

Classmark Mittens

by Katie Birkwood

The design of these fingerless mittens was inspired by the bookshelves in the library in which I work. It's utterly unfair to pigeonhole libraries as just being about books: librarians today are constantly working to get information in all its forms, not just books, to the people that need it. But that doesn't mean that historic books and manuscripts aren't still important, too.

'Classmark' is the local name for the number each book has on its spine which identifies it on the shelves. You might know that as a 'shelf number', a 'call number', a 'Dewey number', a 'shelfmark', a 'pressmark', or something different again!

PATTERN INFORMATION

SIZES

Women's small-to-medium [women's medium-to-large]

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Cuff length: 5"

Cuff circumference: 8 1/2" [9 1/2"]

Around middle of the hand: 6 1/4" [7 1/4"]

Sizing note: these are snug-fitting mittens, with up to 1" negative ease around the hand. The smaller size will fit a hand up to 7 1/2" around, the larger size up to 8 1/2".

MATERIALS

Yarn: any 4ply (fingering weight) yarn of your choice, 180 yards/165m [210 yards/190m]

Needles: whatever you prefer to use to knit flat and to knit in the round, to get the gauge indicated below. I used a set of 4 2.25mm (US 1) double pointed needles.

Stitch markers: three markers will be useful, but are not essential.

Stitch holder or waste yarn to hold stitches not in use.

Tapestry needle or darning needle to weave in ends

Buttons: 10 smallish (c. 1/2" circumference) buttons

GAUGE

7 sts and 9 rows per 1 inch in stocking stitch in the round



NOTES

ABBREVIATIONS

K: knit

P: purl

K2tog: knit two stitches together (right-leaning decrease)

SSK: slip two stitches knitwise, knit them together through the back loop OR slip one stitch knitwise, knit one, pass slipped stitch over (left-leaning decrease)

m1: make one stitch using “backwards-e” or “backwards loop” method

Rlinc: insert your right needle, from front to back, under the right leg of the stitch below the first stitch on the left needle. Transfer this stitch to your left needle and knit into the front of it. (Right-leaning lifted increase.)

Llinc: insert your left needle, from front to back, under the left leg of the stitch two rows below the stitch just knit. Knit into the back of this stitch. (Left-leaning lifted increase.)

pm: place marker

sm: slip marker

st(s): stitch(es)

rnd(s): round(s)

CONSTRUCTION

The cuff of these mittens is worked in blocks of mistake rib, alternating alignment every few rows to resemble shelves of books: large volumes at the bottom of the case and smaller books at the top

In the instructions below, rows marked **right** are to be knit only for the right-hand mitten, and rows marked **left** are to be knit only for the left-hand mitten. Rows marked neither **right** nor **left** are to be knit for both mittens.

The buttonholes for the right and left mittens are placed at opposite ends of the cuff, Take care to ensure that you work them at the correct end. The hand and thumb are worked identically for right and left mittens.



PATTERN

CUFF

Cast on 53 [61] stitches loosely (for example by casting on to two needles held together) using the long-tail cast-on, or any reasonably stretchy cast-on.

Rows 1-7: Working flat, knit all stitches

8 **right** (WS): K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K1

8 **left** (WS): K1, K2tog, YO, K1, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, P1, K4

9 (RS): K4, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, K5

10: K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, P1, K4

11-20: Work rows 9 and 10 five more times

21: K3, SSK, *K2 P1 K1*, repeat from * to * to last 8 st, K2, P1, K2tog, K3. 2 st reduced, 51 [59] st remain.

22 **right**: K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 3 st, YO, SSK, K1

22 **left**: K1, K2tog, YO, K1, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 7 st, P2, K5

23: K4, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 7 st, K2, P1, K4

24: K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 7 st, P2, K5

25-30: Work rows 23 and 24 three more times

31: K3, SSK, *K1, P1, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 6 st, K1, K2tog, K3. 2 st decreased, 49 [57] st remain.

32 **right**: K4, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, K2, YO, SSK, K1

32 **left**: K1, K2tog, YO, K1, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, K5

33: K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, P1, K4

34: K4, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, K5

35-38: Work rows 33 and 34 twice more

39: K3, SSK, *P1 K3*, repeat from * to * to last 8 st, P2, K1, K2tog, K3. 2 st decreased, 47 [55] st remain.

40 **right**: K4, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 7 st, K2, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K1

40 **left**: K1, K2tog, YO, K1, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 7 st, K2, P1, K4

41: K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 7 st, P2, K5

42: K4, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 7 st, K2, P1, K4

43-46: Work rows 41 and 42 twice more

47: K3, SSK, *K3, P1*, repeat from * to * to last 6 st, K1, K2tog, K3. 2 st decreased, 45 [53] st remain.

48 **right**: K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K1

48 **left**: K1, K2tog, YO, K1, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, P1, K4

49: K4, *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, K5

50: K4, *P2, K2*, repeat from * to * to last 5 st, P1, K4

51-52: Work rows 49 and 50 once more

53: K3, SSK, *K1, P2, K1*, repeat from * to * to last 8 st, K1, P2. 1 st decreased, 5 st remain unworked on this row, 44 [52] st remain in total.

Using a spare needle, join in the round by slipping the five stitches from the end of the round and four stitches from the beginning of the round alternately onto a spare needle, beginning with one st from the end of the round. Ensure that the cuff edge with the buttonholes lies on top of the opposite cuff edge.

Work these nine st: K2tog, K7, place marker for start of round. 1 st decreased, 43 [51] st remain.

HAND

- 1-6: P 1 rnd, K 1 rnd for 6 rnds total
- 7: K17 [21], pm, m1, K1, m1, pm, K25 [29]. 2 st increased, 45 [53] st total.
- 8-10: K all st
- 11: K to marker, sm, Rlinc, K to marker, Llinc, sm, K to end of rnd. 2 st increased, 47 [55] st total.
- 12-14: K all st
Work rnds 11-14 5 [7] times more. 10 [14] more st increased, 57 [69] st total, with 15 [19] sts between markers.
K17 [21], remove marker, place 15 [19] st on waste yarn or st holder for thumb, cast on 2 (using the backwards loop method, or any method you prefer), remove marker, K25 [29]. 44 [52] st live for hand, 15 [19] st on holder for thumb.
K 6 rnds, or until piece measures 1 1/4" less than desired

HAND EDGING

- 1: *K2tog, K9 [11]*, repeat from * to * to end of rnd. 4 st decreased, 40 [48] st remain.
- 2-5: P 1 rnd, K 1 rnd for 4 rnds total
- 6: *K2, P2*, repeat from * to * to end of rnd.
- 7: *K1, P2, K1*, repeat from * to * to end of rnd.
- 8-11: Work rnds 6-7 twice more.
- 12: *P2tog, P18 [22]* twice. 2 st decreased, 38 [46] st remain.
- 13-15: K 1 rnd, P 1 rnd, K 1 rnd.
- 16: Bind off fairly loosely, in purl.

THUMB

- 1: Place the 15 [19] st on the stitch holder or waste yarn onto needles. K15 [19], pick up and knit 4 st from the hand to avoid holes. Move the last 2 st to the next needle, so that they are at the start of the rnd. 4 st increased, 19 [23] st total.
- 2-3: K all st
- 4: K1, SSK, K to last 3 st, K2tog, K1. 2 st decreased, 17 [21] st remain.
- 5-7: Work rnds 2-4 once more. 2 st decreased, 15 [19] st remain.
K all rnds until thumb measures 1/4" less than desired
P 1 rnd, K 1 rnd, bind off fairly loosely in purl.

FINISHING

Block mittens as desired.

Sew on five buttons to each mitten on the edge of the cuff.

Weave in ends.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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