



Chrysanthemum Mittens

A free knitting pattern by



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Sized to fit an average adult female hand; palm circumference = approximately 8 1/2 “

Yarn: Way back in 2008, the samples you see above were knit using three different-colored 50g, 109 yds / 100m balls of Dale “Hauk” (black + off-white + red sample) and Dale “Heilo” (teal + off-white + green sample), two sport weight 100% Norwegian wool yarns which are no longer made. To make sturdy, warm, windproof mittens, we want to use a yarn with a ball band gauge that’s somewhat heavier (*fewer stitches per inch*) than the pattern gauge. By using smaller needles than the ball band suggests, we compress the fabric a bit, bringing it down to the pattern gauge. Given the pattern’s gauge of 28 stitches per 4” / 10cm, this means wool yarns with ball band gauges of 22 to 24 stitches per 4” / 10cm would be ideal substitutes.

While both sample pairs were knit with three 50g balls (one ball in each color), in both cases, I came perilously close to running out of the off-white. I only had a foot or two left over! There’s always a bit of yardage variation in every yarn line of every yarn company and I don’t want you to be on the wrong side of that variation. So, unless you’re planning on making extra small mittens by knitting your Chrysanthemum Mittens tighter than the pattern suggests, I recommend you get **more** than 50g / 100m of color “B” (off-white in samples).

Needles:

US size 2(3.0mm) for the cuffs and US size 4(3.5mm) for the main portion.

USE WHATEVER SIZE YOU NEED TO OBTAIN THE GAUGE, BELOW!

Gauge: 28 stitches and 28 rows = 4”/10cm in stockinette stitch with colorwork on larger needles.

Abbreviations:

A, B & C = yarn colors; EOR=end of round; K = knit; K2tog = knit 2 stitches together; P = purl; rd(s) = round(s); rem = remaining; rep = repeat; SSK = “slip, slip, knit” i.e., slip 2 sts individually knitwise, then K those 2 sts together; st(s) = stitch(es)

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INSTRUCTIONS

Using smaller needle(s) and A, cast on 60 sts, preferably using a cable cast on, although a long tail cast on will work fine, too. Place marker. Join and work circularly. *K 1 in A, K 1 in B, rep from * to end of rd.

Braid on right mitten: *P 1 in A, P 1 in B, continually crossing yarn for current st OVER yarn for previous st, rep from * to end of rd. *P 1 in A, P 1 in B, continually crossing yarn for current st UNDER yarn for previous st, rep from * to end of rd. **Braid on left mitten:** *P 1 in A, P 1 in B, continually crossing yarn for current st UNDER yarn for previous st, rep from * to end of rd. *P 1 in A, P 1 in B, continually crossing yarn for current st OVER yarn for previous st, rep from * to end of rd. Continuing for either mitten: K 1 rd in B.

Checkerboard trim:

Round #1: Break off A, join C, *K 2 in C, K 2 in B, rep from * to EOR. Round #2: *P 2 in C, P 2 in B, rep from * to EOR. Round #3: *K 2 in B, K 2 in C, rep from * to EOR. Round #4: *P 2 in B, P 2 in C, rep from * to EOR. Repeat rounds 1-4 two more times. Repeat rounds 1&2 one more time.

Change to larger needles.**Main body of mitten:**

K 1 rd in B. K 1 rd in A. Work Main Chart, starting at lower right corner, always reading from right to left and knitting circularly. Each square equals 1 st to be knit in color shown, unless otherwise indicated (see chart legend.) Read "Thumb details" section BEFORE working thumb indicators on chart.

Thumb details: Once you've knit up to your desired thumb placement indicator on the Main Chart, break off an approximately 18" long piece of scrap yarn, K next 11 sts with scrap yarn, slide 11 scrap sts back to left needle, K same 11 scrap sts with colors indicated in Main Chart.



For more knitting designs by Mary Ann Stephens, click on her logo, below:



Complete Main Chart. Break off yarns, pull ends through remaining sts, tighten, pull ends inside and weave ends in place. Weave in any other loose ends except for scrap yarn used for holding thumb sts. With scrap yarn still in place, using 1 dpn, pick up 11 thumb sts immediately above scrap sts by inserting tip of dpn under right side of "v" formed by each st. Using another dpn, pick up 11 thumb sts immediately below scrap sts in same manner. Carefully remove scrap yarn. Working circularly, starting at lower right of Thumb Chart, using colors indicated in Thumb Chart, pick up 1st st in Thumb Chart from right side of thumb opening (option: twist base of side st before picking up to lessen any gap at thumb base); pick up next 11 sts in Thumb Chart from lower dpn; pick up 1 st at left side of thumb (same option applies); pick up remaining 11 sts in Thumb Chart from upper dpn. (Thumb sts can be distributed around as many dpns as you like.) Continue with remaining rows of Thumb Charts, always working circularly and following Thumb Chart indicators for shaping thumb top. Break off loose ends, pull ends through remaining 8 sts, pull ends to inside and weave in place. Make 2nd mitten in same manner except be certain to work the 11 scrap sts and the thumb on the OTHER side!! (Yes, that is said from experience!) Wash finished mittens and block, if necessary.

