

FINGERLESS WHATEVERS

A knitting pattern

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Knit the entire pattern for a pair of gauntlet style fingerless mittens (muffatees), with a nice, snug (but not tight) wrist. I find these useful for wearing indoors in the winter, especially when typing; or for layering on top of leather gloves on very cold days.

Knit the entire length to make the full muffatee, stop just before the hand shaping for a pair of long cuffs, or stop after three inches if a short pulse warmer or wristlet is desired - whatever you want to do. Hence the name.

This would be a good project to use up odds and ends of several self-stripers, pairing them with one solid color common to them all.

Materials

- Five double pointed US #1 (2.5mm) needles. May be knit using the two-circ method, by considering each two-needle unit described below equal to one circ.
- Approximately 200 yards of sock weight (4 ply) yarn. Roughly one 50 gram skein. As knit, this pair used half a skein each of Lorna's Laces Shepherd Sock, and half a skein of Dale Baby Ull.

- Small stitch holder, large safety pin, or bit of string to hold thumb stitches.
- Tapestry needle for weaving in the ends

Gauge

Approximately 9 stitches = 1 inch in stockinette. Use needle needed to achieve this gauge.

Twisted Cable Ribbing

To avoid looseness, I work the crossing as a twist stitch rather than as a true cable by knitting two together, but NOT slipping the result from the left hand needle, then re-inserting the needle tip into the end-most of the two just knit together. That stitch is knit, then the entire two-stitch unit is slipped onto the right needle. I picked up this trick from the stitch glossary in Walker III.

- **Round 1:** (K2, p2), repeat
- **Round 2:** (K2, p2), repeat
- **Round 3:** (Right twist using this method: [K2tog, leaving unit on left hand needle. Re-insert right hand needle tip into stitch closest to end of left

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hand needle. Knit this stitch. Slip entire now-twisted two-stitch unit to right hand needle], p2), repeat

- **Round 4 and 5:** Repeat Rounds 1 and 2

Wristlet/Pulse Warmer or Wrist Portion of Whatever

Cast on 64 stitches and knit one round. I'd strongly suggest a stretchy sock-top cast on like the half hitch cast-on to make sure that you can get your hand into the finished Whatever.

After casting on you should have 4 dpns, each with 16 stitches (or two circs with 32 if using that method.)

Work twisted stitch ribbing for 9 repeats (45 rounds). I alternated my two color yarns, switching colors after Row 5 and stranding up rather than breaking the yarn at every stripe. Note that you can end off right here and have a perfectly nifty pair of pulse warmers, instead of continuing on to make the thumb hole and palm part of these mitts.

Left Thumb Gusset and Palm (Mitt #1 only):

Knit 9 rounds in stockinette.

- **10th Round:** Knit all the stitches from Needle #1. Knit 12 stitches from Needle #2. Place a marker. M1, K2, M1, place another marker. Knit remaining 2 stitches on Needle #2. Knit all stitches on Needles #3 and 4.
- **11th Round:** Knit all stitches
- **12th Round:** Knit to marker. Transfer marker to right hand needle. M1, Knit to marker, M1. Transfer marker to right hand needle. K2. Knit all remaining stitches on Needles #3 and 4.
- **13th Round:** Knit all stitches.

Repeat rounds 12 and 13 until there are 24 stitches between the two markers.

Knit 2 tog at the beginning of Needle #1. Knit remaining stitches on Needle #1. You should have 15 stitches on Needle #1. Knit to marker. Slip the 24 thumb stitches onto a stitch holder or piece of string. Stranding very tightly to avoid gapping, knit the remaining two stitches of Needle #2 together. You should have 14 stitches on Needle #2. K2tog, knit remaining stitches on Needle #3. You should have 15 stitches on Needle #3. Knit all stitches on Needle #4. There will now be 60 stitches total.

Knit 10 rows. On 11th row begin working rounds 1-5 of Twisted Cable Ribbing (I chose to switch back to my solid color for this). You will find this easier to work if you slip the first stitch of Needle #2 to Needle #1 and the last stitch of Needle #2 to Needle #3 just prior to commencing this round. Bind off in pattern.

Right Thumb Gusset and Palm (Mitt #2 only):

In theory you could just make two lefts, since there are no fingers in this piece to skew the fit one way or the other. But I think it's more satisfying (and marginally better fitting) to do a mirror image. Plus it's

good practice for anyone planning on graduating from fingerless whatever to real gloves.

Knit 9 rounds in stockinette.

- **10th Round:** Knit 2. Place a marker. M1, K2, M1, place another marker. Knit remaining 12 stitches on Needle #1. Knit all stitches on Needles #2, 3 and 4.
- **12th Round:**? Knit all stitches
- **13th Round:**? Knit to marker. Transfer marker to right hand needle. M1, Knit to marker, M1. Transfer marker to right hand needle. K2. Knit all remaining stitches on Needles #2, 3 and 4.
- **14th Round:** Knit all stitches.

Repeat rounds 13 and 14 until there are 24 stitches between the two markers.

Knit 2 tog at the beginning of Needle #1. Slip the 24 thumb stitches onto a stitch holder or piece of string. Stranding very tightly to avoid gapping, knit the remaining 12 stitches of Needle #1. You should have 14 stitches on Needle #1. Knit 14 stitches on Needle #2, K2tog, knit You should have 15 stitches on Needle #2. Knit all stitches on Needle #3, and 4. There will now be 60 stitches total.

Knit 12 rows. On 13th row begin working rounds 1-5 of Twisted Cable Ribbing (I chose to switch back to my solid color for this). You will find this easier to work if you slip the last stitch of Needle #1 to Needle #2 just prior to commencing this round. Bind off in pattern.

Thumb:

Evenly divide the 24 stitches of the thumb onto three DPNs. With a fourth work the following rounds of Twisted Cable Ribbing:

- Round 1
- Round 3
- Round 5

I chose to work these in my solid color. Bind off in pattern. Darn in all ends, taking care to snick up the hole that has formed at the base of the thumb where the ribbing began.