

THE THREE BEARS WASH MITT



This pattern came to my mind as I was putting away some laundry. We have a stack of washcloths, some bought and some made by my Mum that we use on a daily basis.

I thought that I would make some for gifts, but I didn't feel too enthusiastic about knitting a square. Then I thought, does it have to be a just a plain square?

I've been knitting lots of mittens lately and the idea of a mitten shaped washcloth jumped into my head.

I wanted to have the option of using two colours, so I chose a stitch pattern that is fun to knit and looks fabulous in two colours.

I hope you enjoy knitting them for all your family and friends !

YARN

85m (93 yards) of a dk weight cotton/linen blend yarn. This is enough for the size Large.

Pattern sample is knit with the following -

Sheepjes Linen Soft in colours 613 and 614.

One 50g ball will make 2 solid coloured mitts in the size small/medium.



NOTIONS

3.5mm double pointed needles.

3.5mm 80cm (32inch) circular needle for knitting magic loop.

Tapestry needle.

GAUGE

22 stitches and 44 rows = 4 inches (10cm).

Washed and blocked measurement, in the half linen stitch. Gauge is not crucial.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Size Small/Medium measures approximately 7 inches (17.5cm) by 4 inches (10cm). Suitable for hand circumference of 7-7.75 inches (18-19.5cm).

Size Large measures approximately 7.75 inches (20cm) by 4.5 inches (12cm). Suitable for hand circumference of 8-8.5 inches (20-22cm).

ABBREVIATIONS

k - knit

p - purl

s - slip



CAST ON

You will begin by knitting a length of I-cord.
You will need 2 double pointed needles to work this.

Using the long-tail cast on method and 3.5mm double pointed needles, cast on 4 stitches.
Ensure you have a yarn tail of approximately 8 inches.

You will now knit 30 rows of I-cord as follows :-

Knit the 4 stitches on your needle. *Without turning your work, push these stitches to the opposite end of your needle. Now, keeping your yarn at the back of your work and pulling firmly, knit the 4 stitches on your needle. Repeat from * until you have worked 30 rows.

You will now cast on stitches to begin working the body of the mitt.

Without turning your work, cast on 40 (48) stitches using the knitted-on cast on method.
You will now have 44 (52) stitches on your needle.

CUFF

The mitt is knitted in the round so you need to transfer the stitches over to your circular needle, ready to begin magic loop knitting. You will have 22 (26) stitches on each needle. You can of course use double pointed needles if you prefer. I simply slip all the stitches over to my circular needle and then divide, ready to begin knitting.

Round 1 - knit all stitches.

Round 2 - purl all stitches.

Repeat the above 2 rounds a further 5 times.

You will have knitted 6 garter ridges in total.



BODY OF MITT

Knit 1 round.

Round 1 - (k1, s1 purl-wise with yarn held at the front) repeat to the end of the round.

Round 2 - knit all stitches.

Round 3 - (s1 purl-wise with yarn held at the front, k1) repeat to the end of the round.

Round 4 - knit all stitches.

Repeat the above 4 rounds a further 15 (17) times. Your mitt should now measure approximately 7 (7.75) inches from cast on edge.

Cut your yarn leaving a tail of 12 inches. You can now use the Kitchener Stitch technique to close the top of your mitt.

FINISHING

Thread your cast on yarn tail onto a tapestry needle. Make a loop with the I-cord and secure it to the cuff of the mitt, sewing it down at the cast on edge of the cuff.

All you need to do now is weave in your ends and then wash and block your lovely mitt.

I found that a machine wash at 30 degrees and then laying flat to dry worked perfectly.



TWO COLOUR OPTION

A fun way to personalise your mitt is to use 2 colours. You could use sports team colours, Hogwarts House or to match your bathroom decor.

Using your colour A, work the mitt to the end of the cuff section.

BODY OF MITT

Using colour A, knit 1 round.

You will now begin alternating your yarn colours, knitting rounds 1 and 2 with yarn B, and rounds 3 and 4 with yarn A. Carry your unworked yarn up the inside of your mitt.

Round 1 - (k1, s1 purl-wise with yarn held at the front) repeat to the end of the round.

Round 2 - knit all stitches.

Round 3 - (s1 purl-wise with yarn held at the front, k1) repeat to the end of the round.

Round 4 - knit all stitches.

Repeat the above 4 rounds a further 15 (17) times. Your mitt should now measure approximately 7 (7.75) inches from cast on edge.

You can now cut your yarns leaving a tail of 12 inches for your yarn A, and 6 inches for yarn B. Using the yarn A tail, you can now use the Kitchener Stitch technique to close the top of your mitt.

Finish your mitt as per the one colour instructions.



In the photo above, the two colour mitt is unblocked and the natural coloured mitt has been laundered in the washing machine.