



## Baby Panda Pattern



Thanks for requesting my pattern for a playful paper mache Baby Panda. Be sure to also watch the video at <http://www.ultimatepapermache.com/paper-mache-panda-2>

### Questions?

Just leave a comment on the page above, or on the [Daily Sculptors](#) page. I'm always happy to help.

*Have fun!*

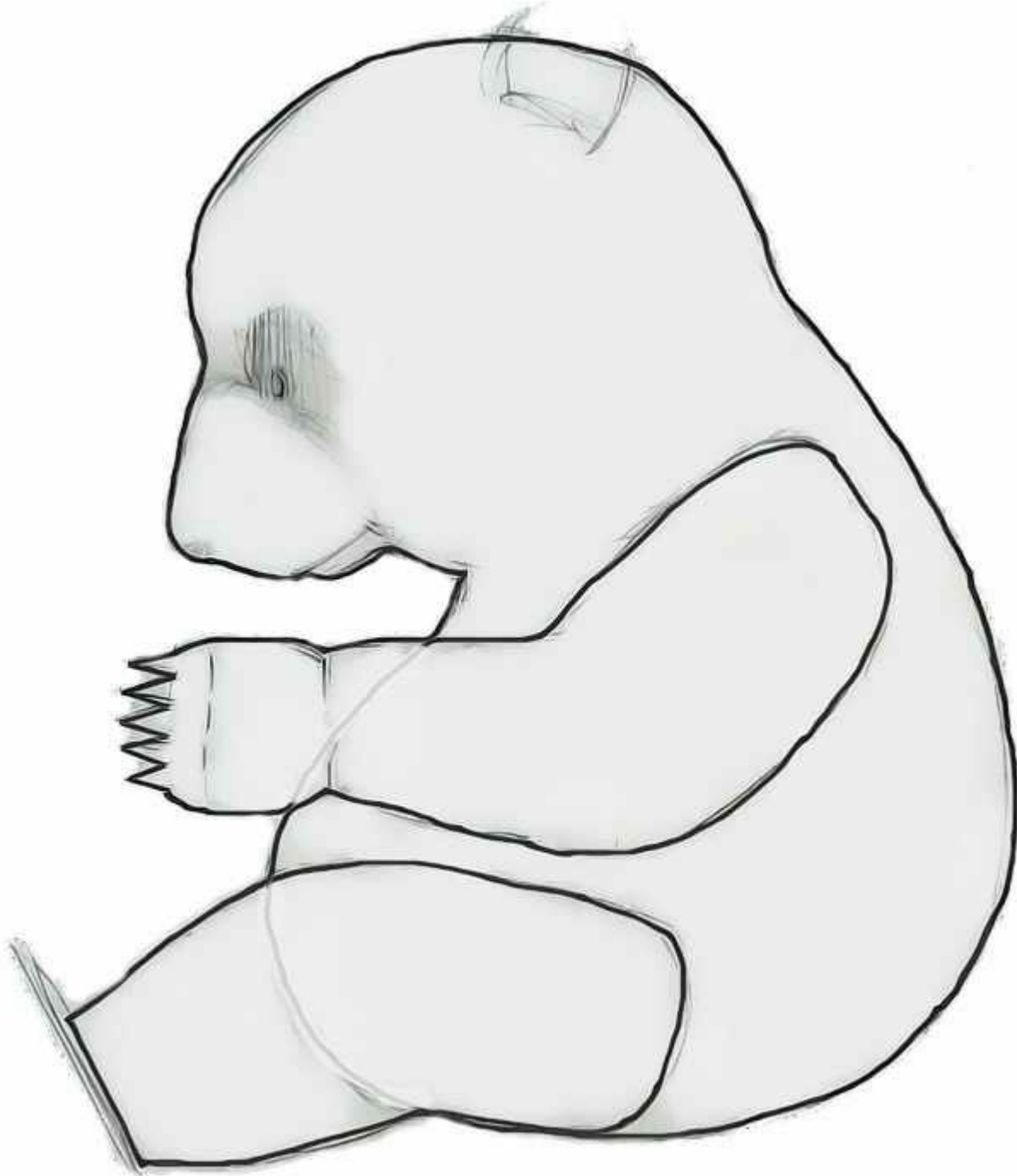


458 Reviews on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

If you enjoy making your Baby Panda, you'll also like my book [Make Animal Sculptures with Paper Mache Clay](#). The book contains many more projects, and my original recipe for paper mache clay. The book also shows you how you can make your own patterns of any animal, using a sketch or photo.



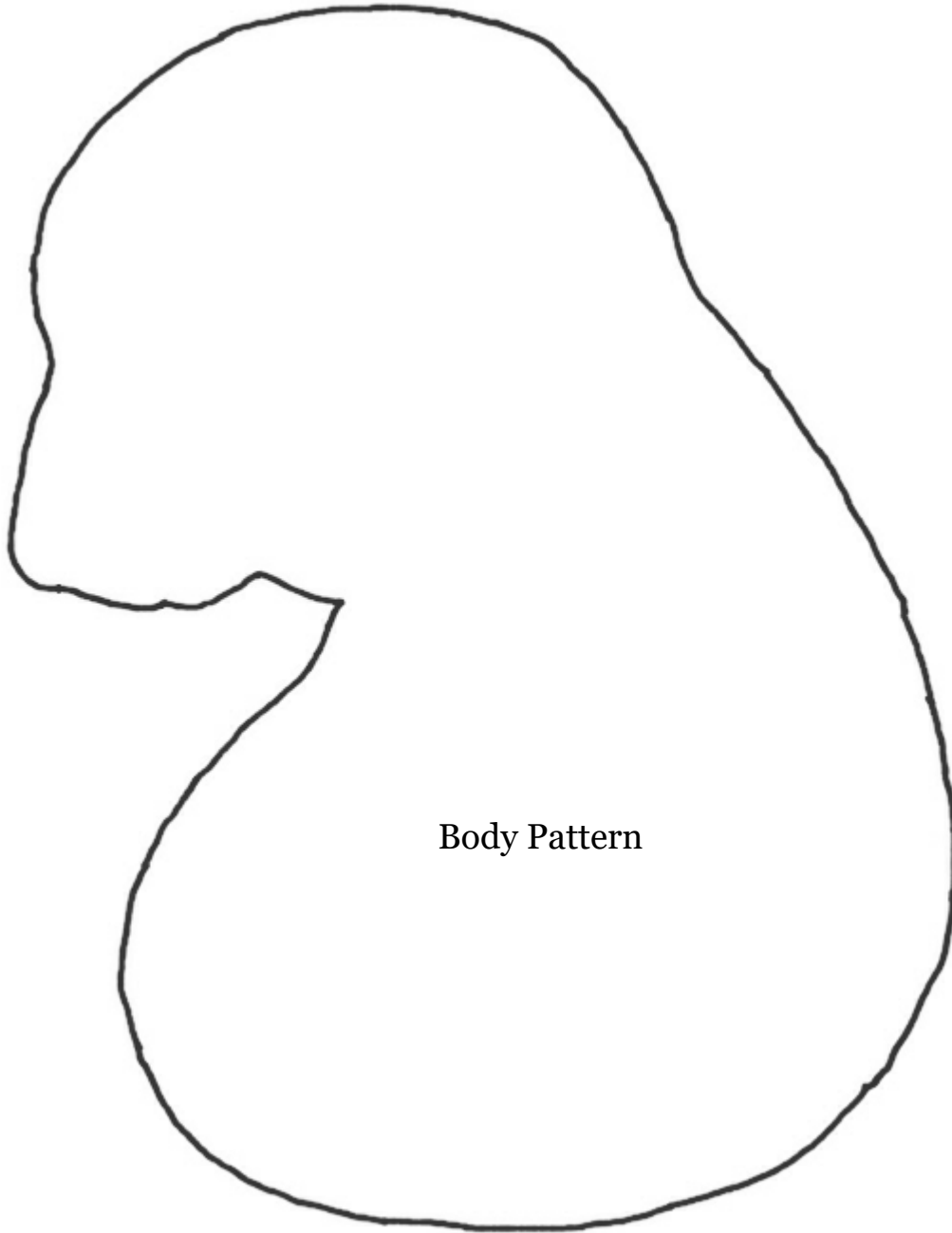
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Suggestion for placement of pattern pieces. You can move the legs and arms to give the Panda a different posture. See instructions.

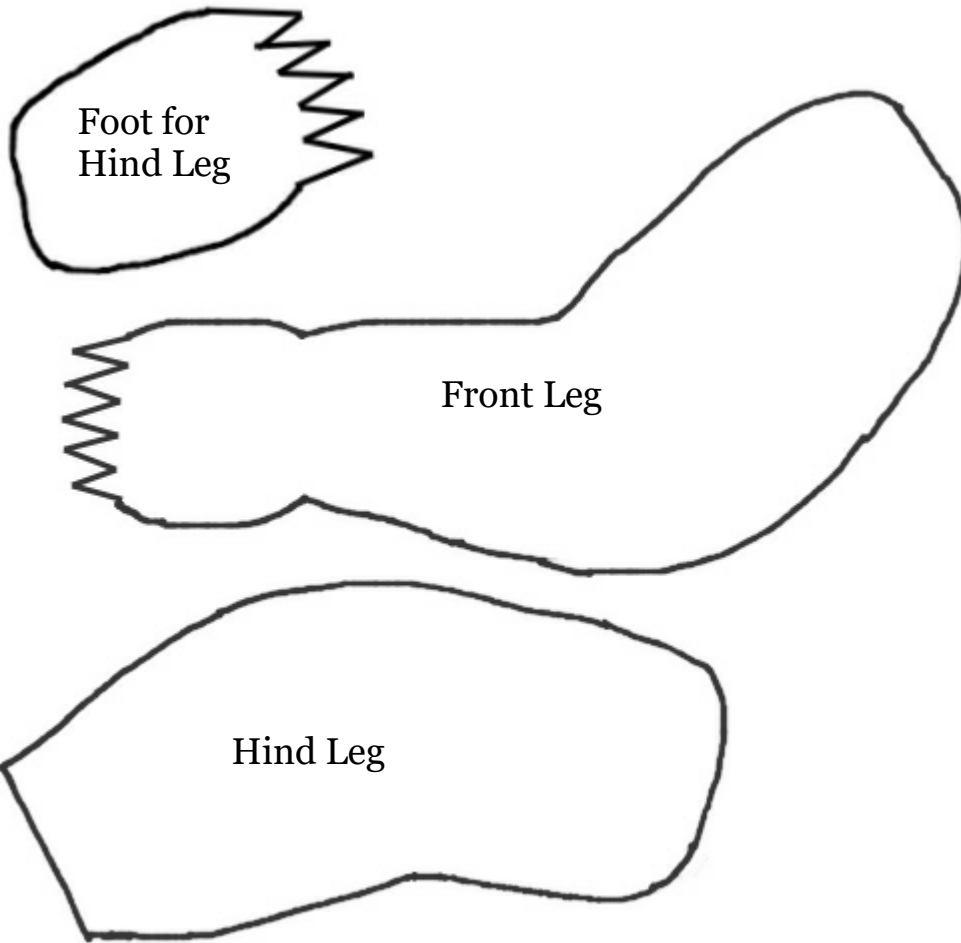


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## Before making your panda ...

...be sure to look up lots of baby panda photos on Google. You'll want to refer to the photos of real pandas, as well as following the instructions below. Then your bear will end up looking exactly the way you want it to.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This bear would be adorable in a baby's room, but the paint and finish materials on this sculpture are not really safe for babies and toddler's to eat – and teething babies (and puppies, and my cat) will chew on a paper mache animal. (The nose is always the first thing to go). For that reason, I don't recommend that small children be allowed to play with these critters until after they stop teething.

## Making the Pattern



To begin, print the panda pattern on white copy paper. You'll need one copy of page 3, and two copies of page 4. Stick the pattern pieces to cardboard, or cut them out and trace around them, and then cut out the cardboard pieces.

## Building the Body



Now that you have your pattern cut out, start crumpling newspaper into balls. Build up both sides of the pattern with the newsprint and lots of masking tape.

Both the tummy and the head are almost perfectly round. Be sure to add smaller pieces at the back of the neck so the body and head blend into each other above the shoulders.

When you have the head finished, add smaller paper crumples to the muzzle. Your pattern will help you place the muzzle correctly (see photo below).

### Adding the Legs



Using your masking tape, tape the feet to the bottom of the legs and then position the legs the way you want them on the body. Remember that pandas slouch when they sit on their tails, (just like we do when we watch TV), and that means that the hip is further forward than you might expect. I found that it helped me find the right positions if I temporarily taped the arms on, too.

I chose to have one of the legs leaning a bit to the side so the foot turns outward. Play around with the position of the legs and arms until your panda bear is doing exactly what you want him to do. Little balls of crumpled newspaper between the top of the legs and the body will help you arrange the legs the way you like.

Now add more paper to the inside and outside of the panda's legs, making them nice and fat. Feet and Hips



Add little bits of paper to the top of the foot and another bit for the ball of his foot. Then use flattened wads of paper to smooth out the shape above the legs. Pandas have very heavy fur coats, so you can't easily see the joints. If you don't smooth out the shape above the legs, he might look like a stuffed teddy bear, instead of a "real" panda.

## Adding Arms and Shoulders



Now do the same thing with the panda's arms. Be sure to bend the arms at the elbow and wrist, and bend the claws down towards the body. Then fill in the shape with crumpled paper and masking tape. It's easiest if you fill out the inside of the arms before taping them to the body. Once the arms are firmly attached and filled out, turn your panda around so you can see his back. Fill in the spaces at his shoulders, between the body and the arms. He should be fairly smooth across the shoulders.

## Adding the Paper Mache



Your panda should now look pretty much like the photo on the left, above. If you want your panda to be lying on his back, now would be a good time to add his tail. If you want him to sit up, don't add a tail because it will make it hard for him to balance on his bottom.

Make [your paste from flour and water](#). Just pour some flour in a small bowl and add a little tap water at a time. Stir well with a fork or spoon, and add just enough water to make a paste about the consistency of thick cream. Dip one side of a strip of newspaper into the paste, and draw the wet side against the side of your bowl to remove the excess. Then carefully smooth it down onto your panda bear. Or, cover your panda with [paper mache clay](#), instead.

You'll have to do this in two stages, so there's always a dry spot for the bear to sit on. I made my bear with one layer of newspaper and paste, and then in the steps below you'll see I add another layer of brown paper.

## Adding the Expression



Use small pieces of newspaper to shape your panda's smile. You might need to play around with this a bit until you get just the expression that you like. My panda ended up with a very lopsided smile – I could have “fixed” it, but I think it gives him character.

You'll also want to add his nose. You can build up a nose with a strip of newspaper dipped in paste and then folded into a triangle. Then cut nostrils with an old pair of scissors, and attach the nose with your paste.

While the paper mache on the panda's head is still wet, use your thumbs to push in the places just above his muzzle where the eyes will go.

The panda's ears are very furry. Cut two ears from light cardboard and bend it into a cup shape. Attach the ears with strips of newspaper and paste. Then fill in the fur by dipping a piece of paper towel into paste and rolling it up. Attach the roll of paper towel to the inside edge of the ear with more paper strips. (I really intended to take a photo of this step, but it looks like I forgot. Sorry..) At this point I decided that I wanted my bear to be looking a little to the side. To do that, I cut off his head (it didn't hurt him, I promise). I used a serrated bread knife. Then I re-attached the head to the panda's body with lots of strips of newspaper and paste. I quite often cut things off and put them back on again to get things just the way I want them. You certainly don't need to do this if you like your bear's posture as it is.

## Smoothing the Sculpture with Drywall Joint Compound





I like to use joint compound to smooth out the bumps on my paper mache animal sculptures. You find drywall joint compound at the hardware store. It's normally used to finish new walls. It costs about \$7 for a gallon, and this amount will last for a very long time. (If you live outside the U.S. this product may be called by a different name.)

I add a little water so the joint compound goes on easily. It's applied with a table knife. The joint compound dries quickly, and is very easy to sand. Be sure to do your sanding outside. Now your bear is ready for his final coat of paper mache. I like to use brown paper for the final coat because the pieces seem to melt into each other very nicely and create a good smooth surface. You can see the first few pieces on the bear's tummy, above. You can use newsprint for the final layer, if you'd prefer.

Another option, if you're using paper mache clay, is to make fur the way I recently did for my grizzly bear. [You can see that video here.](#)

## Drying, and Adding Fur



I dried my panda's last coat of paper mache out on the garden fence, and I couldn't resist taking that photo. He looks like he's enjoying the sunny weather and the nice view.

When the brown paper layer is completely dry, you can add texture to look like fur. Since I already had the joint compound out, I thinned it with a little bit of white glue and painted it on with an old, stiff brush. You can achieve much the same effect using a layer of flour and water paste. That's the way I did the fur on my lop-eared bunny, and it turned out quite nice.

## Adding Eyes, Sanding and Painting

I painted a very thin layer of joint compound onto the muzzle and in the areas where the eyes would go. I used the round wooden end of a small brush to draw the eyes into the joint compound. Then I dropped a bit of joint compound onto the eye. While it was still wet it looked like a pointy Hershey's kisses. When it dried I used sandpaper to smooth off the point. The result was very subtle, but effective.



After the joint compound fur dried completely I sanded it down quite a lot. Without the sanding it looked like he'd been frosted. You can see the final texture in the photo above.

I painted the bear with a warm white acrylic paint. After the first coat dried I drew the panda's fur pattern onto the bear with a pencil. I mixed a little bit of brown into my black acrylic paint to warm it up a little, and then painted the black areas.

## Finishing the Panda



Once the black areas were painted, I dipped the end of a toothpick into the white paint and used the toothpick as a brush to add tiny dots of reflected light into the eyes. Then the panda was given a coat of Latex Glaze, a product I had out in my garage. It's easier to find Acrylic Varnish in the same store where you buy your acrylic paint. The Satin version is nice for the bear, because most bears aren't shiny.

After the paint and varnish is dry, you can give your baby panda a rubber ball or small stuffed animal to play with, and prop him up on a shelf.

I hope you have fun with your panda. When it's done you can show it off in a comment at <https://www.ultimatepapermache.com/daily-sculptors-group-page>

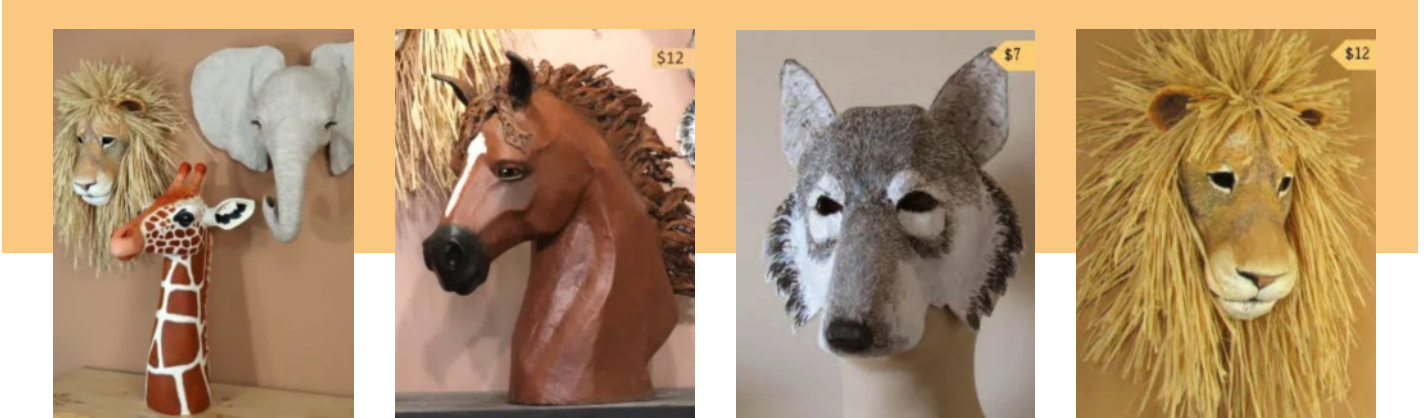
## When you finish your panda:

Remember to come show it off on the [Daily Sculptors page](#) on my site. We'd all love to see how it comes out!

## For your next project:

If you enjoyed making your panda, you might like some of these other patterns on my site, too:

<https://www.ultimatepapermache.com/patterns>



**Wet Cat Books**

## Want to learn more about paper mache and sculpting?

I've written several books that you might enjoy. You can see them all at <https://wetcatbooks.com>

*Joan*