



skill level: bonafide

Rosie Knits



Bert's Mittens

by Lisa R. Myers

This is one of those "because you can" projects:

Knitting a pair of mittens in self-striping yarn made me think about all the things knitters do to manipulate the stripes. The rest of the design decisions were motivated by two things: one, I hate sewing seams (so the hand section opens with picked-up stitches and closes with a three-needle bind-off); two, I HATE weaving in ends (so the knitting is continuous from the cast-on at the cuff to the final closure of the thumb).

SIZE:

Women's Medium. Due to the construction of the mitten, the size is very forgiving.

MATERIALS:

2 sets US #5/3.75 mm dpn, *or size to obtain gauge.*

small crochet hook

2 markers

YARN:

1 sk Noro Yuzen (56% wool, 34% silk, 10% mohair; 50 g, 121 yds)

GAUGE

18 sts = 4" in StSt after blocking

PATTERN NOTE:

I had about 6" of yarn remaining when I completed the second mitten. If you adjust the pattern at all, you will need a second skein.

Bert's Mittens continued...

DIRECTIONS:

Cast on 32 sts. Join for working in the round being careful not to twist sts.

Work in 1x1 rib for 12 rounds.

Next Row: knit all sts.

Establish hand: Using backward-loop cast-on, CO 28 sts onto needle with final needle of rnd. Then, take another dpn and, working from the newest cast-on st back across the row, pick up and knit 28 sts along the underside of the cast-on sts. (The crochet hook will be helpful here.) Then knit the first st of the next row, and pass the last picked-up st over it and off the end of the needle.

Pause a moment to take stock: You have the cuff sts on 3 needles, and, sticking out from them, two more needles tied very close together by the new sts. You'll be working almost exclusively on the new sts from now on, joining them to the cuff sts at the end of each row. The new sts will be very awkward to work at first. Try dividing them onto 4 needles -- 2 on the "up" side (this will be the palm) and 2 on the "down" side (the back of the hand). The "top of row" referred to in the directions is the topmost part of the mitten. And persist: it all eases up after the first few rows.



Next Row: *Turn the work so that you're looking at the back/inside of the cast-on area. Sl 1 st, purl to the top of the row; purl back along the other set of sts until 1 st remains, then p2tog -- the last st with the next open cuff st.

Turn the work so that you're looking at the front/knit/outside of the cast-on area. Sl 1 st, k26. You should now be at the last st before the top of the row. M1, pm, k1. K1, pm, m1, k down the other half of the row until 1 st rem, ssk (the last st with the next open cuff st).*

Rep from * to * 4 times more. You should now have 33 sts on each half of the hand row (and 21 open cuff sts rem).

Work 7 more rows without increasing, continuing to join to the cuff at the end of each row, thus ending ready for a knit row.

Bert's Mittens continued...



Next Row: *Sl 1, k to 2 sts before m, k2tog, sl m, k1; k1, sl m, ssk, k to last st, ssk the last st tog with the next cuff st. Turn. Sl 1, p to top of row; p to last st at bottom of row, ptog the last st with the next cuff st.*

Rep from * to * 4 times more. You should now have 28 sts on each half of the hand and 4 open cuff sts.

Shape thumb: Sl 1, k27 to top of hand. Turn the work inside out. Hold the top-of-palm needle and the top-of-back needle together in your left hand, and k tog the first st from the front ndl with the first st from the back. Rep with second st on each needle, then bind off first st on right-hand ndl over second. Continue to work 3-ndl bind-off until 18 sts have been bound off (hint: 9 sts rem on each of the left needles, plus the one on the right-hand needle). Turn the work right-side out again.

Hold the mitten so that the hand part is pointing left and the cuff is toward the right. Place the single leftover bind-off st on the back needle. Use the working yarn and a backward-loop cast-on to add 10 sts to the front ndl. Pick up and knit 9 sts along the underside of the cast-on row, then knit 2 sts from remaining hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, p 10 to top of thumb; p10 down other side of thumb, then p2 from remaining hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, k10, m1, k1 at top of thumb; k1, m1, k10, then k 2 hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, p13 to top of thumb; p13, then p 2 hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, k13, m1, k1; k1, m1, k13, then k 2 hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, p16; p16, then p 2 hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, k17; k17, then k 2 hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, p18; p18, then p 2 hand sts.

Turn. Sl 1, k19; k19, then k last rem hand st.

Turn. Sl 1, p19; p20, then p last rem hand st.

Turn. Sl 1, k17, k2tog, k1; k1, ssk, k16, ssk last st with next open cuff st.

Turn. Sl 1, p18; p19, ptog last st with next open cuff st.

Turn. Sl 1, k16, k2tog, k1; k1, ssk, k15, ssk last st with next open cuff st.

Turn. Sl 1, p17; p17, ptog last st with last open cuff st.

Turn the work inside out through the remaining thumb opening. (This is difficult, but possible.) Work 3-ndl bind-off as before on rem 18 sts on each ndl. Cut yarn; fasten off. Weave in ends.