

Play for Today

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FOR



KNITCRATE



Stranded colourwork makes for fabulously warm mittens: the floats that sit at the back of the fabric make a lining that traps warm air inside and stops the wind blowing through.

Although the pattern may look complicated, it's not too difficult. Once you get going, the logic of the pattern becomes clear. And it's actually very beginner-friendly, because there's never more than three stitches before a color change, meaning that it's easy to keep your tension even and your fabric tidy.

Remember, though, that stranded colorwork will look pretty lumpy as you're working – washing and steaming the mittens is a crucial step to smooth and finish the fabric. Soak them for a good 20 minutes in lukewarm water; wring them out, and hang or lay flat to dry. If there are still some lumps and bumps after that, use a steamer or your iron's steam setting to even everything out.

YARN & NEEDLES

US5 (3.75mm) needles for small circumferences in the round (use double points, long circular, or 2 short circulars, as you prefer).

stitch marker

a short length of yarn to use as a stitch holder

Ancient Arts Fibre Crafts Nettle Soft DK
68% Superwash Fine Merino, 32% Nettle
263 yds (240 m) / 100 g

2 skeins used for this project. Colorway shown for MC is Nordic Nights, colorway for CC is Saami Mittens.

If you're making a substitution of color or yarn, you'll want a darker and lighter color. As in the sample, the darker should be a solid (or mostly solid) color, but the other can be a solid or a contrasting variegated color. Use the solid/darker for MC and the lighter/variegated color for the CC.

SKILL LEVEL

Intermediate

GAUGE

22 sts & 26 rounds = 4" in stockinette stitch

32 sts & 32 rounds = 4" in stranded colorwork, after blocking

FINISHED SIZE

XS (S, M, L, XL, XXL)

To fit: Teen/Woman's XS (Woman's S, Women's M, Women's L/Men's S, Men's M, Men's L)

Palm Circumference: 7 (7.5, 8, 8.5, 9, 9.5)" / 17.78 (19, 20.3, 21.59, 22.86, 24.13) cm

Hand length from wrist to tip: 7.5 (8, 8.5, 9, 9.5, 10)" / 17.78 (19, 20.3, 21.59, 22.86, 24.13, 25.4) cm

SIZING NOTES

The mitten should be worn with a little positive ease. Choose the size with the circumference one size larger than your actual hand measurement.

If the hand length is too long, work more rounds in chart pattern before you start the gusset. Work 4 more rounds for every half inch you wish to remove from the hand length. The cuff will be corresponding longer, and so you might choose to reduce the length of the corrugated ribbing section.

TECHNIQUES

LONG TAIL CAST ON

There's a good tutorial on Knitty for the [Long Tail Cast On](#).

CAST ON 1 STITCH - make a backwards (e-wrap) loop with the working yarn and place it on the right needle.

ABBREVIATIONS

M1 - use the backwards loop method, as in 'Cast on 1 stitch' above.

M1R - Insert tip of left needle from back to front under strand of yarn that runs between the last stitch on the right needle and the first stitch on the left needle; knit this strand through the front loop.

M1L - Insert tip of left needle from front to back under strand of yarn that runs between the last stitch on the right needle and the first stitch on the left needle; knit this strand through the back loop.

SSK - slip the next 2 sts, one by one, as if to knit. Insert the tip of the left needle from left to right, into the fronts of those two sts, and knit them together. 1 st decreased.

PM - place marker

HAND PATTERN CHART

For first size, work sts 1, 7-30, and 36-38. Start at round 21.

For second size, work sts 1, 6-31, 36-38. Start at round 17.

For third size, work sts 1, 5-32, and 36-38. Start at round 13.

For fourth size, work sts 1, 4-33, and 36-38. Start at round 9.

For fifth size, work sts 1, 3-34, and 36-38. Start at round 5.

For sixth, work all sts of chart. Start at round 1.

INSTRUCTIONS

CUFF

Using MC and Long Tail or Twisted German methods, CO 30 (33, 36, 39, 40, 42) sts. Distribute stitches evenly across your needles as you prefer, and join for working in the round.

Knit 2 rounds.

Next round, increase, first four sizes: (K3, m1) to end. 40 (44, 48, 52, -, -) sts.

Next round, increase, 5th size only: (K3, m1, k2, m1) to end. 56 sts.

Increase round, 6th size only: [(K2, m1) twice, k3, m1] around. 60 sts.

Join CC.

Corrugated Ribbing setup round: (K1 MC, k1 CC) around.

Corrugated Ribbing round: (K1 MC, p1 CC) around.

Tip: To work the corrugated ribbing, leave both yarns at the back. To work the CC stitches, bring the yarn to the front, purl the stitch, and immediately return the yarn to the back. Work Corrugated Ribbing as set until cuff measures 2 (2.25, 2.5, 2.5, 2.75, 3) inches, or desired length.

HAND

With MC only, increase as follows to transition to hand pattern

Increase round, 1st size only: (K2, m1, k3, m1) around. 56 sts.

Increase round, 2nd size only: [(K3, m1) three times, k2, m1] around. 60 sts.

Increase round, 3rd size only: (K3, m1) around. 64 sts.

Increase round, 4th size only: [(K3, m1) three times, k4, m1] around 68 sts.

Increase round, 5th size only: (K4, m1, k3, m1) around. 72 sts.

Increase round, 6th size only: [(K4, m1) three times, k3, m1] around 76 sts.

Next round: Starting with round indicated for your size, and working the stitches as required, work Hand chart twice around.

GUSSET

Next round, establish gusset position: Work Hand chart as set to last 3 sts, pm, work to end of round.

Next round, start increases: Work Hand chart to marker, k1 MC, m1r CC, work in vertical stripe pattern as set until 1 st rem, m1L CC, k1 MC. 2 sts increased.

Work 2 rounds even.

Note: As you work through the gusset increases, alternate colors. The first increases are worked in CC, the second in MC, the third in CC, and so forth. Maintain the vertical stripe pattern in the gusset throughout.

Repeat the last 3 rounds 4 (4, 2, 2, 3, 3) more times.

Work an increase round followed by 1 even 3 (4, 7, 8, 7, 8) times. 19 (21, 23, 25, 25, 27) sts for gusset, after the marker.

Next round, divide for thumb: Work in pattern as set to marker, remove marker and slip 19 (21, 23, 25, 25, 27) gusset sts to scrap yarn. Using the backwards loop method, CO 3 sts: 1 MC, 1 CC, 1 MC. 56 (60, 64, 68, 72, 76) sts.

UPPER HAND

The 2 full chart repeats have been restored. Work in pattern as set until chart is complete. 16 sts rem.

Cut both yarns and pull through final sts to secure.

THUMB

Read before you proceed: There are two slightly different instructions, depending on which size you're making. If you're making the first, third or sixth sizes, the stitches alternate all the way across the gusset. If you're making the second, fourth or fifth, there will be two MC sts side by side at the ends of the gusset.

First, Third and Sixth sizes ONLY:

Return held sts of thumb to needles. With RS facing, rejoin both yarns at crook of thumb. Pick up and knit 3 sts over CO sts in gap as follows: (1 MC, 1 CC, 1 MC); work across held thumb sts in stripe pattern as set. Distribute sts as you prefer and join for working in the round. 22 (-, 26, -, -, 30) sts.

Decrease round: Work 2 sts in patt as set, k2tog MC, work to last st in patt as set, work ssk in MC over this last st and the first st of the round. 20 (-, 24, -, -, 28) sts. This position is the new start of round. Rearrange stitches as you prefer.

Second, Fourth and Fifth sizes ONLY:

Return held sts of thumb to needles. With RS facing, rejoin both yarns at crook of thumb. Pick up and knit 3 sts over CO sts in gap as follows: (1 CC, 1 MC, 1 CC); work across held thumb sts in stripe pattern as set. Distribute sts as you prefer and join for working in the round. - (24, -, 28, 28, -) sts.

Decrease round: Work 2 sts in patt as set, ssk CC, work to last st in patt as set, k2tog in CC over this last st and the first st of the round. - (22, -, 26, 26, -) sts. This position is the new start of round. Rearrange stitches as you prefer.

All Sizes:

Stripe pattern should be set now, alternating colors all the way around. Continue even in pattern as set until thumb just covers the tip of the wearer's thumb.

Tip: Unless you're knitting for someone very tall, the thumb should be about 2.25 (2.5, 2.5, 2.75, 3, 3) inches long.

Using MC, k2tog around until 5 sts rem.

Cut yarn, leaving a 4-inch tail and pull through final sts to close.

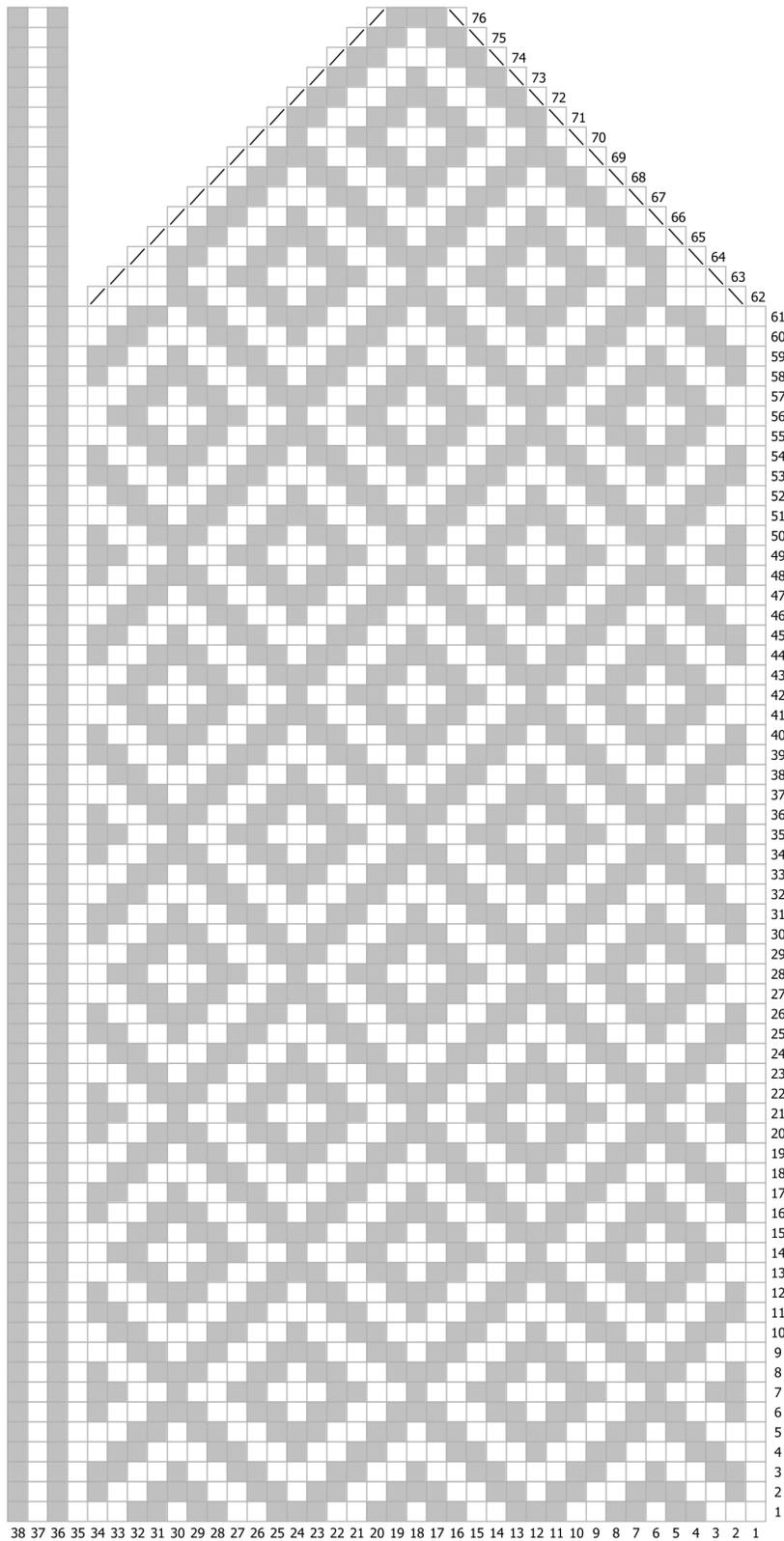
FINISHING

Wash to block, and then weave in all ends. Use tail at base of thumb to close up the hole there. If the colorwork is a bit bumpy, steam to smooth it out.

Hand Chart

Key

- knit with solid/MC
- knit with variegated/CC
- ▤ ssk
- ▥ k2tog



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