

Free pattern – May 2004

Rustic Mittens



Here's a small project for those summery days when you don't want a heavy knitting project sitting in your lap. Use up those scraps of worsted weight wool and turn out several pairs to be doled out when the cold winds blow.

Worked on 4 DPN needles, these mittens are a great introduction to knitting with DPN's.

These mittens are geared towards the beginning knitter, with some extra thumb tricks at the end of the general instructions.

I will be offering a custom dyed kit for a limited time for \$30.00, which will include a copy of this pattern.

Materials: Approximately 180 yards of worsted weight wool will net you a pair of mittens for an adult and a pair of mittens for a small child. The mittens above were knit with two strands of hand-dyed, hand spun Dorset wool.

Gauge: 4 stitches per inch.

Needles: US #7 DPN's, or size to obtain the above gauge.

Cast on 36 stitches **very** loosely or over two needles. Distribute them onto 3 DPN needles as follows: 9 stitches on needle 1, 18 stitches on needle 2, and 9 stitches on needle 3.

Join in the round, being careful not to twist, and work 15 rounds (about 2" more or less, depending on how long you want the cuff) of Knit 2, Purl 2 ribbing.

Knit 15 rounds plain - another 2" more or less, depending on how far you want to go before the thumb. Slip your hand inside and see where your thumb knuckle begins to gauge how far to knit plain.

At this point, at the end of needle 1, work 5 stitches with a short piece of contrasting color yarn. Tuck the ends inside the mitten, put the 5 stitches back onto the working needle and knit them off of needle 1. The picture below shows these contrasting stitches after the mitten has been completed.



Knit on in stockinette stitch until the mitten is about 2" shorter than you would like it to be (try it on often to gauge how long you need the hand) and then begin decreasing:

Round 1 – * Knit 4, Knit 2 together * repeat from * to * around.
Round 2 – Knit even.
Round 3 – * Knit 3, Knit 2 together * repeat from * to * around.
Round 4 – Knit even.
Round 5 – * Knit 2, Knit 2 together * repeat from * to * around.
Round 6 – Knit even.

Continue in this manner until 6 stitches remain. Break the yarn and thread it through all of the stitches and bind it off on the inside.

Now go back to the thumb – Gently take out the contrasting stitches and put the 9 stitches on 3 short DPN's as follows – 2 stitches on needle 1, 5 stitches on needle 2, and 2 stitches on needle 3. This next part is a little tricky – you will notice that there are gaps between needle 1 and 2 and between needle 2 and 3. With a new length of yarn, Knit the 2 stitches on needle 1 and use a crochet hook to pick up 3 stitches in the gap between needles 1 and 2 and put them on needle 1 (5 sts on needle one.) Knit the 5 stitches on needle two. Pick up 3 sts in the gap between needles 2 and 3 and place them with the sts on needle 3 (5 sts on needle 3.) You should now have a total of 15 stitches, 5 on each needle. See the picture below:



I used some 4” sock needles to knit the thumb – I prefer not to have long needle ends to deal with on so few stitches.

Work 10 rounds even, or however many you need to make the thumb about $\frac{3}{4}$ ” shorter than you need.

Work the decreases:

Round 1 – * Knit 3, Knit 2 together * repeat from * to * around.

Round 2 – Knit even.

Round 3 - * Knit 2, Knit 2 together * repeat from * to * around.

Round 4 - * Knit 1, Knit 2 together * repeat from * to * around – 6 stitches remain.

Break the yarn and run the end through all stitches, pull them up tight and bind off on the inside. Use the tail at the body of the mitten to neaten any holes left where you picked up stitches and bind that thread off, too. Done!

Send me a picture, and I'll post it here - with credit to you, of course.

Enjoy!

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Karma is a circular thing – stealing is wrong. This pattern is intended for your personal use, not for resale or profit. Any questions? E-mail me.

