

Hedgerow Mitts

By Amy Ripton

Photos by Chip York



When I saw my friend [Jane's Hedgerow Socks](#), I knew I'd knit them. I finished my first pair using a beautiful, subtly variegated yarn from Spirit Trail Fiberworks and knew I'd knit them again. And when I repeatedly slipped a partially knit Hedgerow sock over my hand to show curious friends how attractive and stretchy the stitch pattern was, I

knew mitts were in my future.

I wanted to play with the strong verticality of the stitch pattern and use it to wrap the hand elegantly while maintaining Hedgerow's handsome simplicity. I also wanted to design mitts that would wear like iron and truly warm the hands.

Finally, I wanted the finished pattern to transition easily from size to size and gender to gender without fuss. Simply by changing yarn weight, the size of these mitts changes to accommodate both a woman's and man's medium to large hand.

Both sizes are designed to be dense and warm while also being rugged and comfortable. I knit the women's pair using Spirit Trail Alexandra in a colorway that echoes river water in wintertime, and I knit the men's pair in Spirit Trail's luxurious cashmere-blend Paivatar in Myst.

I knew I'd hit my mark when I took the mitts to be photographed by my friend Chip York, and both the rugged Chip and his elegant wife Anna Marie loved these Hedgerows for hands.

Skill Level

Advanced beginner.

Finished Size

Note: Information in **red** relates to the women's size; information in **blue** relates to the men's size; information in black relates to both sizes.



Fits **Women's Medium to Large** (**Men's Medium to Large**), about **7½"/19cm** (**9"/23cm**) hand circumference and **10½"/26.5cm** (**9½"/24cm**) long. Because the stitch pattern is so stretchy and flexible, these mitts can be easily made larger or smaller by going up or down a needle size. The difference between the women's and men's sizes

in this pattern is accomplished simply by using a thicker yarn and working at a larger gauge.

Materials

Yarn

For **women's** size (shown at the very top of this page): About 200 yards (180 m) of fingering weight sock yarn. I used half a skein of Spirit Trail Fiberworks Alexandra (hand-dyed 100% superwash Merino wool, 382 yds [349 m] per skein).

For **men's** size (shown above): About 250 yards (229 m) of sport-weight sock yarn. I used a skein of Spirit Trail Fiberworks "Paivatar" (hand-dyed 80% Superwash Merino/10% Cashmere/10% Nylon, 250 yds [229m] per skein).

A note about yarns: This pattern will work well with any hand-dyed yarn that has a subtle color scheme that's either semisolid or only discretely contrasting. Yarns that have been dyed a more dramatic combination of colors may obscure the stitch motif.

Needle - Set of 5 double-pointed needles, US 1 (2.5mm) or size needed to obtain gauge.

Notions - A stitch marker to mark the beginning of round (optional), tapestry needle.

Gauge

For **women's** size: 32 stitches = 4 inches/10cm in stockinette stitch.

For **men's** size: 28 stitches = 4 inches/10cm in stockinette stitch.

Abbreviations

K knit

K2tog knit the next 2 stitches together

Kfb knit in the front and the back of the next stitch

P purl

Ribbed Stitch Pattern (multiple of 6 stitches)

Rounds 1 and 2: *K2, p1, k1, p2, repeat from * to end of round.

Rounds 3 and 4: *K1, p1, k2, p2, repeat from * to end of round.

Pattern

Loosely cast on 60 stitches. Divide the stitches evenly on four double pointed needles. Join into a round, being careful not to twist the cast on row. Mark the beginning of your round with your stitch marker.

Cuff

Round 1: * K4, p2, repeat from * to end of round. Repeat this round for 1"/2.5cm.

Arm

Begin the Ribbed Stitch Pattern. Work until the piece measures **4½"/11.5cm** (**3½"/9cm**), or until the mitt is the desired length from the cuff along the arm to the base of the hand.

Hand

Next round: *work 28 stitches in pattern, p1, kfb, repeat from * once more – 62 stitches.

You've just increased one stitch between the purl stitches on either side of the hand. Continue increasing between the purls in this manner for the next five rounds, incorporating new stitches into the pattern, adding one pattern repeat on each side of the mitt – 72 stitches.

Work even in pattern for 1"/2.5cm.

Thumb Gusset

Next round: Work 28 stitches in pattern, p1, kfb, work 5 sts in pattern, p1, kfb, work in pattern to end of row. You've just increased one stitch between the purls on either side of the thumb. Continue increasing between the purls in this manner for five more rounds — 84 stitches.

Work even in pattern for 2"/5cm.

Next round: Work 29 stitches in pattern, move the next 18 stitches to a stitch holder or waste yarn for thumb, cast on 6 stitches to bridge the gap, work in pattern to end of round – 72 stitches.

Top of Mitt

Work even in pattern for 1"/2.5cm.

Next round: Work 31 stitches in pattern, k2tog, work 36 stitches in pattern, k2tog, work in pattern to the end of the round – 70 stitches. You are decreasing away the additional pattern repeats on each side of the hand. Continue decreasing in this manner for five more rounds – 60 stitches.

Work 2 rounds even in pattern.

Next round: *K4, p2, repeat from * to end of round.

Work in ribbing as established for ½"/1.5cm.

Next round: Work 26 stitches in ribbing as established, k2tog, work 28 stitches in ribbing as established, k2tog, p2 – 58 stitches.

Next round: Work 25 stitches in ribbing as established, k2tog, work 27 stitches in ribbing as established, k2tog, p2 – 56 stitches.

Work in ribbing as established for ½"/1.5cm.

Bind off loosely.

Thumb

Replace 18 held stitches onto needles, distributing as evenly as possible. Join yarn and work in k4 p2 ribbing. Pick up and knit 8 stitches across cast on edge above thumb – 24 stitches.

Work in k4 p2 ribbing for 1"/2.5cm.

Bind off loosely. Weave in ends and enjoy!

About the Designer

Amy Ripton is an editor, writer, and web content specialist with a background in Celtic and Appalachian Studies and far too much on her plate. She can be found around the DC area knitting, contra-dancing, singing, story-telling, baking, laughing, reading, sewing, camping, or blogging at crazylanea.com and booksforears.com. Except when she can't be found at all.