

Top-down Mitaines

“Mitaine” is a French word signifying a fingerless glove, and the term was used across Europe to refer to the ladies’ fingerless fashion gloves popular in the late 1800’s.

Size: ladies’ medium. For different hand circumferences, add or subtract 5-stitch increments on the hand and 2-stitch increments on the thumb.

Gauge: 8-9 sts/inch (fingering wt; 400m/100g or thereabouts with 2mm needles)

This is a pretty generic pattern that is easily adapted for different stitches. Use a plain cast-on with a Latvian Braid and ribbing in a dark yarn for a man’s fingerless model, or get fancy with lacy-cabled inserts. Try some appliqué crochet/knit flowers!

Picot cast-on:

Start with a single slipknot on your right-hand needle.

1. Using a knit-on cast-on, cast on 4 stitches.
2. Bind off 2 stitches.
3. Transfer the remaining stitch on your right-hand needle to the left hand one.

Repeat steps 1-3 until you have the desired number of stitches on the needle.

Picot cast-off:

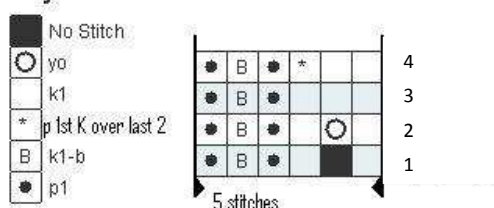
1. Using a knit-on cast-on, cast on 2 stitches.
2. Bind off 4 stitches.
3. Transfer the remaining stitch on your right-hand needle to the left hand one.

Repeat steps 1-3 until all sts bound off.

The picots give very stretchy edges, which is quite nice in a fingerless glove.

Openwork Rib:

Key



Main Body of Mitaine:

Using picot cast-on, cast on 50 stitches onto a single needle. Distribute the stitches on your DPNs or circular needle(s) so that you have a multiple of 5 stitches on each needle. Join to form a round being careful not to twist. Knit one round plain.

Start knitting in the openwork rib pattern. Complete 6 pattern repeats (more if you want the mitaines to cover more of your fingers – 6 repeats will cover up to your first knuckle or thereabouts), ending with row 4.

Thread first 2 sts (K2) onto a piece of yarn. Put aside work and make thumb.

Thumb:

Using picot cast-on, cast on 20 stitches on a single needle. Distribute onto DPNs or magic loop. Knit one round plain, then commence 1x1 twisted ribbing (K1 tbl, P1). Complete 10 rows of twisted ribbing.

Thread first 3 sts onto a piece of yarn. Break working yarn, leaving a 6-inch tail.

Join Thumb and Body:

Using working yarn from body of mitaine, start knitting the thumb sts, starting at thumb st #4 (the first one *after* the sts on the yarn holder). Continue to knit around all the thumb sts in plain knitting, using another DPN if required, until you get to the last thumb st before those on the holder. Now continue with the body of the mitaine, continuing with the open-work rib pattern as set. (Body begins and ends with a purl st.) You may wish to weave in the thumb yarn tail as you knit to secure it. The sts on the 2 pieces of yarn (one set from mitaine body and one from thumb) remain unknit.

Knit around the mitaine until you get to the thumb sts again. Now begin the thumb gusset decreases: *every other row*, SSK the first two thumb sts and K2tog the last two. On alternate rows, K all thumb sts (plain stockinette thumb gusset).

The body of the mitaine continues in the openwork rib pattern as set.

Continue decreasing until only 2 thumb gusset sts remain and you are on row 1 of the openwork pattern (you may need to knit additional rows without decreasing on the thumb until the pattern aligns).

Now you can continue with the full openwork pattern all 'round the mitaine, including the 2 sts from the thumb.

Continue in pattern until the desired length is reached.

Cast off with a picot cast-off.

Graft, weave, or sew the sts on the two pieces of yarn together.

Make a second mitaine.