

Mostly Sideways Mittens



You will need:

A set of #6 needles for the main part of mitten. Any type you like will do. I used a very flexible 24" circular.

A set of #4 needles for the cuff. They should be double-points or whatever you like to use to work in the round. I used 5 double-pointed needles.

Size: Fits all of the woman I asked to try it. That includes me, with my wider-than-normal, somewhat short hands, and my tall co-worker, who describes her hands as "man-hands." For the record, she has quite pretty hands that fit her frame. The actual mitten, unstretched in any way, measures 8" around just above the thumb and 6.75" from the very tip to the beginning of the wrist ribbing. The thumb is 3.5" long at its longest point. That seems alarming, but, anatomically speaking, the measurement from the tip of my thumb to the joint where it meets my wrist is 4", which is a lot longer than I thought. It is also, roughly, the area that particular stretch of fabric is meant to cover. The advantage of garter-stitch, of course, is that the mitten is super-stretchy, which gives it a forgiving nature when it comes to fit.

Gauge: 5 stitches per inch

Two colors of worsted-weight yarn. I used Nature Spun Worsted Weight by Brown Sheep in Nordic Blue and Sunburst Gold. I used less than 1 skein of each for the pair.

You will need 4 locking stitch markers.

Your life will be easier if you have some stitch holders, but your #4 needles,

or some waste yarn, will work, too.

In the photographs, the mitten on the left was started with gold yarn, and the mitten on the right was started with blue yarn. The mittens are very nearly identical, but the yarn you start with will have a few more rows to show for it, and therefore that color might dominate the mitten slightly.

Using a temporary cast on, cast on 37 stitches, knit 1 row. If you don't know how to make a temporary cast on, please see the photo gallery attached to Math4Knitters, Crafty Living: Show 44 at journalgazette.net/craftyliving.

Change colors, knit 35 stitches, k in front and back of the next stitch, k1, turn and knit back.

Change colors, knit 38 stitches, turn and knit back.

Change colors, knit 36 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 34 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 32 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 30 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 28 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 26 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 25 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 24 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

You will now be making longer short-rows. As you do, you will encounter gaps where the shorter short-rows were turned back. They will be extra-visible in this project, since they will happen in the intersection of your two colors. When you hit a gap, pick up a stitch from the gap, then put that stitch back on the left-hand needle and knit it together with the next stitch. There is a short video about this technique available on Math4Knitters, Crafty Living: Show 44 at journalgazette.net/craftyliving.

Change colors, knit 25 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 26 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 28 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 30 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

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Change colors, knit 36 stitches, turn, slip 1 stitch and knit back.

Change colors, knit 38 stitches, turn and knit back.

Change colors, knit 38 stitches, turn and knit back. (Yes, that is two 38-stitch rows.)

Change colors, knit 35 stitches, knit 2 together, knit 1, turn and knit back.

Purl 37 stitches, turn, knit back.

That's one side done. Now you just repeat yourself for the other side.

Change colors, knit 35 stitches, k in front and back of the next stitch, k1, turn and knit back.

Change colors, knit 38 stitches, turn and knit back.

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With an extra needle (your #4 for the cuff will do nicely) pick up 37 stitches from the cast on edge, and fold the mitten so that the purl bumps from the last row are facing in. Your mitten is now inside-out. The thinnest part of the piece is the tip of the mitten, the widest part is the wrist edge. Place markers 4 stitches and 13 stitches in from the wrist edge. Now, using the color you used to purl that last row, either use a 3-needle bind off or graft the cast-on edge to the cast-off edge of the mitten from the tip down to the 13-stitch marker. Break yarn. Skip over the marked 9 stitches and bind off or graft the last 4 sets of stitches to each other.

Turn the mitten back through itself so that it is right-side out. Hold the mitten so that the gap between the two sides is facing you. Let's call one side side A and the other side B. We will start working on side A and move to side B. It doesn't really matter which side is which, I'm just doing this to make my explanation more simple. Move all of the live stitches from side A onto a spare needle, waste yarn, or a stitch holder. Move all of the live stitches from side B onto a different spare needle, waste yarn or stitch holder.

Using a temporary cast-on, cast on 12 stitches, knit them, then knit into the back of the first live stitch that is furthest away from the wrist edge on side A. You now have 13 working stitches. Turn, slip 1 stitch, and knit back.

Change colors, knit 13 stitches, knit into the back of the next live stitch from side A. You now have 14 working stitches. Turn, slip 1 stitch, and knit back.

Change colors, knit 14 stitches, knit into the back of the next live stitch from side A. You now have 15 working stitches. Turn, slip 1 stitch, and knit back.

Continue in this way until you have 21 working stitches and have run out of stitches on side A.

Knit 21 stitches, then knit into the back of the closest live stitch to your position from side B. Turn, slip 1, knit 2 together, knit 2 together, and knit back.

Change colors, knit 20 stitches, then knit into the back of the next live stitch from side B. Turn, slip 1, knit 2 together, knit 2 together, and knit back.

Change colors, knit 18 stitches, then knit into the back of the next live stitch from side B. Turn, slip 1, knit 2 together, knit 2 together, and knit back.

Continue in this way until you have 12 working stitches. Turn the mitten inside-out. Graft or three-needle bind-off the beginning to the end of the thumb. Close the tip of the thumb and the tip of the mitten.

Choose 1 color for your cuff. Using smaller needles, pick up 46 stitches around the wrist edge of the mitten. Work in K1, P1 rib until you are sick of it. Or for 3 inches, whichever comes last. Cast off, loosely. Darn in all ends.





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