



Moray Firth Gansey Project



Fingerless Mittens

These mittens were designed on the way to Wick Harbourfest, when a cold wet day was forecast, and, appropriately, feature the pattern known as Caithness flags. It is a pattern which tends to make the fabric pull inwards, so it will give a cosy fit on small as well as large hands. The length can be adjusted as necessary above the thumb. You can also shorten the thumb gusset by either working fewer increases, for a narrower thumb, or by working the increases closer together (every second rather than every third row) for a shorter distance from the base to the break of the thumb.

Measurements (unstretched, i.e. not on a hand): length: 6.5 inches (16.5cm), thumb gusset 2.5 inches (6.5cm), circumference at base of fingers: 6.5 inches (16.5cm).

Materials: 55 gms 5ply Gansey yarn, set of 4 double pointed needles size 3.25 mm

Instructions

Charts: a pattern chart is provided for each hand. Each box represents a stitch. Start at the bottom right of the chart and work from right to left. As you are working in the round, each round starts at the right hand side.

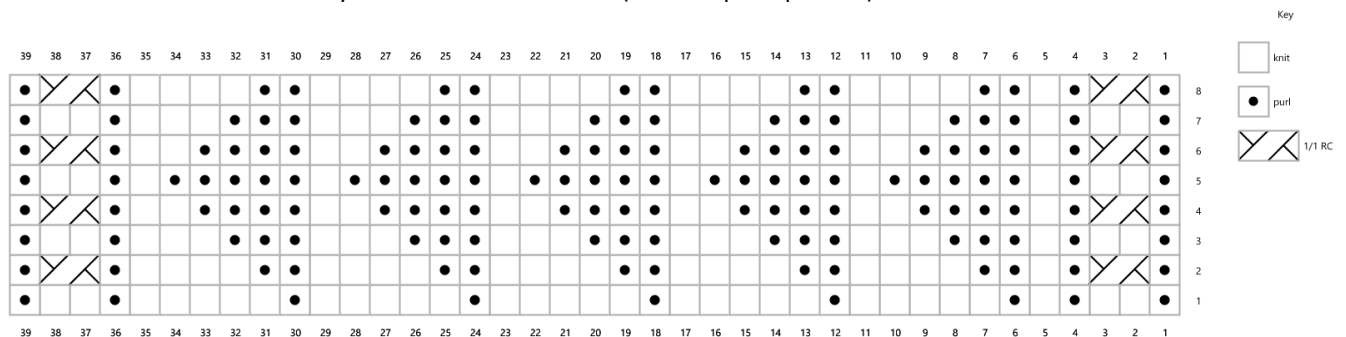
Left mitt

Cast on 56 stitches, distribute them onto three needles and, taking care not to twist them, join into a round.

Work 12 rows in K2 P2 rib

First pattern round: K17, then work row 1 of pattern from chart A (i.e. P1, K2, P1, K1, *P1, K5, repeat from *4 more times, P1, K2, P1)

Continue to follow the chart until you have worked round 8 (one complete pattern).



You will start to work the **thumb gusset** on the next round, keeping the pattern going as set (you have worked one pattern, so will be starting again at round 1 of chart A)

Round 9: K17, increase 2 by working purl, knit, purl into next stitch, pattern to end

Work two rows without shaping

			<p>LOTTERY FUNDED MAOINICHTHE LEIS A' CHRANNCHUR</p>	<p>This project is being part-financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and by the Scottish Government and The European Community Rural LEADER 2007 – 2013 Programmes.</p>	
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See note on working matching increases*

Round 12: K17, P1, increase 1, K1, increase 1, P1, pattern to end

Continue increasing every 3rd round until there are 15 stitches between the two purl stitches. Work a further two rows. You will now have completed 32 rows of pattern, (4 pattern repeats).

Put the 15 thumb stitches on a thread, and continue with the main part of the mitt.

Round 33: K17, P1, cast on 5, P1, pattern to end

Round 34: K17, P1, K5, P1, pattern to end

Round 35: K17, P1, decrease 1, K1, decrease 1, P1, pattern to end

Round 36: K17, P1, work vertical double decrease (put your right hand needle into the first two stitches on the left needle as if you were going to knit them together, and slip them onto the right hand needle, K1, pass 2 slipped stitches over), P1, pattern to end

Round 37: K17, P3 together, pattern to end

Work a further 8 rows with the pattern as set

Next round: work 17 stitches in K1, P1 rib, pattern to end

Work 3 more rows like this, then 2 rows K1 P1 rib. Cast off in rib

Thumb

Place the 15 stitches from the thread onto two needles. Pick up and knit 7 stitches from the gap, K15.

K two rounds

Work 3 rounds in K1 P1 rib

Cast off in rib

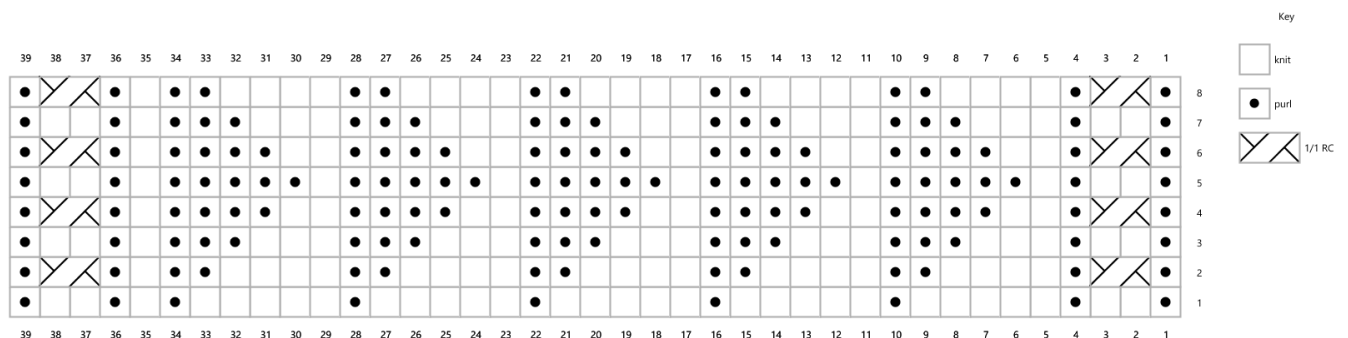
Right mitt

Cast on 56 stitches, distribute them onto three needles and, taking care not to twist them, join into a round.

Work 12 rows in K2 P2 rib

First pattern round: Work row 1 of pattern chart B, K17

Continue to follow the chart until you have worked round 8 (one complete pattern).



Round 9: Work 38 stitches in pattern, increase 2 by working purl, knit, purl into next stitch, K17

Work two rows without shaping

Round 12: Work 38 stitches in pattern, P1, increase 1 (see note on working matching increases and decreases), K1, increase 1, P1, K17

Continue increasing every 3rd round until there are 15 stitches between the two purl stitches. Work a further two rows. You will now have completed 32 rows of pattern, (4 pattern repeats).

Put the 15 thumb stitches on a thread, and continue with the main part of the mitt.

Round 33: Pattern 38, P1, cast on 5, P1, K17

Round 34: Pattern 38, P1, K5, P1, K17

Round 35: Pattern 38, P1, decrease 1, K1, decrease 1, K17

Round 36: Pattern 38, P1, work vertical double decrease, P1, K17

Round 37: Pattern 38, P3 together, K17

Work a further 8 rows with the pattern as set

Next round: Pattern 39, work 17 stitches in K1, P1 rib

Work 3 more rows like this, then 2 rows K1 P1 rib. Cast off in rib

Work thumb as for left mitt.

Fasten off ends.

***Working matching increases:** When working the gusset you can get a neater finish if you work your increases so that the stitches slope outwards on both sides and your decreases so that they slope inwards on both sides.

To get the **increases on the right side** of the gusset to **slope to the right**: pick up the horizontal bar between the purl seam stitch and the first gusset stitch by inserting the tip of your left hand needle from back to front, and knit into the front of it.

To get the **increases on the left side** of the gusset to **slope to the left** pick up the horizontal bar between the last gusset stitch and the purl seam stitch from front to back and knit into the back of it.

Working matching decreases:

[You will not need to do this for the mittens, but you will for an underarm gusset on a gansey.]

To get the **decreases on the right** of the gusset to **slope to the left**, slip first two gusset stitches onto the right hand needle individually knitwise, then knit them together (SSK). NB: "slip 1, knit 1, pass slip stitch over" gives a very similar result.

On the **left side** of the gusset knit 2 together in the usual way, and the stitch will **slope to the right**.



The charts for the mittens were created using Knitting Chart Editor from www.stitchmastery.com