

DOUBLE STRAND MITTENS



Two stranded knitting is a Scandinavian tradition. The strands are alternated every stitch, creating a double layer of warmth as the alternate strand is passed behind each stitch on the inside of the mitten. Try it in contrasting colors or with two different textures of yarn.

MATERIALS

1. Worsted weight. 12-14 wraps per inch. (140-210 yds)
2. #5 or #6 double pointed needles
3. 2 ring markers
4. 1 stitch holder
5. ruler
6. darning (or other large) needle or crochet hook to weave in ends

If you are knitting these for someone other than yourself, get a tracing of their hand and you can estimate better. The smaller size given is for an average woman's hand (140 yds yarn), the larger for a large man (210 yds yarn). Size can be changed by adjusting width +/- 4 sts or changing needle size.

CUFF

Cast on (44, 52) sts. Join. Work in the round in *k2,p2* ribbing for 3" (20 rows). For tighter cuff use a size smaller needle.

Increase 1 stitch, join second strand, knit around, alternating strands every stitch, for (4, 6) rows. (45, 53 sts)

THUMB GUSSET

Round 1: k 2, place marker, k into back and front of next stitch, k2, k into back and front of next stitch, place marker, k around. (47, 55 sts)

Round 2: k around

Repeat round 1 and 2, increasing at each marker on round 1, until there are (16, 18) sts between the markers. (57, 67 sts)

Knit across the (16, 18) sts of the thumb gusset and then slip them onto the holder.

HAND

Knit around mitten back to where you put the gusset sts on holders, cast on 4 stitches and continue around (45, 53 sts), k until the mitten clears your pinky finger or is 1 ½ inches from desired end.

TOP DECREASE

Round 1: *k 3, k 2 together* repeat around, k last (0, 3 sts): (36, 43 sts)

Round 2, 3, 4: k

Round 5: *k 2, k2 tog* repeat around, k last (0, 3) st: (25, 33 sts)

Round 6, 7: k

Round 8: *k 2, k2 tog* repeat around, k last (1, 1) st: (19, 25 sts)

Round 9: k

Round 10: *k 1, k2 tog* repeat around, k last (1, 1) st: (13, 17 sts)

Round 11: k

Round 12: *k2 tog* repeat around, k last (1, 1) st: (7, 9 sts)

Cut yarn leaving 6 inch tail. With darning needle run yarn through remaining stitches, pull tight, weave in end on inside of mitten.

THUMB

Pick up all sts on thumb holders, pick up 4 cast on stitches plus one more. (21, 23 sts) Join in second strand, knit around, alternating strands every stitch, until work reaches tip of thumb.

Decrease: Round 1: R*k1, k2tog* repeat around (14, 16 sts.)

Round 2: k around

Round 3: k2tog around (7, 8 sts)

Close as for top of mitten

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YOUR UNIQUE FIBER

Each animal and plant produces fiber with unique qualities.

THE BLUEFACED LEICESTER is of the English Longwool type and originated near Hexham in the county of Northumberland, England during the early 1900's. These sheep originated from Border Leicester individuals selected for the blue face (white hairs on black skin) and finer fleeces. They are found primarily in Northern England, Scotland and Wales, and more recently are being established in the United States. The wool is known for its luster and fineness. These wool qualities are passed on to the crossbred offspring.

ROMNEY WOOL traces its beginning to the marshy area of Kent in England. Its origin lies with the old, established dual purpose Romney Marsh breed that was improved with Leicester blood in the nineteenth century. Often swept with harsh winds and heavy rainfall, the Kent landscape is abundant with lush forage.

THESE TWO UNIQUE BREEDS have the finest fiber diameter of all the longwool sheep; Romney typically runs from 38 to 31 microns and Blue Faced Leicester can be as fine as 25 microns. Longwool fiber has a very smooth surface and is not as prone to felting as other wools, making it ideal for mittens and socks.

The long, lustrous fleece, hanging in separate locks, makes a white or natural colored fleece especially attractive to those who practice the ancient art of handspinning. The black, gray, silver and brown colors of the natural colored Romneys and Leicesters are frequently among the most sought after fleeces at shows and sales. A handspinning-quality fleece may often sell for more than ten times what a commercial buyer would pay for it.

NATURAL AND DYED COLOR

NATURAL FIBER COLORS range from white, grays, or reddish tans to dark browns and black. Natural colors blend well with dyes and dyed fibers creating interesting heathered effects and subtle shadings.

ACID DYE is composed of biodegradable molecules commercially available in a multitude of colors that the fiber artist can mix and match. The dye is almost completely taken up by the fiber leaving little or none to be composted. Acid dyes are very colorfast.

NATURAL DYES produce beautiful mellow colors, but garments made with them must be carefully cared for because they tend to fade. In order to create a full range of colors from plant materials heavy metal (such as chrome) mordents are required. We use only biocompatible mordents (such as alum), limiting the available natural palette.



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Cedar Fen Farm

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Committed to a Sustainable Future

