

Desire Lines Mitts

These mitts are my first attempt at a pattern of my own for mittens. 'Desire lines' are the paths that people wear across banks and grassy areas when they take shortcuts between points without using paths, and the way the cables cross the pattern reminded me of this. The larger cable pattern is 'Tower of Song', available on the Vogue Knitting site. The smaller cable is an addition of my own. When knitting the thumb gusset I've used a couple of different methods for making stitches, the combination of which ensures that there should be virtually no holes in the finished project. The cables are mirrored on the mitts, so right and left cable charts are included.

I haven't specified yarn or needle size. I have enormous hands and I need to adapt most mitt patterns for myself by increasing needle size or stitch count/pattern repeats. For this pattern I would suggest that you keep the stitch count the same and change yarn and needle size to suit. This will keep the pattern distribution the same. I knitted these mitts for myself on a set of five US 4 (3.5mm) dpns with some yarn I bought in France years ago. They produced a snug but comfortable fit on my hands, which usually take a size 7.5 – 8 glove (L).

The cuff is a length of I-cord knitted in the same yarn and sewn on once the mitt is finished. If you prefer a rib cuff, just knit a few rounds of your preferred rib before starting the pattern. The pattern itself starts with 7 rounds knitted without cabling – this was to allow space for the I-cord without obscuring any of the cables. If you're going for a rib cuff, you may like to omit these plain rounds and go straight from the rib into the pattern.

Each mitt took about two thirds of a 50g ball of yarn, so 80-100g of your preferred yarn should be more than enough.



Materials

- 80 -100g of yarn appropriate for your chosen needle size
- Set of 5 dpns (you can use four but one of the needles will be quite crowded)
- Cable needle
- Stitch markers
- Crochet hook/tapestry needle for weaving in ends
- Waste yarn (for holding thumb gusset stitches)

Abbreviations

cn – cable needle

3stRC – slip next stitch onto cn and hold at back of work, knit 2, knit 1 from cn

3stLC – slip next 2 stitches onto cn and hold at front of work, knit 1, knit 2 from cn

2stRC – slip next stitch onto cn and hold at back of work, knit 1, knit 1 from cn

2stLC – slip next stitch onto cn and hold at front of work, knit 1, knit 1 from cn

m1r – make 1 right-slanting stitch. Insert tip of left needle under running thread from back to front and knit into the front of it.

m1l – make 1 left-slanting stitch. Insert tip of left needle under running thread from front to back and knit into the back of it.

m1Pr – as m1r, but purl into the front of the thread.

m1Pl – as m1l, but purl into the back of the thread.

m1kul – knit to the point at which the increase is to be made. Before knitting the next stitch from the left needle, make a stitch by knitting into the loop of the stitch on the round below, then knit the next stitch.

k2tog – knit two together

PM – place marker

An asterisk * indicates the beginning of the pattern repeat. Once you have knitted the stitches as instructed, you should repeat from the * to the end of the round.

In the pattern instructions, I have started the round count over for each pattern repeat which I find less confusing.

Instructions

Left Mitt

Cast on 52 stitches. Divide evenly between four needles (13stitches per needle) and join for working in the round, being careful not to twist.

First seven rounds: *K8, p1, k3, p1 rpt from * to end.

Start round count over and commence pattern:

Round 1 - *K5, 3stRC, p1, k3, p1 rpt from * to end

Rounds 2,4,6,10,12 - *K8, p1, k3, p1

Round 3 - *K4, 3stRC, k1, p1, k3, p1

Round 5 - *K3, 3stRC, k2, p1, k3, p1

Round 7 - *K2, 3stRC, k3, p1, 2stLC, k1, p1

Round 8 - *K8, p1, k1, 2stLC, p1

Round 9 - *K1, 3stRC, k4, p1, k3, p1

Round 11 - *3stRC, k5, p1, k3, p1

Round 13 - *2stRC, k6, p1, k3, p1

Round 14 - *K8, p1, k3, p1

Repeat these 14 rounds once more, then rounds 1-6 of the pattern. Commence increases for thumb gusset on round 7 of the third pattern repeat and increase as follows:

Round 7: K2, 3stRC, k3, m1Pr, p1, 2stLC, k1, p1, m1Pl, *k2, 3stRC, k3, p1, 2stLC, k1, p1 (54st)

Round 8: K8, p1, m1r, p1, k1, 2stLC, p1, m1l, p1, *k8, p1, k1, 2stLC, p1 (56st)

(The increases on round 8 will be quite tight as you are increasing into the running thread between the previous increase and the next stitch. However, it is important for the pattern to do it this way. I used a smaller needle to help do this increase.)

Round 9: K1, 3stRC, k4, p1, PM, k1, p1, k3, p1, k1, PM, p1, *k1, 3stRC, k4, p1, k3, p1

Round 10: K8, p1, m1kul, k1, p1, k3, p1, m1kul, k1, p1, *k8, p1, k3, p1 (58 st)

Continue adding stitches to the thumb gusset by m1kul on the first stitch after the first marker and the last stitch before the second marker on EVEN rounds until there are 21 stitches between the markers. On odd rounds, knit the pattern as set, and work the increased stitches as they appear. Remember that there is a cable rib in the centre of the

gusset that needs to be worked in pattern. The last increases will be worked on round 8 of the fourth pattern repeat. Work round 9 by knitting in pattern and working the increased stitches as they appear, then continue as follows:

Round 10: K8, p1, slip marker off needle and k1, slip next stitch unworked from left needle to right needle, place next 17 stitches onto waste yarn and secure, slip unworked stitch back to left needle and k2tog, k1, slip marker off needle, p1, *k8, p1, k3, p1

The stitch count on the working needles should now be back to 52 st (13st on each needle). Work to the end of the fourth pattern repeat (four more rounds), then repeat the pattern once more to round 13, casting off in pattern on round 14.

Thumb gusset

Once you have cast off the body of the mitt, return to the thumb stitches. Place the 17 stitches onto three dpns, and on a fourth needle pick up 2 - 4 stitches on the mitt side, depending on how big your thumb is. I picked up three stitches for my thumb, giving me 20 stitches in all. Knit as many rounds as you need to create the correct thumb length for yourself, remembering to stay in pattern. The first row you knit will be round 10 of the pattern repeat. I knitted 10 rounds for my thumb, casting off on round 6 of the next pattern repeat. It's unlikely that you'd need any more than this for any size of thumb.

I-cord cuff

Using the same yarn and two of the dpns, cast on five stitches. Knit the stitches, but do not turn the work. Take the right needle into your left hand and push the work to the top end of the needle. This is now the left needle. Pulling the yarn tight from the end of the stitches, knit the stitches again using the other needle. Repeat this process. This will produce a tube of knitting. I'm not sure how good an explanation of I-cord this is, but you should be able to find a much better one in any good knitting book/site.

Continue knitting the cord until it is long enough to go around your arm at the point where the mitt cuff sits. It should be long enough to do this without needing to stretch. I-cord is not very stretchy and you don't want it to cut your circulation off! When the cord is long enough, cast off, cut the yarn leaving a section long enough to join the ends of the I-cord together to form a circle and then stitch it to the mitt (enough to go 3 -4 times round the mitt should be adequate).

Position the join in the I-cord at the midpoint of the underside of the mitt, on the inside of the forearm. Then stitch the cord onto the cuff using backstitch, taking care not to pass the needle all the way through the cord. You should also try to ensure that the fabric of the mitt doesn't pucker. It's a bit fiddly but I think it's totally worth it!

Right Mitt

This is worked the same as the left mitt in terms of rounds and increases. However, the cables are the mirror of the left mitt. They can be found in the cable charts at the end of the pattern. The thumb gusset increases are exactly the same. I haven't written out the full instructions for the right mitt as all you need to do is substitute the right mitt cable charts for the left mitt charts in the pattern above. (I know, lazy, lazy, lazy!)

I hope that I haven't made any enormous mistakes in this pattern. If anyone spots any, or wants clarification on any of the pattern, please get in touch. Most of all, I hope you enjoy making and wearing these mitts.

Happy Knitting!

Cable Charts

								14
							2stRC	13
								12
							3stRC	11
								10
							3stRC	9
								8
							3stRC	7
								6
							3stRC	5
								4
							3stRC	3
								2
							3stRC	1
8 stitches								knit

← Large cable, left mitt

Small cable, left mitt →

With my sincere apologies for the unbelievable naffness of my cable charts – I did them myself using the table function in my word processor, a piece of software apparently written by Satan. Anyway, blank boxes are knit stitches, the cable panels are separated by a purl stitch and explanations of the abbreviations can be found in the pattern.

			14
			13
			12
			11
			10
			9
			8
		2stLC	7
		2stLC	6
			5
			4
			3
			2
			1
3 stitches			knit

								14
							2stLC	13
								12
							3stLC	11
								10
							3stLC	9
								8
							3stLC	7
								6
							3stLC	5
								4
							3stLC	3
								2
							3stLC	1
8 stitches								knit

← Large cable, right mitt

Small cable, right mitt →

			14
			13
			12
			11
			10
			9
			8
		2stRC	7
		2stRC	6
			5
			4
			3
			2
			1
3 stitches			knit