable without shrinking. That probably means acrylic. Also, avoid boucle or other novelty yarns that might catch on bears' claws.

*Abbreviations:* dec = decrease, DPN = double-pointed needle, K = knit, K2tog = knit two together, P = purl, P2tog = purl two together, P2togTBL = purl 2 together through back of loops, rem = remaining, sts = stitches, SSK = slip, slip, knit slipped stitches together through back of loops. For questions about these, [knittinghelp.com](http://knittinghelp.com) is a great resource.

Yarn weight	Gauge (sts/in)	Needle (US)	Yardage/mitt	Cast on sts	# dec rounds	Sts rem at end
Chunky	3	11	150	44	5	24
Aran	4	9	200	56	7	28
Worsted	5	7	250	72	9	36
DK	6	5	300	84	10	44
Sport	7	3	350	100	12	52

**Cuff:** All gauges: Loosely cast on number of sts indicated in table above. Begin cuff as follows for your chosen needles:

*One circular needle:* Join round being careful not to twist. Place marker at beginning and middle of round.

*Two circular needles:* Join round being careful not to twist. Adjust sts so half are on each needle.

*DPNs:* Join round being careful not to twist. Adjust sts so one quarter are on each of four DPNs.

*Straight needles:* Place marker in middle of row.

All gauges and needles: Work in K2, P2 rib for 6".

**Foot:** All gauges and needles - Knit in plain stockinette for 10.5".

**Toe:** All gauges: Finished toe should be approximately 1.5" long. At beginning of next row/round, decrease every row/round for number of rows/rounds indicated in table above. Work decreases as follows for your chosen needles:

*One circular needle:* K1, SSK, K to 3 sts before middle marker, K2tog, K1, slip marker, K1, SSK, K to 3 sts before marker indicating end of round, K2tog, K1, slip marker.

*Two circular needles:* Needle 1 and Needle 2: K1, SSK, K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1.

*DPNs:* Needle 1 and Needle 3: K1, SSK, K to end

Needle 2 and Needle 4: K to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1

*Straight needles:* RS: K1, SSK, K to 3 sts before marker, K2tog, K1, slip marker, K1, SSK, K until 3 sts rem, K2tog, K1.

WS: P1, P2tog, P to 3 sts before marker, P2togTBL, P1, slip marker, P1, P2tog, P until 3 sts rem, P2togTBL, P1.

**Finishing:**

*Circulars and DPNs:* Bind off remaining stitches using Kitchener stitch or three needle bind off. Weave in ends.

*Straight needles:* Join toe stitches using Kitchener stitch or three needle bind off, OR just bind off all sts. Sew up edges and weave in ends.