

Powder Monkey Mittens

- Gauge** 6 sts x 8 rows per inch
- Sizes** Kids 4-7, Kids 8-12, Adult S, Adult L
- Needles** Size 4 (3.5mm) DPN and Size 6 (4mm) DPN
- Yarn** Worsted weight wool, two colors
20-25g each color for kids sizes
40-50g each color for adult sizes

Specialized Techniques

Jogless Join

When changing colors you generally get a little zig or notch at the start/end of each color. To fix this, join the new color and knit one whole round. Before you make the first stitch on the second round of your new color, pick up the old color stitch from the row below and place it on your left needle. Then knit through both the old color stitch and the new color stitch at the same time. This is similar to a k2tog but one of the stitches is the old color lifted from the stitch below.

No-Bump Color Change in Ribbing

When knitting the ribbed cuff section to prevent the little purl bumps from showing, knit all the stitches on the first row after each color change. This doesn't negatively impact the look of the ribbing. Even when the ribbing is stretched around a wrist, the edges of your stripes are still sharp.

Not-Quite-Afterthought Thumb

Knit a number of stitches on waste yarn, slip them back onto the left needle and knit them again with the working yarn. Later you'll go back and pick out the waste yarn while picking up those now live stitches, two stitches in each corner to knit the thumb.

Knitting

The whole mitten is knit in alternating 4(5,6,6)round stripes of color. Since you're only going up four rows you can just float the yarn straight up rather than weaving in about a billion ends.

Ribbed Cuff

Cast on 24(30,36,42)sts using size 4 needles.

Arrange stitches on 3 either 6(6,9,9) sts 12(18,18,24) sts 6(6,9,9) sts.

Begin knitting cuff in k2p1 rib. If desired, use no-bump color change to change colors in the ribbing section. Otherwise, rib normally.

Knit 4(5,6,6) rows in ribbing using the main color (MC).

Knit 4(5,6,6) rows in ribbing using the contrast color (CC).

Knit 4(5,6,6) rows in ribbing using the main color.

Knit 4(5,6,6) rows in ribbing using the contrast color.

Body

Change to the larger needles and the MC yarn. Knit one row even.

In the next row, increase evenly to 32(40,48,56)sts (k3, m1) (distribute on your needles as 8(10,12,14) 16(20,24,28) 8(10,12,14))

Knit 2(3,4,4) more rows even. You will now have 4(5,6,6) rows of your MC.

Switch to CC and knit 4(5,6,6) rows.

Switch to MC and knit 4(5,6,6) rows. (you will now have 3 stripes beyond your ribbing).

Switch to waste yarn and knit 5(5,7,8) stitches.

Switch to CC and knit the first 5(5,7,8) stitches again, and continue to finish the round.

Knit 3(4,5,5) more rows CC.

Knit 4(4,3,4) more stripes alternating MC and CC.

Top

Decrease for mitten top maintaining stripe pattern of 4,5,6,6 rows of each color.

Round 1	k6 k2tog 28 (35,42,49)sts
Round 2	Knit around
Round 3	k5 k2tog 24(30,36,42)sts
Round 4	Knit around
Round 5	k4 k2tog 20(25,30,35)sts
Round 6	Knit around
Round 7	k3 k2tog 16(20,24,28)sts
Round 8	Knit around
Round 9	k2 k2tog 12(15,18,21)sts
Round 10	Knit around
Round 11	k1 k2 tog 8(10,12,14)sts
Round 12	Knit around

Break off the yarn, leaving a 12" tail. With yarn needle, thread the tail through remaining 8(10,12,14) sts twice and tighten it down carefully. Bring the working end inside and weave ends to secure mitten top.

Not-quite-afterthought thumb

So, you're up to the only almost tricky part of the mittens. For purposes of direction above and below assume the mitten is cuff down and fingers up. You can of course hold it anyway you'd like. I flip mine around all over the place in this process. Take one of your smaller ribbing needles and slip it through the CC stitches below the waste yarn. You should end up picking up 5(5,7,9) sts. Take another smaller ribbing needles and pick up the MC stitches from above the waste yarn. You will end up with 11(11,15,17) stitches on your needle. Techknitting describes it here:

<http://techknitting.blogspot.com/2007/01/knitted-fabric-knitting-up-vs-knitting.html>

Carefully remove the waste yarn. I like to pick out the end stitches, just to make sure I didn't miss picking up a stitch. You can cut the middle stitches and pick out all the little bits if you think that's faster.

Arrange your stitches on 3 needles picking and twist onto your needles up a couple out of the loose loops in the corners. I usually end up with somewhere around 3-4 more stitches than were on the waste yarn. Too many more and your thumb is too big, too few and you end up with a hole in the corner.

Join CC. (or whichever color the stripe above the thumb is) I personally do this by dropping the tail down through the mitten and out the cuff and then cleating it around a spare needle run through the cuff. This lets me get pretty OK tension on the first stitch and is easy to undo when we get to weaving the ends.

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Knit 16 (18,20,22) rounds in stripe pattern.
Cut off CC with tail long enough to weave and drop/stuff it in the thumb).
Knit 1 row in MC.
In MC, k2tog all the way around the thumb.
Knit 1 row in MC.
In MC, k2tog all the way around the thumb.
Knit 1 row in MC.
Cut off a longish tail, about a foot or so.

Thread the the tail on a yarn needle through the remaining stitches twice and pull tight (tighten the inside first loop first then the second, don't ask me how many times it took me to learn that one). Feed the yarn back inside the thumb. Undo cleated ends (if you bothered).

Finishing

Turn the mitten wrong side out and weave all your ends.

Repeat the whole process again for your second mitten. You do NOT have to reverse the thumb direction because the top of the mitten is round so the mittens are reversible.

To put your seams on the underside of both mittens, knit the thumb on the last needle instead of the first. (so it might be more important if you didn't do the jogless join) The floats felt into palms after a little wear.