

Thrummed Mittens

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Thrummed mittens may be the warmest mittens on earth. The thrums make a soft fluffy lining on the inside that helps the mittens form to your hands and give you that extra bit of protection in especially cold climates.

For some great directions on how to knit thrums, I particularly like Yarn Harlot's page: <http://www.yarnharlot.ca/blog/thrumfaq.html>

Difficulty: Easy

Sizing Information: One Size

Yarn: Patons Classic Wool (100g, 223 yards)

Amount Needed: 1 skein (and approximately 50g of fibre for the thrums)

Needles: 3.75mm, 5US

Gauge: 7 sts per inch

Notions: Yarn needle, scissors

Notes: I knit the original pair of these in a handspun dk weight shown in the pictures. I later knit them again with Patons classic wool (not pictured). The pattern was written up for the Patons yarn as you can buy it. The thumb worked on these mittens is the "Afterthought Thumb", from Elizabeth Zimmerman's Knitters Almanac. You can substitute this out fairly easily by using the waste yarn method or any other method you prefer.



Directions: Cast on 36 sts evenly over three needles. Join and work in k2, p2 ribbing for 20 rounds.

Increase rnd: *k2, m1, rep from * (54 sts).

Knit 5 rounds.

Thrum Pattern:

Round 1: *k5 sts, thrum 1, rep from *

Round 2-6: knit

Round 7: k2, *thrum 1, k5, rep from *

Round 8-12: knit

Continue in the pattern as established until mitten is height desired, ending with a thrum row.

Mitten top shaping:

First shaping round: *k3, k2tog, rep from *

Next round: *k2, k2tog, rep from *

Next round: *k1, k2tog, rep from *

Last shaping round: *k2tog, rep from *

Cut yarn and thread through remaining sts.

Thumb:

Find height of desired thumb placement. Pick up 11 sts on the bottom and on the top in between thrums as shown.

	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
T						T						T
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

- = plain stitch
T = thrummed stitch
X = picked up stitch

Cut yarn on thrum row and unravel yarn to free the sts. Remove the thrum stuffing on the stitches bordering the cut sts, but be careful to leave the stitches that the fibre was covering intact (you only want to remove the bulk of the thrum). Join yarn, k across 11 sts on bottom, p/u and k one st to close the gap, k across 11 top sts, p/u and k one st to close the gap, join round. Sts should be placed evenly over needles, with the far right st that was p/u on bottom as first st of rnd.

Next round (first thumb round): *k5, thrum 1, rep from *

Knit next five rounds.

Continue working thumb by knitting thrum and plain rows as above until thumb is height desired, ending with a thrum row.

For top of thumb shaping:

First decrease round: *k2, k2tog, rep from *

Second decrease round: *k1, k2tog, rep from *

Last decrease round: *k2tog, rep from *

Cut yarn and thread through remaining sts. Work second mitten as for 1st.

Insert hands! Then smile.

Abbreviations and Techniques Used:

* – signals a repeat start or stop

k – knit, if followed by a number knit that many stitches

k2tog – knit two stitches together

p – purl, if followed by a number purl that many stitches

P/U – pick up

rep – repeat

rnd - round

sts - stitches