

Thrummed Mittens Knitting Pattern

from fibrehut.co.uk



This thrummed mitten fits a woman's medium sized hand. You can adjust the size by adding or subtracting 1 inch to the final length of the mitten.

The mittens are plump and lightweight because the thrums – wisps of unspun fibre or fleece – are knitted into the mitten as you go. Thrumming makes the insides soft and fuzzy and freakishly warm. Thrummed mittens originate from Newfoundland where keeping hands warm is essential.

You will need:

One 4mm circular needle with at least 80cm cord or set of double pointed needles or size needed to obtain gauge

1 skein any DK yarn (or a 4ply or fingering weight held double)

Approx 30 grams washed fleece or carded fibre

Gauge:

22 sts and 30 rows = 10 cm (4 inches) in St st

How to make the thrums:

Pull (do NOT cut) a section of fibre about 3-4 inches in length. Strip the section into pieces about 3mm thick. Each piece will be doubled. The two ends should meet in the middle, then slightly twist them together to make a loose join. I give mine a little twist in the middle for added stability. The thrums are knitted together with the stitch.



Instructions:

CO 39 sts and join to knit in the round.
Knit cuff in K2, P1 ribbing for 3 inches.
Inc 9 sts evenly around cuff.
K 1 round.

Thrum Pattern:

Rnd 1: *K3, holding twisted thrum over forefinger, insert needle into next st. Slip thrum over inserted needle so ends are to the inside. Wrap yarn around needle and draw thrum and wrapped yarn through st; rep from * to end of round

Rnd 2:*K3, knit into back of thrum and wrapped st (knitting them together); rep from * to end of round

Rnds 3, 4, and 5:Knit

Repeat Rnds 1-5 throughout.

Work until mitten from beginning measures 12 cm (4¾ ins)

Next Round For Thumb:

K1, slip next 8 sts on to holder for thumb. CO 8 sts, knit to end of rnd.

Cont working even until mitten measures 24 cm (9½ inches) from beg. At this point you can make the mitten smaller by knitting 8½ inches or larger by knitting 10½ inches.

Making appropriate adjustment to thrum pattern where thrums occur on decreased rounds, decrease for top of mitten thus:

Rnd 1:*K6, k2tog; rep from * around

Rnds 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10: Knit

Rnd 3: *K5, k2tog; rep from * around

Rnd 5: *K4, k2tog; rep from * around

Rnd 7: *K3, k2tog; rep from * around

Rnd 9: *K2, k2tog; rep from * around

Rnd 11: k2tog around

Cut yarn leaving a 6 inch tail and thread yarn end through remaining 9 sts.
Draw up and fasten securely on inside.

Thumb:

With RS facing, place 8 sts from holder on needle.

Rejoin yarn and pick up and knit 1 st from side of thumb opening, 8 sts along top of opening and 1 st from opposite side of opening (18 sts)

Work in thrum pattern as set until thumb measures 6.5 cm (2½ inches) from beg or desired length.

Next Rnd: k2tog, K4, k2tog, K2, k2tog, K4, k2tog, - 18 sts

Next Rnd: K2tog, K4, k2tog, K1, k2tog, K4, k2tog, K1-14 sts

Next Rnd: K2tog around.

Break Yarn. Thread tail through remaining 7 sts. Draw up and fasten securely on inside.

Make another mitten to correspond.

To Finish:

Turn inside out. Weave in any loose yarns ends. Gently pull each thrum stitch to tighten, then fluff thrum ends by gently pulling or flicking fibres to cover entire inside surface.

Mittens can be washed in cool water; lay flat to dry.



Variations:

There are a number of possible variations.

The thrummed pattern can also be staggered rather than in vertical columns for a different effect.



For a plumper mitten, use fatter pieces of roving or insert the roving more often, leaving 2 stitches instead of 3 between thrums.

For a slimmer mitten, try leaving more stitches between thrums or more plain rows between the thrummed rows.

It is possible to achieve the same effect using a pencil roving or lightly spun chunky yarn instead of fibre. Cut the yarn into 4" pieces and knit it with the stitch in the same way as instructed for fibre.

You can also try using thrums on your favourite hat pattern for a really hot head!