

tortoise & hare gauntlets



KATE DAVIES

long, fingerless gloves with vikkel braids

These gauntlets, in their chevron braids and colourwork, recall
Aesop's fable of the Tortoise and the Hare.

The hare appeals with his energy and speed, but the slow and
steady tortoise wins the race.

GAUGE

On 3mm needles, 7 sts and 9 rows to 1 inch over stockinette worked in the round.

MATERIALS

Jamieson & Smith 2 ply jumper weight yarn in 4 shades. 25g / 125 yards MC (shade shown: Katmollet; 10g / 50 yards) CC1 (shade shown: FC55; 10g / 50 yards) CC2 (shade shown: 122); 5 g / 25 yards CC3 (shade shown: FC12). 2.5 mm / 80cm and 3mm / 80cm circular needles (worked as magic loop) or short (20cm) circls for knitting the gauntlet body. 3mm dpns for working fingers. Waste yarn for holding stitches. Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS

b/o = bind off
 c/o = cast on
 k = knit
 p = purl
 mc = main colour/ working yarn
 cc1/2/3 = contrast colours
 m1 – make one (increase)
 st(s) =stitch, stitches
 k2 tog = knit 2 stitches together
 pm = put marker

SIZE

To fit woman's hand with circumference of 7.5". To make a gauntlet for a larger hand, go up one needle size. The gauntlets are 12" long - for a shorter glove, simply knit 1 chart repeat before beginning the thumb increases.

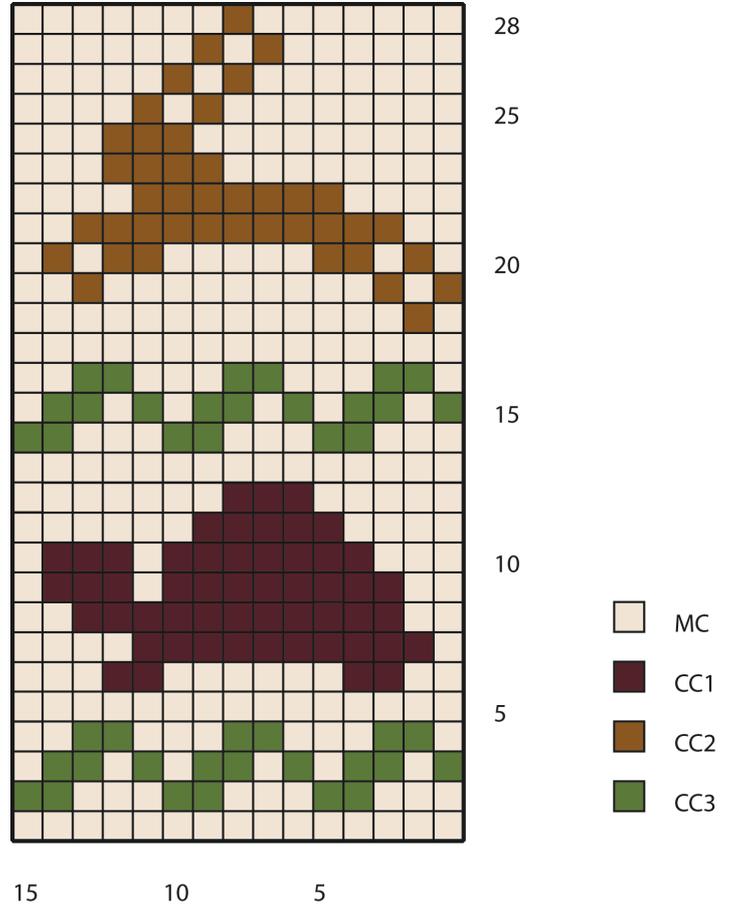
CHARTS

are read from right to left

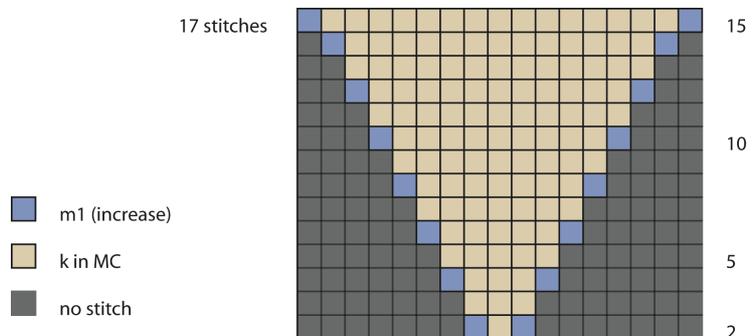
FINISHING

Weave in all ends. Soak in warm water to allow sts to relax and bloom. Squeeze out excess water between towels and dry flat, or over glove blockers.

TORTOISE & HARE CHART



THUMB CHART



SPECIAL TECHNIQUES.

Vikkel braid

The vikkel braid uses two colours, designated here as A and B.

Round 1: K1A, K1B around

Round 2: Bring both yarns to front of needles. P1A, P1B around, bringing each strand *over* the previous one each time you make a stitch.

Round 3: P1A, P1B around, bringing each strand *under* the previous one each time you make a stitch.

Round 4: K1A around.

Note: on round 2, your yarns will twist together as you begin to make the braid. Don't try to untwist them, or you will get in a tangle. Rather, pull out a long length of yarn from each skein, and push the twist gently away from the work. On round 3, you work the braid in the opposite direction, and the yarn lengths will magically untangle themselves, leaving your work twist-free.

colourwork tips

A Shetland yarn, like Jamiesons or Jamieson & Smith really is the best there is for colourwork. Because of the nature of the yarn, if your tension is even, you will find that there is generally no need to 'weave' your strands over stretches of up to 10 stitches. In stretches over 10 stitches (such as the hare's body), I recommend weaving your strands once, taking care not to 'stack' up the weaves on subsequent rounds. Use the contrasting colours (CC1, 2, and 3) as the dominant yarn at all times (if you are working two handed, the dominant yarn will be in your left hand. If one handed, the dominant yarn comes from underneath). If your tension is uneven, here are 2 tips: 1) try fanning the stitches out on your right hand needle before each colour change or 2) turn your work inside out - the knit side will still be facing you (allowing you to work as usual from the right side) but the strands will be stretched around the work, loosening the tension slightly. Don't forget to turn things the right way round again before blocking and wearing!

INSTRUCTIONS

With 2.5 mm needle and CC1, c/o 60 sts and join for working in the round. On first round, change to CC2, and begin working 3x2 rib (k3, p2 around). On next round, change to MC and continue working in 3x2 rib for 2" (or desired cuff length).

Change to 3mm needle, and, following 'special techniques' opposite, work 3 consecutive vikkel braids, using CC1 as colour A in the first braid, CC2 as colour A in the second braid; and CC3 as colour A in the third. MC is worked as colour B throughout,

Following tortoise and hare chart, work two full repeats.

On next round: m1, pm. Marker indicates start of tortoise and hare pattern, and the increased st marks the position of thumb. Work to end of round. On next round (round 2 of tortoise and hare chart), insert thumb chart before marker (thumb chart also starts on a round 2 for clarity). Work to round 16 of thumb chart *and* tortoise and hare charts.

On next round, slip thumb sts to waste yarn, remove marker, and, using backward loop cast on, c/o 2 sts above gap.

On next round (round 18 of tortoise & hare chart) begin with a k2tog, then continue working from chart as set, working last 2 sts as k2tog. 2 thumb-gap sts decreased, and 60 sts remain on needles. Complete chart, then work rounds 1-5 of chart, ending above the zigzag. Work 2 rounds in MC.

Slip the last 30 sts of round onto a spare circular needle. (30 sts on each needle, dividing palm from back of hand). Working little finger first from side opposite thumb, slip 7 sts from palm and 7 sts from back of hand to dpns. Using backward loop cast on, c/o 1 st in the gap between fingers and join for working in the round. 16 sts. Work for 10 rounds. Change to CC1 and b/o.

Work remaining 3 fingers in the same way, using CC2 as b/o colour for ring and index fingers and CC1 for middle finger.

Now return to thumb. Slip 17 sts from waste yarn to dpns. With MC, k across these sts, pick up 3 sts in gap at glove body and join for working in the round. 20 st. Knit for 10 rounds. Change to CC3 and b/o.

Work other gauntlet in exactly the same way, with the exception of the thumb chart placement, which should be positioned at the end of the round rather than the beginning.

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Kate Davies, Edinburgh, Scotland, November 2011.