

LOBSTER CLAW BICYCLING MITTENS

These were inspired by my mister who is an avid cyclist and proudly rocks his pair of what we refer to as lobster claw mittens. They are perfect for bicycling – you can grab the brake with your index/middle fingers while keeping the rest of your hand safely on the handle.



Materials:

Needles: 7US (4.5mm) dpn
Yarn: less than one skein of Malabrigo worsted weight merino (216 yards/3.5oz).
Gauge: 16 sts and 24 rows = 4" (10cm) in stockinette

All hands are different, so modify to your little heart's content (add/remove rows or stitches as necessary). I have smaller hands, so you may need to add more rows for mitten that fit you.

Right Mitten

Cuff:

CO 33 stitches.

Transfer last stitch onto the first needle, the first and last stitch together to join in the round. Pm to mark the beginning of the round. I normally leave extra yarn when casting on and knit it into the second round so that I don't have to worry about the ends.

Work in 2x2 rib until it measures 2 ¼ " (about 15 rows), or desired cuff length.

Increase Round: *k1fb, k7, repeat from * (36 stitches)

Knit 3 rounds.

Increase Round: *k1fb, k8, repeat from * (40 stitches)

Knit 3 rounds

Right Thumb Gusset:

Round 1: K18, pm, k3, k1fb, pm, k to end of round

Round 2: knit

Round 3: work to stitch before the second gusset marker, k1fb, knit to end of round

Round 4: knit

Repeat last two rounds 3 more times, until there are 9 stitches between the gusset markers.

Next Round: work to first gusset market, transfer 9 stitches to stitch holder/waste yarn and removing the gusset markers. Use the backward loop method to CO 4 stitches over the gap, knit to end of round.

Body of Mitten:

Work even in stockinette stitch until the body of the mitten is about three rounds past the separation point between your middle and ring finger. The idea is that you want to the lobster fingers to start past where your fingers separate. For me this was approximately 1 ¾" (12 rounds).



Setting up for Lobster Fingers:

Next round, knit to the last 9 stitches. Transfer these 9 stitches and the first 9 stitches on needle one onto stitch holder/waste yarn. The stitches on the stitch holder/waste yarn will be the ring/pinkie finger lobster claw.

Index/Middle Finger Lobster Claw:

Use the backward loop method to CO 2 stitches over the gap, rejoin in the round dividing up stitches on the double pointeds (24 stitches). Pm between the two CO stitches

Work in stockinette stitch until the body of the lobster claw reaches about ½" below the top of your middle finger. For me, this was approximately 2 ½ " (16 rounds). On the last round, knit until in you reach the marker. The first stitch CO will be the start of the decrease round.

Decrease Round 1: k1, ssk, k6, k2tog, k2, ssk, k6, k2tog, k1 (20 stitches)

Decrease Round 2: k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k2, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1 (16 stitches)

Decrease Round 3: k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k2, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1 (12 stitches)

Decrease Round 4: k1, ssk, k2tog, k2, ssk, k2tog, k1 (8 stitches)

Divide stitches evenly onto 2 double pointed needles. Break yarn, leaving a long enough tail to graft top using Kitchener Stitch.

Ring/Pinkie Finger Lobster Claw:

Transfer the 18 stitches back into two needles (9 per needle). Begin knitting. Using another needle, pick up stitches across the join between the two lobster claws. Finish knitting the round, pm at the end of the round. I normally pick up extra stitches and then k2tog some of these picked up stitches in the second round in order to close up any gaps that might occur. At the end of the second round, you should have 20 stitches.

I chose to have my ring/pinkie lobster claw reflect the differences in finger lengths. If you want them to be the same, then knit until the same length as the index/middle finger lobster claw. Work in stockinette stitch until the ring/pinkie finger lobster claw reaches about ½" below the top of your middle finger. For me, this was approximately 2 ¼ " (14 rounds). On the last round, knit until in you reach the marker.

Decrease Round 1: k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k2, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1 (16 stitches)

Decrease Round 2: k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k2, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1 (12 stitches)

Decrease Round 3: k1, ssk, k2tog, k2, ssk, k2tog, k1 (8 stitches)

Divide stitches evenly onto 2 double pointed needles. Break yarn, leaving a long enough tail to graft top using Kitchener Stitch.

Thumb:

Transfer 9 stitches to needles. Rejoin yarn at gap between hand and thumb gusset. Pick up and knit stitches along sides and into the base of the 4 CO stitches. I pick up extra stitches and then k2tog some of these picked up stitches in the next round in order to close up any gaps that might occur. Distribute the stitches evenly onto needles and join for working in the round. At the end of the second round, you should have 15 stitches.

Work in stockinette stitch until the thumb is almost to the tip of your thumb. For me, this was approximately 2" (16 rounds).

Decrease Round 1: *k1, k2tog, repeat from * (10 stitches remaining)

Decrease Round 2: *k2tog, repeat from * (5 stitches remaining)

Break yarn, leaving 8" tail. Draw yarn through the 5 remaining stitches and pull tight.

Left Mitten

Work cuff, body, and both lobster claws/thumb as for right mitten.

Left Thumb Gusset:

Round 1: K18, pm, k1fb, k3, pm, k to end of round

Round 2: knit

Round 3: work to the first gusset marker, k1fb, knit to end of round

Round 4: knit

Repeat last two rounds 3 more times, until there are 9 stitches between the gusset markers.

Next Round: work to first gusset market, transfer 9 stitches to stitch holder/waste yarn and removing the gusset markers. Use the backward loop method to CO 4 stitches over the gap, knit to end of round.

Finishing:

Weave in ends. Block if desired.

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