

Camera Mittens



This pattern is a knit-to-fit, top-down formula, and is therefore designed to be adaptable for any hand size, in any gauge of yarn. Since its purpose is to allow brief finger use without sacrificing warmth and snow resistance, I would suggest worsted to bulky weight wool as being most practical. I would also suggest knitting at a tighter gauge than called for by the ball band, to enhance longevity and resistance to the elements.

The pictured version was knit for my size 6 ½ woman's hands (which it fits reasonably generously,) and took the better part of two skeins of Noro Kureyon (aran weight wool), knit at 5 stitches to the inch on 4 mm (US 6) dpns.

Preparation: Knit a stockinette swatch for gauge. Measure the circumference of the palm at its widest point, add ½ inch to an inch for ease (depending on how roomy you like your mitts) and multiply by your stitches per inch. Round this to the nearest multiple of 4 to obtain your key number.

Casting on: There are several options for casting on - I would recommend either the [Magic Cast-On](#) (found in the Spring 06 issue of Knitty) or the following : Cast on ¼ of your key number of stitches. With a second needle, pick up an equal number of stitches in the back loops of your cast on edge. Whichever method you choose, the total number of starting stitches should equal ½ the key number. Divide onto 3 or 4 dpns as desired, keeping the palm and back distinct (the pattern is written for dpns, but you may also use 2 circulars, or one for Magic Loop, placing markers to keep track of palm and back.)

Body:

Round 1: knit even

Round 2: *k1, m1, knit all but the last stitch of the palm side, m1,k1; repeat from* across the back.

Repeat round 2 until you have 8 stitches less than the key number.

Knit 1 round even, repeat round 2, knit 1 round even, repeat round 2. You should now have arrived at your key number of stitches.

Knit a few rounds even and check the fit. If you're happy, continue knitting until you reach the base of the index finger.

****Note:** if you want to use this top down formula for ordinary mittens, simply skip the finger slit and continue to the thumb division.**

Finger slit: Knit to the edge of the index finger (don't forget the two mitts will be mirror images), place a marker. With a new end of yarn, knit just enough stitches to accommodate the base of the finger, turn and purl back to the marker. (I like to position the slits a stitch or two in from the edge of the mitten.) Continue knitting the flap in stockinette, binding off after ½ inch or so. Return to the body stitches, cast on an equal number of replacement stitches across the flap, and continue knitting in the round. After a few rounds, check to ensure you are happy with the size of the finger slit. Continue knitting to the base of the thumb.

Thumb: The thumb is knit separately from the top down, and grafted to the body of the mitten.

Cast on 3 stitches, and divide among 3 dpns to knit in the round.

Rnd 1: knit

Rnd 2: knit into the front and back of each stitch

Rnd 3: *k1, knit into the front and back of the next stitch; repeat from*

Rnd 4:*k1, m1, knit to end of needle; repeat from*

Repeat round 4 until thumb reaches the desired circumference (remembering that it is considerably wider at the base than the tip), preferably an even number of stitches (if necessary, you may fudge by adding or omitting an increase on the last round). Number of stitches on the needles = **T**

Knit even to the base of the first knuckle.

Joining thumb to body:

Left hand: Knit across the back of the mitten to the beginning of the palm side. (Right hand: knit across the palm of the mitten until there are ½ **T** stitches left.)



With a separate length of yarn, graft ½ the stitches on the thumb to the same number of stitches on the palm.

Pick up the yarn from the mitten body and knit across the remaining thumb stitches, continuing onto the body of the mitten. To avoid holes at either end, try picking up an adjacent knit loop from the body and knitting it together with the first (or last) of the

thumb stitches. (If you still wind up with a gap, you can always correct that when weaving in the ends from grafting.)

Knit even to the base of the hand.

Switch to ribbing (k2,p2 makes a nice snug wrist band), and knit as long as desired. Bind off loosely.

Turn the mitten to the wrong side and tack down the sides of the finger flap to create a short tunnel for the index finger.



Weave in all ends.