

Rosie Knits Presents...

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skill level: intermediate

Waulking Song Mittens

designed by
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Waulking songs are Scottish folk songs, traditionally sung by women while waulking cloth. Waulking, like fulling, is the process of cleansing cloth (particularly wool) to eliminate oils and dirt, and making the fabric thicker. The newly woven cloth is beaten rhythmically against a table or similar surface to soften it. Simple, beat-driven songs were used to accompany the work. Maybe you'll develop a song of your own as you "waulk" these mittens!



Materials:

3.5 ounces Cestari Pencil Roving (100% wool)
US 10 straight needles and US 10 double-pointed needles, or size needed to obtain gauge
4 x 1/2" buttons
Stitch holder (or waste yarn), stitch markers, tapestry needle

Gauge:

4.5 stitches and 24 rows = 1" in stockinette stitch, before fulling

Finished Measurements:

Cuff (unfulled): 8" across, measured flat. Finished size will depend on the extent of the fulling.

Pattern Notes:

The pattern instructions are written for both mittens except where noted.

All RS rows are odd-numbered, while all WS rows are even-numbered.

Don't worry about pulling a bit tighter while working with double-pointed needles to avoid ladders since the mittens will be fullled. If the roving breaks, simply overlap the two broken ends, rub them together for a bit, and keep knitting.

Waulking Song Mittens



Cuff Pattern (12 rows)

Rows 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 (WS): purl.

Row 2(RS): knit.

Rows 4 & 6 (RS): p2, *sl 3 wyif, p2; repeat from * to end.

Row 8 (RS):

For left mitten: k2, yo, k2tog, k to end

For right mitten: k to 4 sts from end of row, ssk, yo, k2.

(Note: The yarnovers create the buttonholes for the cuff.)

Rows 10 & 12 (RS): p2, *sl 3 wyif, p2; repeat from * to end.

Directions:

Cuff (knit flat)

CO 47 sts. Work Cuff Pattern twice (24 rows), ending with Row 12.

Left Mitten Only:

Purl 1 row. Using double-pointed needles, set up mitten for working in the round as follows:

* Needle 1: BO 5 sts, k13

* Needle 2: k6, pm, k2, pm, k6

* Needle 3: k14

Right Mitten Only:

BO 5 sts at beg of next WS row, purl to end.

Using double-pointed needles, set up mitten for working in the round as follows:

* Needle 1: k14

* Needle 2: k6, pm, k2, pm, k6

* Needle 3: k14

Body (Both Mittens)

Join to work in the round as follows:

Round 1: k20, slm, m1, knit to 2nd marker, m1, slm, k20. (44 sts)

Round 2: Knit one round.

Repeat these two rounds until there are 54 sts total, with 14 sts for the thumb gusset.

Next round: k20, slip the 14 gusset sts onto a stitch holder/waste yarn, cast on 2 sts, k20.

Continue in St st until mitten measures 11" from CO edge.

Decreases

Round 1: *k5, k2tog; rep from * to end.

Rounds 2, 4, 6, 8, & 10: k all sts

Round 3: *k4, k2tog; rep from * to end.

Round 5: *k3, k2tog; rep from * to end.

Round 7: *k2, k2tog; rep from * to end.

Round 9: *k1, k2tog; rep from * to end.

Round 11: *k1, k2tog; rep from * to end.

Round 13: *k2tog; rep from * to end.

Break roving. Using a tapestry needle, slip roving through remaining 6 sts on needles two times and pull through mitten to secure.

Thumb

Slip gusset sts from stitch holder or waste yarn onto dpns by placing 5 sts onto Needle 1, 6 sts onto Needle 2, and the remaining 3 sts onto Needle 3. Pick up 2 sts at base of thumb gap and join for working in the round.

Work St st for 3", then dec as follows:

Round 1: *k2, k2tog; rep from * to end.

Round 2: K all sts

Round 3: *K2tog; repeat until end of rnd.

Break roving and thread through remaining 8 sts twice just as for top of mitten.

Finishing

Weave in all ends. Fill a sink or basin with warm, soapy water. Agitate the mittens until the fabric begins to shrink and thicken. Place mittens onto your hands and continue to agitate until they fit as desired. Rinse & roll in a towel to remove excess water before reshaping & laying flat to dry. Once dry, sew on buttons and embroider/embellish if desired.

