

“Alphamitts”

by Emily B. Miller



Materials

- Knit Picks Palette (100% wool, fingering weight, 231 yards to 50g), one skein each for MC (dark) and CC (bright). Mittens shown use the color Blue for MC and Yellow for CC.
- US 2 (2.75mm) double pointed needles (or circular needles suitable for magic loop if you prefer). Adjust needles size to obtain correct gauge.
- small amount of waste yarn for holding stitches
- darning needle for grafting

Gauge & Size

32 stitches = 4"/10cm in stranded colorwork
Your mittens knitted at this gauge will snugly fit a child's hand measuring 6"/15cm at the knuckles. If you wish to make these for an adult's hand size, worsted weight yarn (and appropriate needles) may be substituted.

Abbreviations

- MC main color; CC contrast color
- KFB: Increase 1 stitch by knitting into the front and back legs of the next stitch.
- left leaning increase: Use the left needle to lift the left leg of the stitch that's 2 stitches below the stitch on your right needle. Knit the lifted leg through its back loop.
- right leaning increase: Use the right needle to lift the right leg of the stitch below the stitch on your left needle. Knit into the lifted leg.
- k2tog: Knit the next two stitches together as one.
- SSK: Slip the next two stitches individually (as if to knit), then knit them together through the back loops.

Notes

- For instructions for the two-color braided cast-on, visit:
<http://www.islandofmisfitpatterns.com/2006/07/11/braided-cast-on/>
- Both mittens of the pair are identical and worked in the same way; you do not need to knit the thumb on the opposite side for the second mitten. (The left and right mittens will be interchangeable.) This way, the two hands held together show both halves of the motif.
- Important for colorwork: Several parts of the chart will require you to float the CC strand behind quite a few CC stitches. Be sure to “catch” or “twist” the yarns behind the work in these sections, so that none of the floats are loose or long enough to snag on little fingers. You will be able to drop CC for rounds 19-20, 28-29, 37-38 and 46+, but you will need to strand it along behind the MC for rounds 10 & 11.

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Cuff

Using 2-color braided cast-on, cast on 48 stitches and join for knitting in the round. Begin working in corrugated ribbing as follows: *K1 with MC, P1 with CC; repeat from * to end of round. Work until cuff measures 2”/5cm from cast-on edge.

Next round: Using MC only, KFB, knit to end of round. (49 stitches total.) On the next round, begin working from the chart, starting with round 1 in the bottom right corner. (See page 3 for chart.)

Thumb Gusset

As you follow the chart, the increases shown gradually extend the thumb stitches away from the hand, making room for a good fit and a full range of motion in the finished mittens. When you reach round 17, transfer the first 17 stitches of the round to waste yarn, to be held for working later (these are the thumb stitches). Pull the working yarns firmly across the gap created by the thumb opening, and continue working from the chart as normal.

Mitten Top

After the final round of the chart, transfer the remaining stitches onto two needles for grafting as follows: The first 8 stitches on one needle, the last 8 on the second needle. This way, the “seam” at the top is parallel to flat hand, neatly connecting the lines of decreases at the top of the mitten. Cut both working yarns, leaving a long tail of MC. Using MC and kitchener stitch, graft the remaining stitches closed.

Thumb

Transfer the held stitches from waste yarn to three needles. The beginning of the round is the MC stitch furthest to the right, near the “T” in the alphabet motif. Leave long tails when you re-attach both working yarns and knit all the previously held stitches in their appropriate color. Using CC, pick up one stitch at the end of the round. (18 stitches total.) Work evenly, maintaining color pattern, for 10 more rounds (or desired length of thumb).

Thumb decrease Round 1: *SSK with MC, k2tog with CC; repeat from * to last 2 stitches, SSK with MC.
Round 2: With MC only, SSK 4 times, K1.

Break both working yarns and use a darning needle to thread the strand of MC through the 5 remaining stitches. Pull this strand firmly to cinch up the top of the thumb, and fasten off.

Finishing

As you are weaving in all the remaining ends, use the beginning ends from the thumb stitches to close any gap between the thumb and the hand. Make the second mitten; it should be identical to the first one. Block the mittens by soaking them in warm water and laying flat to dry.

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