

Heart Strings Mittens

Designed by Crystal Guistinello

Experience level: Advanced Beginner



Little mittens for that little one who pulls on those heart strings with just one look. Just like my Grandma always made them – with a string to keep them together, and cute little buttons to “pretty them up” a bit (and make washing tangle free). Basic unisex pattern in sock weight yarn requires familiarity with working in the round with a small diameter, increases and decreases. If you’ve made socks, this will seem easy. If you haven’t, it might be a good place to start! One size will fit most toddlers wearing approximately 2T-4T sizes (see sizing notes).

General Information

Size:

Palm is about 6" around (3" across) and overall length is about 5.5"

This pattern fit a my daughter's 2 year old hand perfectly, but if you are making them with "room to grow" you can go ahead and add a ¼" or so to both the palm and thumb sections before shaping begins. The overall size can easily be adjusted up for a bigger kid by using a little thicker yarn and adding length to each section accordingly. If sizing down for very small babies, please, for their safety, do not use string or buttons.

Materials:

About 100 yards sock weight yarn. This includes a swatch, but you can get by with about 85 if you don't need to do a new swatch.

As pictured, 22 grams Madelinetosh "Tosh Sock" in Scarlet.

Needles and Notions

One 32" size U.S. 3 (3.25 mm) needle (or double points if you prefer)

One 32" size U.S. 1 (2.25 mm) needle (or double points if you prefer)

Size D or 3 (3.25 mm) crochet hook to make string

Darning needle

Two buttons, 1/4" or slightly smaller works well

Sewing needle to sew buttons on

Gauge:

28 stitches and 38 rows equal 4" x 4" in stockinette stitch on larger needle

Abbreviations used in this pattern:

K – Knit

P – Purl

pm – Place marker

sm – Slip marker

LH – left hand (needle)

st(s) – stitch(es)

K2tog – Knit the next two stitches together

rnd(s) – Round(s)

M1L – Raised Make One – Left Slant: With LH needle, lift the strand running between the needles from front to back, then knit the lifted loop through the back.

M1R – Raised Make One – Right Slant: With LH needle tip, lift the strand running between the needles from back to front, then knit the lifted loop through the front.

I recommend www.knittinghelp.com for great video tutorials if you are unsure of any of the techniques used in this pattern. For e-mail pattern support please contact me at handmade@guistinello.com.

Pattern Instructions

Cuff:

Using U.S. 1

Cast on 44 sts.

Join to work in the round, using “magic loop”, taking care not to twist work. Place round marker.

Work in K1, P1 rib until cuff measures 1.5 inches.

Change to U.S. 3

Knit 3 rounds

Thumb gusset:

Round 1: K21, pm, M1L, k2, M1R, pm, K21 (end of round)

Round 2: K rnd

Round 3: K to m, sm, M1L, k to next m, M1R, sm, K to end of round.

Repeat Rnds 2&3 five (5) times more.

58 stitches total.

Alignment Tip: Make sure to slip markers exactly when described to keep the placement of your increases lined up correctly.

Divide palm and thumb stitches:

Next round: Dropping gusset markers as you go, K22, set aside the next 14 stitches onto scrap yarn, K22 to end of round.

Palm Section:

Continue working palm section, the 44 stitches still on your needles, until the palm measures 1.75 “ long from the point where the thumb separation was made. Shape top of palm as follows:

Round 1: *K2, K2tog, repeat from * to end. (33 sts)

Round 2: K rnd

Round3: *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to end. (22 sts)

Round 4: K rnd

Round 5: *K2tog, repeat from * to end. (11 sts)

Round 6: *K2 tog, repeat from * to last stitch, K1. (6 sts)

Break yarn leaving a 12” tail and thread it onto a darning needle, then run the darning needle through the remaining stitches and snugly pull the top closed. Secure and darn in the tail.

Thumb Section:

With the U.S. 3 needle, pick up the 14 thumb sts. from the scrap yarn, mark round and join new yarn to work the thumb. Work these 14 sts. in the round until thumb measures 0.75 " long from the point where the thumb separation was made. Shape tip of thumb as follows:

Round 1: *K2tog K2, repeat from * to last 2 sts., K2tog. (10 sts)

Round 2: *K2tog, repeat from * to end (5 sts)

Break yarn leaving a 12" tail and thread it onto a darning needle, then run the darning needle through the remaining stitches and snugly pull the top closed. Secure and darn in the tail.

Finishing:

Create a mitten keeper string:

Chain 6, slip stitch to first chain, Chain for about 25-30 inches (pulled out straight, but not tight), then Chain 6, slip stitch to chain 6th from the hook. Tie yarn ends up at base of chain loops and darn and trim ends.

Darn any remaining yarn ends. Block the mittens and the string.

Sew buttons to the outside top corner of each mitten and slip chain loops over the buttons to secure keeper string to the mittens.

Washing Tip: If you've used a machine washable yarn, you can remove the string from buttons to keep them from tangling when you pop them in the washing machine.



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