

## Handwerks Fingerless Mitts on the CSM

Fingerless mitts should be tailored to fit your hands. I have made mitts on a 54, 60, 72 and 80 cylinder. Usually I use an average size sock yarn - about 1900- 2000 yards per pound, 100% merino or 100% Blue Faced Leicester. You will have an easier time with the shaping if you use a yarn with a lot of elasticity. Getting the correct fit depends on you using the right size yarn and cylinder for your size hands. I have medium size hands and a small wrist so I use ribbing sections to pull in the cuff of the mitt. If you like a looser fit shorten the rib section and lengthen the stockinet stitch area. Before knitting your mitts sample your yarn and determine the gauge you are getting on the cylinder you plan to use for your mitts. To get the best fit, measure around your hand at the widest part, make a tracing of your hand on paper; determine how long you want them to be and how long you would like the thumb to be.

Make a note of the following measurements to refer to:

Gauge of knitting: rows per inch and stitches per inch

Overall length from bottom of cuff to top of mitt

Length of desired cuff/ rib section

Width of hand at widest part

Length of thumb

Make two the same. (Since these are fingerless mitts they are reversible).

Cast on to your machine. Start with your desired cuff style: rib, picot hem or plain hem. After you have knit your hem change to ribbing (2 x 1, 3 x 1 or 1 x 1 if you started with a selvedge edge) and knit for about 20 rows. The cuff should be about 2-3" total from the edge or desired length.

Remove the ribber, transferring the rib sts to the cylinder, adding back in your cylinder needles.

Knit 20-25 rows of plain knitting for the area between the wrist and the beginning of the thumb.

Make the thumb as follows:

Raise up out of action 60% of the back needles. So on a 54 cylinder raise 32 stitches; on a 60 cylinder raise 36 sts; on a 72 cylinder raise 44 sts and on an 80 cylinder raise 48 sts. You will leave these stitches out of work while you knit the remaining front sts for the thumb. On a 54 cylinder, this leaves the front 22 stitches in work for the thumb. Knit across back and forth on these needles only, being careful to keep the first stitch of the row loosely knit for 16-20 rows. Hang a weight at the "corner" of the thumb to keep tension on the knitting. I use a work hook with a one pound weight at each corner of the thumb. Now break off your mitt yarn leaving a very long tail (1 yard) of yarn for hand finishing, join waste yarn, pull the sock yarn into the cylinder and leave it there and knit a few rows of waste, take off the thumb stitches. You now have a small flap that is your thumb.

Create the thumb gusset:

Holding the thumb flap, pick up and hang onto on half of front needles the loops and knots from one side of the flap starting at the corner and working to the top of the thumb. Do the same on the other side of the flap and the other half of the front needles. Hang both sides of thumb onto the front needles evenly starting at the thumb base and ending about 5-10 rows before the top of the thumb. On a 54 cylinder you will be hanging one side onto 11 needles and the other side onto the remaining 11 needles (since you had 22 needles in the front for the thumb flap)

Hand extra fork weights on the stitches. Thread the yarn carrier with your mitt yarn on the left and carefully knit from left to right across the newly hung stitches, lower the back needles (that were out of work) as well so that you can knit all the way around the cylinder again. You will now be knitting in the round again.

Palm:

Knit in the round for 15-20 rows.

Knuckle area:

Change to ribbing (2 x 1 or 3 x 1) and knit 10 rows of rib. Cut your mitt yarn leaving a very long tail (1 yard or more) for hand finishing.

Change to waste yarn and knit a few rows then remove mitt from machine.

To finish:

Put the live stitches from the top of the mitt onto a knitting needle and hand cast off in knitting. You want this to be a stretchy bind off since you hand needs to be able to fit in easily and this bind of is on your knuckles.

Do the same for the live stitches on the thumb- cast off with knitting needles.

Sew thumb seam. Weave in all yarn ends.

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