

TECHNIQUES

November 1997

Volume 1 No. 6

Basic Mittens . . .

... and how to chart them in all sizes

Sizes: Child's Small (Child's Medium, Child's Large, Adult Small/Medium, Adult Medium/Large).

Machine: Any fine, standard, mid or chunky gauge machine and yarn suitable for that machine.

Gauge: Supply your own gauge for ribbing and stockinette - or whatever pattern stitch you want to use.

STS per inch
Rs per inch
Rib Rs per inch

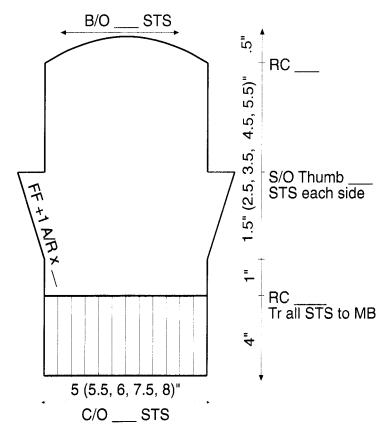
- 1. (Width x ST gauge = STS to C/O) C/O ____ STS in rib of your choice and K ____ Rs (4" x rib R gauge).
- 2. Transfer all STS to main bed and continue K stockinette for ____ Rs (1" x R gauge). RC 000.
- **3.** Thumb Gusset. You will need to increase by 1/3 the original number of STS you C/O, divided equally at each edge.

 $\frac{\text{Total STS C/O}}{3}$ = ____ STS for thumb gusset



<u>STS for thumb gusset</u> = ____ STS to increase at ea. edge 2

Shape thumb gusset with full fashioned increases at each edge as follows: Move the first ST at each side out by 1 NDL, pick up purl bar to make ST on empty NDL. K 2 Rs. Move the first 2 STS at each side out by 1 NDL, pick up purl bar.... Move the first 3 STS at each side out by 1 NDL.... Continue in this manner until all increases have been made at each side. After last increase, K 1 R. Set carriage to hold NDLS in HP. Hold thumb STS on side opposite carriage and K 1 R. Note RC ____. Hold hand STS. Remove main color from carriage and scrap off thumb STS still in working position. Then scrap off other thumb STS.



4. Return RC to RC before scrapping off thumbs. Make 1 ST at each edge by picking up the purl bar of edge ST and hanging on empty NDL. Continue knitting hand to RC ____ (length of hand x R gauge).

- **5.** Reduce top of hand by doubling all stitches and moving STS together with garter bar (or scrap knitting) on alternate rows, twice. Gather off.
- 6. Turn side edges of mitten towards each other as if to seam. Fold back waste and with wrong side facing you rehang all ____ thumb STS on machine with side edges at center and doubling center STS. Make 1 ST each outer edge. Knit thumb 1 (1, 1, 1.25, 1.5)" long (multiply length by row gauge to determine RC ____). Reduce top of thumb by doubling all stitches and moving STS together with garter bar. K 1 R then gather off.
- 7. Finishing: Secure gathered off STS. Use yarn tails to sew seams in ribbing, side of hand and thumb.
- 8. Variations are easy when you control the gauge! You can knit mittens in stockinette, stripes, mohair, "fur" textures and fairisle. If you want to try your hand at felted mittens, just knit a big enough swatch to wash and shrink before you take the measurements. You must use 100% wool; superwash wool has been treated to prevent felting so read labels carefully. To felt mittens: Simply soak the mittens in *hot* water for fifteen minutes then add them to the washing machine with other garments (for abrasion) and detergent.

