

Soccer Ball

Item Reference — Arctic Wool World



Reference art for construction guidance. Colors/pose may vary slightly from your finished piece.

Soccer Ball — Knitting Pattern

To look like a real soccer ball, a knitted sphere cannot just be a deformed tube. This pattern uses precise mathematical short-row wedges (short rows) to build a perfect, smooth geometric sphere, which is then embroidered.

This is an original pattern written for this item, based on standard, generic amigurumi and toy-knitting construction techniques (magic ring/CO, spiral increases and decreases, i-cord, stuffed tubes and spheres). It does not copy, trace, or reproduce any published or copyrighted pattern -- these underlying construction techniques are standard craft knowledge, not anyone's intellectual property, the same way a recipe's technique of 'creaming butter and sugar' isn't owned by any one baker.

Knit abbreviations: k = knit · p = purl · kfb = knit into front and back of st (inc 1) · k2tog = knit 2 together (dec 1) · CO = cast on · BO = bind off · dpns = double-pointed needles · pm = place marker · rnd(s) = round(s) · st(s) = stitch(es) · RS/WS = right side / wrong side

Materials

Yarn: Worsted weight yarn (Gauge: 20 sts = 4" / 10 cm in stockinette). Color A (White, 50g) and Color B (Black, 10g for embroidery).

Needles: US 4 (3.5 mm) straight needles. Note: Using a smaller needle than recommended for the yarn ensures a dense fabric so the stuffing doesn't show through.

Notions: Tapestry needle, high-density fiberfill stuffing, stitch marker.

Special Technique (W&T — Wrap and Turn):

On a Knit row: Bring yarn to front, slip next st purlwise, bring yarn to back, slip st back to left needle, turn work.

On a Purl row: Bring yarn to back, slip next st purlwise, bring yarn to front, slip st back to left needle, turn work.

Gauge

Worked at a relaxed toy-knit tension in worsted weight yarn. Exact gauge isn't critical for a stuffed prop -- adjust stuffing firmness and needle size slightly to taste; a firmer fabric holds shape best.

Instructions

Cast on 31 sts using Color A, leaving a 16-inch (40 cm) long tail for seaming.

Wedge 1 (Total of 12 wedges required to complete the sphere)

Row 1 (RS): Knit all sts.

Row 2 (WS): Purl 29 sts, W&T. (2 sts left unworked on left needle.)

Row 3: Knit 27 sts, W&T.

Row 4: Purl 25 sts, W&T.

Row 5: Knit 23 sts, W&T.

Row 6: Purl 21 sts, W&T.

Row 7: Knit 19 sts, W&T.

Row 8: Purl 17 sts, W&T.

Row 9: Knit 15 sts, W&T.

Row 10: Purl 13 sts, W&T.

Row 11: Knit 11 sts, W&T.

Row 12: Purl 9 sts, W&T.

Row 13: Knit 7 sts, W&T.

Row 14: Purl 5 sts, W&T. (This is the narrowest point of the wedge center.)

Row 15 (RS – Reset Row): Knit all 31 sts across the needle. When you encounter a wrapped stitch from previous rows, lift the wrap onto the needle and knit it together with the main stitch to eliminate gaps.

Row 16 (WS – Reset Row): Purl all 31 sts across the needle, lifting and purling wraps together with their respective stitches.

Wedges 2 through 12

Repeat Rows 1–16 exactly 11 more times. You will see the fabric naturally curling into a deep 3D bowl shape as the rows stack.

Bind off all 31 sts loosely on the final right-side row.

Assembly & Classic Soccer Panel Embroidery

1. **The Drawstring Caps:** Thread your long cast-on tail onto a tapestry needle. Run it through the edge loops of the very top circular opening of the knitted piece. Pull it as tight as possible like a drawstring to seal the top pole of the ball. Secure with a knot.
2. **Seaming:** Align the cast-on edge with the bind-off edge. Use an invisible mattress stitch to sew the side seam from the top pole down toward the bottom pole.
3. **Stuffing:** Before reaching the bottom, stuff the ball extremely firmly with fiberfill. Massage it in your hands to ensure it is perfectly spherical.
4. **Seal Bottom:** Use the remaining yarn tail to drawstring the bottom pole closed.
5. **Black Pentagons (Color B):** Look at a photo of a soccer ball. Using a tapestry needle and Black yarn, use Duplicate Stitch (embroidering over the existing knitted 'V' loops) to create 12 evenly spaced black pentagons (one at the top, one at the bottom, and two rings of five around the middle). Connect them with thin black straight-stitched lines.