

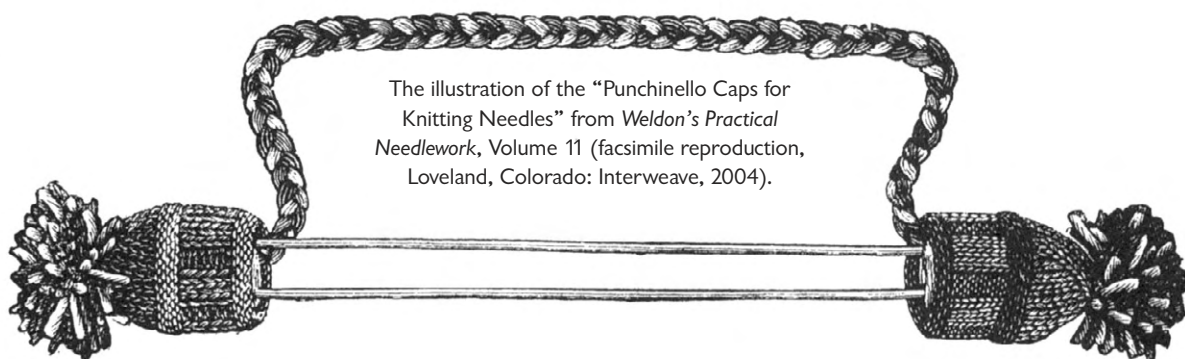
# "Punchinello Caps for Knitting Needles" to Knit

ANN BUDD



Ann Budd's adaptation of  
"Punchinello Caps for Knitting  
Needles" from *Weldon's Practical  
Needlework, Volume 11.*  
*Photograph by Joe Coca.*

These colorful needle protectors appeared in *Weldon's Practical Needlework*, Volume 11. Two tiny pom-pom caps are knitted with fingering-weight wool on size 0000 double-pointed needles and connected with a braided cord. The caps fit snugly over corks, which keep the sharp points of slender needles from poking through the fabric between knitting sessions. Punchinello is the British name for Pulcinella, a clown character in Italy's seventeenth-century commedia dell'arte and still a favorite in puppet shows throughout the world.



The illustration of the "Punchinello Caps for Knitting Needles" from *Weldon's Practical Needlework*, Volume 11 (facsimile reproduction, Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2004).

#### MATERIALS

Jamieson's Shetland Spindrift, 100% Shetland wool yarn, fingering weight, 115 yards (105 m)/25 g (.9 oz) ball, small amount of #425 Mustard (yellow), #187 Sunrise (red), and #147 Moss (green); visit [www.simplyshetland.net](http://www.simplyshetland.net) for a list of retailers  
 Needles, set of 4 double pointed, size 0000 (1.25 mm)  
 Tapestry needle  
 Wine-bottle cork, cut in half

Finished size: About 1¾ inches (4 cm) long, excluding pom-poms and cord, and 3 inches (8 cm) in circumference

Gauge: About 10 stitches and 16 rounds = 1 inch (2.5 cm) in stockinette stitch; exact gauge is not critical for this project

#### ABBREVIATIONS

BO—bind off  
 CO—cast on  
 k—knit  
 p—purl  
 rep—repeat  
 rnd(s)—round(s)  
 k1f&b—knit into the front and back of the same stitch—1 stitch increased  
 st(s)—stitch(es)

#### INSTRUCTIONS

*Note:* Each cap begins at the top and is worked downward.

Cap (make 2)

With red (green for second cap), CO 2 sts each on 3 needles—6 sts total.

*Rnds 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15:* K.

*Rnd 2:* \*K1f&b, k1; rep from \* 2 more times—9 sts.

*Rnd 4:* \*K1f&b, k2; rep from \* 2 more times—12 sts.

*Rnd 6:* \*K1f&b, k3; rep from \* 2 more times—15 sts.

*Rnd 8:* \*K1f&b, k4; rep from \* 2 more times—18 sts.

*Rnd 10:* \*K1f&b, k5; rep from \* 2 more times—21 sts.

*Rnd 12:* \*K1f&b, k6; rep from \* 2 more times—24 sts.

*Rnd 14:* \*K1f&b, k7; rep from \* 2 more times—27 sts.

*Rnd 16:* \*K1f&b, k8; rep from \* 2 more times—30 sts.

*Rnd 17:* K.

Change to yellow (red for second cap).

*Rnd 18:* K.

*Rnds 19–21:* P.

Change to green (yellow for second cap).

*Rnds 22 and 23:* K.

*Rnds 24–30:* \*K3, p2; rep from \*.

Change to yellow (red for second cap).

*Rnd 31:* K.

*Rnds 32 and 33:* P.

BO all sts. Weave in loose ends.

#### **Pom-pom (make 2)**

Hold the ends of each ball of yarn together and wind the triple strand around two fingers twelve times to make a tiny skein. Tie this tiny skein securely in the middle, use the ends of the tie to sew it to the tip of a cap, cut the loops at each end of the skein, fluff the ends into a round pom-pom, and trim neatly. Repeat for second cap.

#### **Braided Cord**

Cut three 15-inch (38.1-cm) pieces each of each color

and using three pieces of the same color for each strand, work a three-strand braid. Knot each end of the cord, and sew one end to the inside of each cap.

#### **Finishing**

Place one-half of the cork in each cap, adding a bit of yarn to fill the pointed top. If necessary, gather in the bind-off edge of knitting to prevent the corks from escaping.

ABOUT THE DESIGNER. *Ann Budd's latest book is Interweave Presents Knitted Gifts: Irresistible Projects to Make and Give (Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2009).*