

Lined Snow Mittens by Emily B. Miller

Lined mittens are extra warm because of the insulating space trapped between the layers. The inner layer is soft and warm on your hands while the outer layer helps keep snow and moisture out, and the air caught in between adds a buffer against extreme temperatures. Making mittens double layered also allows you to combine a variety of yarns to take advantage of the properties of each. This fun “inside-out” pattern uses a special, soft yarn against your skin so you feel cozy, and employs a durable, resistant yarn for the outside layer. A round, plied yarn ensures the springy ribbed cuff is positively snow-proof.

SIZES

Teen/Adult S (Women/Adult M, Men/Adult L)

To fit hand circumference of 7 (8, 9) inches

YARN SUGGESTIONS

Choose three yarns of DK or Light Worsted weight.

Outer layer- Sample uses handspun wool. Recommended yarn is NON-superwash wool or wool/mohair blend, plied. If it felts readily, that's OK. If one of your yarns is going to be slightly thicker than the others, it should be this one. Look for something a little “rustic”- something a little scratchy will be more durable than a soft merino. It won't make the mittens scratchy.

Cuff- Choose a springy, plied wool that makes nice ribbing. This is your workhorse wool. This yarn will touch your wrists, so make sure it's something you can tolerate next-to-skin. Sample uses Cascade 220.

Liner- Pick something luxurious, warm and fuzzy! The sample is made in DK weight 100% alpaca, but I would also use blends of bison, camel, possum, quivut, angora- these yarns are made from the animals' undercoats or hollow fibres, so they are excellent insulators. Sometimes these fibers are available in laceweight yarn, which can give you some nice options to double up or carry along two yarns together.

GAUGE

26 sts = 4” (10 cm) in stockinette stitch in outer layer yarn with larger needles.

RECOMMENDED NEEDLES

Two sizes of DPN's or circular needles suitable for small diameter projects in the round. Sample uses US 5 (3.75 mm) and US 4 (3.5 mmn). Switching to smaller needles helps the liner fit inside the outer layer, and it helps keeps the cuffs fitted.

Two stitch markers are also used.

NOTE ABOUT WEAVING IN ENDS

Because this mitten is self-lining, the “wrong side” of the work becomes inaccessible once you close the tip of the mitten. Therefore, it’s necessary to leave the tails from joining yarns lying to the RIGHT SIDE of the work and weave them in using duplicate stitch. A few of the tails should be woven in as you go instead of at the end of the project, and these will be pointed out in the instructions below.

TECHNIQUES USED

Judy’s Magic Cast On

<https://knitty.com/ISSUEspring06/FEATmagiccaston.html>

Backwards Loop Cast On

<https://kristentendyke.com/blogs/tutorials/tutorial-how-to-knit-the-backwards-loop-cast-on-method>

Weaving in Ends with Duplicate Stitch

<https://knitty.com/ISSUEfall04/FEATfall04TT.html>

Lanolizing Your Finished Project

<https://babeegreens.com/pages/how-to-lanolize-wool-and-cashmere>

DESIGNER’S NOTE

This construction leaves the thumb of the lining in reverse stockinette while the rest of the liner is stockinette. It doesn’t show, but if the inconsistency is going to bother you, PU the sts for the thumb of the liner *purlwise* and work all the thumb shaping instructions in reverse stockinette (purl all sts in the round and p2tog for the decreases).

METHOD

Left Mitten:

Using Judy’s Magic Cast on, cast on 10 (12, 12) over each needle for a total of 20 (24, 24). Join and knit the first row in the round, leaving tail to RS. Your stitches are now in two halves on either side of the cast on, corresponding to the “front” and the “back” of the hand.

Shape fingertips:

Round 1: *K1, YO, K to 1 st before end of front, YO, K1; Repeat from * for back.

Round 2: *K1, close previous round's YO by knitting it through the back loop, k to 2 sts before end of front, KTBL, K1; repeat from * for back.

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until you have 44 (48, 56) stitches in the round. Continue in stockinette stitch until work measures 5 (5.5, 6.25)" from cast on edge, or just slightly more than the distance from fingertips to crotch of thumb.

Thumb Gusset:

Left Mitten	Right Mitten
Next round: BO 2(2,4) sts, k to end of round.	Next round: K to 2(2, 4) sts before end of round, BO 2(2,4).
Next round: Pm, backwards loop cast on 16 (20, 24) stitches over the gap, pm, k to end of round.	Next round: K to gap, pm, backwards loop cast on 16 (20, 24) stitches, pm, join for knitting in the round.

Continue knitting in the round, decreasing your thumb gusset stitches as follows:

Round 3: K to marker, ssk, k to 2 sts before marker, k2tog, k to end of round.

Round 4: K all sts.

Repeat rounds 3-4 until stitch count returns to 44 (48, 56) sts. You will have 2(2,4) sts between the markers.

K 1 round plain stockinette, removing markers.

Cuff:

Switch to cuff yarn, leaving tails to RS. K 1 round plain stockinette.

Next round: switch to K1, P1 ribbing and continue for 2 (2, 2.5)".

Turning round: *Yo, SSK; repeat from * to end of round.

Switch to smaller needles and continue ribbing for until the cuff is the same length on either side of the turning round, approximately 2 (2, 2.5)".

Mitten Liner:

Switch to liner yarn, leaving tails to RS. K 1 round plain stockinette.

Thumb Gusset:

Left Mitten	Right Mitten
Round 5: YO, K 2(2,4), YO, pm, k to end of round.	Round 5: K to 2(2, 4) sts before end of round, pm, YO, k 2(2,4), YO.
Round 6: KTBL, k to 1 st before marker, KTBL, k to end of round.	Round 6: K to marker, KTBL, k to 1 st before end of round, KTBL.

Repeat rounds 5-6 until there are 16 (20, 24) sts between the marker and the beginning/end of round.

From this point through the end of the mitten, you can carefully turn the work at the turning round, pulling the liner mitten, still on the needles, up around the outer mitten to check the elements are turning out the same length. If your row gauge changed a lot when you switched needles, add a round or two of stockinette at this point so that the distance between the turning round and the thumb opening is the same on each layer.

Left Mitten	Right Mitten
Next Round: BO 16 (20, 24), removing marker, K to end of round.	Next Round: K to marker, remove marker, BO 16, (20, 24).
Next Round: CO 2(2, 4) sts across the gap, K to end of round.	Next Round: K to gap, CO 2(2, 4) sts, join for knitting in the round.

Stitch count should be 44 (48, 56) sts. Continue in stockinette until work on inner mitten measures the same as the distance between the turning round and the *point where you ended* the fingertip shaping on the outer mitten.

Fingertip Decreases:

Round 7: *K2tog, K to 2 sts before end of front, ssk; repeat from * for back.

Round 8: K all.

Repeat rounds 7-8 until 20 (24, 24) sts remain. Join front stitches to back stitches with kitchener stitch, weaving tail to RS with duplicate stitch.

Turn mitten so the liner is inside the outer layer and the RS of the outer layer is facing. The thumb is worked with the mitten assembled in this way so that you can try it on to check the length.

Thumb:

With RS of mitten facing, using liner yarn and smaller needles, + PU 20 (24, 28) sts from previous WS thumb opening of liner layer only. Leave the tail facing you, out the hole of the outer mitten. Work over the edge of the outside layer (pretend it is not there as you focus on the inner mitten for now) .

Join in the round and K until thumb measures to middle of thumbnail, or about 1.5 (1.75, 2)".

Thumb decreases:

Round 1: *K2, K2tog, repeat from * to end of round.

Round 2 and 4: K all sts.

Round 3: *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to end.

Round 5: *K2tog, repeat from * to end.

Break yarn and pull through remaining live sts. Cinch closed and weave in end on RS. Weave in the tail from picking up the thumb before continuing.

Push the liner thumb back inside the hand, out of the way for now. Switch to larger needles and outer yarn, repeat from + for the outside layer of the thumb.

Repeat, using mirrored thumb gusset increase/decrease instructions for Right mitten. Weave in remaining ends using duplicate stitch. Lanolize your mittens to make them extra snow resistant!