

Freedom Mitts

A free pattern by Jenny "Folkcat" Kubeck of the I Knit Around blog (www.folkcatart.com/knitaround). Last modified: 11-15-2005

I don't like mittens, because you can't use your fingers without taking them off. I don't like gloves, because the two layers of knitted material between every pair of fingers is actually uncomfortable for me.

Because of these limitations, I've spent a lot of winters with cold hands. Then I started reading knit blogs this spring, and I discovered a new solution - fingerless mitts.

There were scads of free patterns on the web, of course, but none quite did what I



needed from the mitts - to leave my fingers completely free and unsheathed in any manner. So I picked a yarn that I liked (Berroco's new *Foliage*), and set out to create my own pattern.

It's everything I wanted it to be - colorful and warm. And best of all, my fingers and thumb are completely free and comfortable.

I've chosen to call these my *Freedom Mitts* - and I'm sharing them here with you. They're a quick and easy knit that even a beginner can accomplish in only a few hours' time. Enjoy!

Basic Details and Materials

Skill Level: Beginner

Time to

Complete: 4 to 8 hours

Size: Knit per this pattern, these fit a hand that measures 7 1/2" around the knuckles, and 9 1/2" around the palm and the base of the thumb. Size is easily adjusted by casting on more or fewer stitches in multiples of 4.

Yarn: Berroco *Foliage* (I used color #5930, Russian Sage)

Yarn Specs: 53% New Wool, 47% Acrylic.

1.75 oz. (50g) = 100 yds. (92m)

Needles: 2 circular needles, Size 8 (5 mm)

Gauge: 4 stitches and 6 rows per inch.

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The Pattern

Freedom Mitts are worked one at a time on two circular needles, size 8 (5mm). Knitting is from the top (finger) edge down, and the thumb is worked as a modified buttonhole.

Cast On: 36 stitches, divided between two circular needles (18 stitches per needle). Use your favorite style of elastic cast-on. I personally prefer the Twisted German Cast-On for socks and mitts - it's tricky to learn, but well worth the effort, as it produces a strong, elastic, and good-looking edge. There's a link to a tutorial on page 3 of this pattern under "Resources and Links".

About Working with Two Circulars: We'll be referring to your two circulars as Needle 1 and Needle 2. You will knit stitches off of one end of each circular needle by using the opposite end of the **same** needle. The other half of your stitches sit on the cable of the remaining needle, and that needle hangs idle at the back of your work. For example, knit the stitches off of Needle 1, using the opposite end of Needle 1 as your right hand needle - Needle 2 hangs unused at the back of the work. When you've knitted all the stitches on Needle 1, slide them onto Needle 1's cable. Drop Needle 1, turn your work, and slide Needle 2's stitches into place to knit. Using the other end of Needle 2 as your right hand needle, knit as you did with Needle One.

Begin Knitting: Join your cast-on stitches without twisting, and knit a 2x2 rib (K2, P2), for 12 rounds, ending with Needle 2.

Round 13: (Begin to form thumbhole.) K2, P1, Bind Off 4. (You'll be binding off 1 P, 2K, and 1 P stitch.) Continue with P1, then return to K1, P1 pattern to end of Needle 2



Round 14: (Cast-on stitches to close thumbhole.) K2, P1. Cast on 9 stitches onto your right hand needle. Continue knitting from the left hand needle with P1, *K2, P2. Repeat from * to end of Needle 2.

Round 15: (Knit first post-thumbhole round.) K1, SSK, P2, *K2, P2. Repeat from * to end of Needle 2. (The SSK prevents a hole that would otherwise form in the knitting at the corner of the thumbhole.)

Rounds 16-24: Work even in pattern (K2, P2) for 9 rounds.

Round 25: (Begin decreases below thumb.) K2, P2, K1, SSK, K2Tog, K1, P2, *K2, P2. Repeat from * to end of Needle 2.

Rounds 26-29: K2, P2, K4, P2, *K2, P2. Repeat from * to end of Needle 2.

Round 30: (Final decrease round.) K2, P2, SSK, K2Tog, P2, *K2, P2. Repeat from * to end of Needle 2.

Continue working in pattern until cuff is desired length. I did about 3 1/2", and was able to complete a pair of mitts with a single skein of *Foliage*. With the amount I had left over, I could have added at most another half or three-quarters of an inch to each mitt.

Resources and Links

Basic Knitting How To

On the Web: Twisted German Cast-On Photos: This is a comprehensive, clear set of photos that show how to do the cast-on I recommend for the Freedom Mitts. Twisted German Cast-On is tricky at first, but well worth the effort to learn. You won't regret it. <http://knitting.about.com/library/bltgcaston.htm>

Book: Knitter's Handbook, by Montse Stanley

Published by Readers' Digest. Available from Amazon.com and from all booksellers.

This is the most comprehensive reference you'll find for knitting techniques. From beginners' to advanced knitters, to the experimental artistic knitter - it's all here. How about if I just tell you there are over 40 different techniques for casting-on given in this book (including the Twisted German Cast-on), and leave it at that?

The Yarn

**Berroco Yarns is the maker of the *Foliage* yarn I used in these mitts.
Please note that I am in no way affiliated with the company!**

On the Web:

<http://www.berroco.com>

To Locate a Shop Selling Berroco Yarn:

Http://www.berroco.com/yarn_shops.html

By e-Mail:

Yarn Questions: info@berroco.com

About the Designer

Jenny "Folkcat" Kubeck refers to herself as a multi-crafter. She works as an artist in many media, including yarn, painting, beading, and sculpting. Other interests include inventive cooking, reading, blogging, and "Knitting Around". She describes the latter as "Knitting in Public, where the location is at least as interesting as the knitting." Her own Knitting Around locations have included vintage vaudeville theaters, multiple bridges, a fish hatchery, a stable of famous brewery horses, and the kitchen of her favorite Chinese restaurant.

Jenny lives and crafts in Southern New Hampshire, having moved there over 12 years ago from Central New York to marry a New Hampshire man she met on the Internet. He is very supportive of her crafting craziness, and understands the best he can, though he admits it's not always easy.

Jenny's blog about her knitting experiences can be found at <http://www.folkcatart.com/knitaround>. She can be contacted by e-mail at fiber@folkcatart.com, or by snail mail at Jenny Kubeck, PO Box 1290, Wilton, NH 03086.