

Pattern: “Fischli”-Mittens

(This pattern is written by a continental knitter)

Baby mittens in two sizes:

3–6 months without thumb

6–12 months with thumb (in brackets)

Techniques:

- knit and purl stitches

- decrease:

Right leaning decrease: knit two together; K2tog. As this is the easiest decrease, we will use it for the cuff and the thumb. Since it also leans to the right, it is used to form the top of the mitten.

Left leaning decrease: SSK: Insert the needle into the stitch on the left hand needle as if to knit and lift it to the right hand needle. Proceed in the same manner with the next stitch. Then insert left hand needle into both stitches and pull the thread through with the right hand needle—voilà—a left leaning decrease for the other side of the mitten top.

- Increase: Knit twice into one stitch; first from front, then from back Kfb

- For those, who want to knit the pretty fish scale decoration:

Knit the knit stitches through backloop.—K1tbl.

When knitting this way, the stitches are being twisted so they pop up in a three-dimensional way. These stitches are widely used in Bavarian knitting, especially for men’s socks.

- Longtail cast-on, which is elastic and therefore suitable for the cuff of mittens and socks.

For daring knitters in search of a technical challenge I recommend the Estonian cast-on.

You can find more about it on my blog.



Patterns

- cuff A—knit two, purl one

- cuff B—knit one, purl one

- fish scale decoration: the pattern is two stitches wide and six rows high.

k1tbl, purl1, until first round is finished; repeat round three times;

purl1, k1tbl until first round is finished; repeat round three times;

This pattern is usually knitted at the upper part of Bavarian men’s socks, but I think it works very well as a fish scale pattern.

Material

- About 40 gr light, DK, worsted yarn (yardage 150–180 m / 100 gr) (gauge 21–24 St) in two or three colours:

A—about 15 gr for the cuff

B—about 20 gr for the main part

C—rests of about 5 gr for the cast on and the thumb

- Set of double pointed needles 3,5

- Darning needle to sew in ends; a crochet hook will do, too

- 2 safety pins, in case you want to knit a thumb

Here's the start:

- Cast on 33 (42) stitches. Distribute stitches on four needles and close to round. Watch out not to twist the needles. Knit 10 (15) rounds in cuff pattern A.

(If you want to add more colour, start with colour C and change after two rows to B. But watch out; the first row after a colour change should be knitted! // the friends of the Estonian cast on start with colour C and change, after two knit rows, to colour B)

- Now a decrease round follows: always knit two knit stitches together. New stitch count: 22 (28).
- Knit 5 (10) Rows in cuff pattern B.
- Now for an increase round: kfb into the knit stitches, until there are 32 (40) on your needles.
- Finish the cuff with a knit row.
- Either continue knitting or change to the fish scale pattern and/ or another colour.
- Knit about 6 cm for size 3–6 months (without thumb) until top decrease.
- For size 6–12 months arrange the first 5 stitches of the first needle on the safety pin and cast 5 new stitches on. For the other hand, you have to put the last 5 stitches of the second needle on the safety pin. Then knit the fish scale pattern 4 times or for about 7 cm straight, then do the top decrease.
- Top decrease (both sizes).
 - *first needle – ssk;
 - Second needle – knit the last 2 stitches of the needle together;
 - Third needle – ssk;
 - Fourth needle – knit the last 2 stitches of the needle together;
 - One round without decrease*
 - Repeat * – * until there are 3 stitches left on each needle.
 - Cut thread after 20 cm, take the needle and pull the thread to the stitches. Now you can take out the knitting needles and pull the thread together.
- The thumbs are quick to make: take the 5 stitches from the safety pin onto a knitting needle and pick 5 stitches from the row above onto another needle. With a third one pick 2 stitches from the side and with a fourth 3 stitches from the other side. Now divide the stitches onto three needles, like onto a triangle (and 5 stitches on each needle). Knit 5 rows, then k2tog on each needle. (12 stitches). Knit 3 rows and the decrease on each needle again (9 stitches). Knit 1 row then – guess what – decrease again (6 stitches). Knit 1 row, take the darning needle, pull the thread through the stitches and the thumb is ready.
- Sew in all ends.
- For decoration you might want to add Pompoms and for practical reasons add thread holding together the two mittens; either braided, as i-cord or twisted – you don't want to loose the artwork.

(Baby size chart according to craft yarn council cross back 7,25–8,25 inch & armlength to under-arm 6–7,5 inch 8+15 = 23 inch = 58 cm)

