

Margot's Garden

Fingerless Mittens

by Karen Porter



Sometimes winter seems to drag on forever, and as the days begin to get longer it's impossible to keep from dreaming about warm spring days ahead. As soon as the winter holidays are over I start dreaming about the garden I'll have this year. I sketch out plans while I pore over seed catalogs and garden supply websites, thinking about the lovely sharp smell of damp earth, the luscious flavor of tomatoes still warm from the sun, and the heavenly fragrance of flowers. Ahhh.... It's lovely to dream of long, warm days and growing things, but even if the days are still cold and grey, you can "plant" these little mitts with rows of flowers to help remind you of gardens and long, warm days to come.

Size and Gauge:

Women's average – 7.5" palm circumference at a gauge of 32 sts = 10cm/4in. (Row gauge is not as important.)

The size can most easily be adjusted by changing gauge/needle size, and/or by choosing a slightly heavier or lighter weight of yarn. Because stranded colorwork does not stretch as much as solid-color knitting, you will find these most comfortable if they have from ¼" negative ease to ½" positive ease, based on your palm circumference above the thumb. These mitts are relatively short; if you'd like a longer wrist just work an extra repeat of the flower pattern before beginning the thumb gusset.

Materials:

Fingering or sock weight yarn:

- Main Color (MC) – 100 yd
- Green for leaves – 25 yd
- Flower colors – 12 yd for each row of flowers (for both mitts)

3.00mm needles for your preferred style of knitting small circumferences, or size needed to achieve desired gauge. I used double points for mine but they could easily be knit with magic loop or with two circulars. I recommend double points for the thumbs

Stitch markers (optional)

Waste yarn for holding stitches

Tapestry needle for weaving in ends and embroidery

A note on yarn shades and amounts:

I have given the amounts I used when making mine as a guide - it's a good idea to have a bit more on hand since everyone's knitting style is a little different, and you will definitely need more if you decide to make them larger or longer. Since these mitts use small amounts of several colors, they are a great project for using leftover sock or other fingering weight yarns. You can make all the flowers the same color, or make each row different. A self-striping yarn would work great for these!

The yarns I used were:

Knit Picks Palette, 50g/231yd, 100% wool:

MC – Celestial

Leaves – Edamame

Flowers – Safflower, Serrano, Sky, Sweet Potato, Fairy Tale

Instructions:

Note: Both hands are made the same with a centered thumb, so just make two.

With MC, cast on 60 sts. Distribute on needles according to your preferred method of working. Join for working in round. Work K2, P2 rib for 6 rnds. Breaking and adding colors as necessary, work chart to thumb gusset.

Thumb gusset: Begin thumb gusset on Round 16. Following colors as charted, work gusset increases as follows:

First round of thumb gusset: Work hand stitches up to placement of gusset. Place marker. Inc 1 st with Flower color using a backwards loop cast on. Place marker, then continue hand chart to end of round. Slip markers as you knit so the thumb stitches stay between them. On rounds where no increase is indicated, knit across gusset in colors indicated on chart.

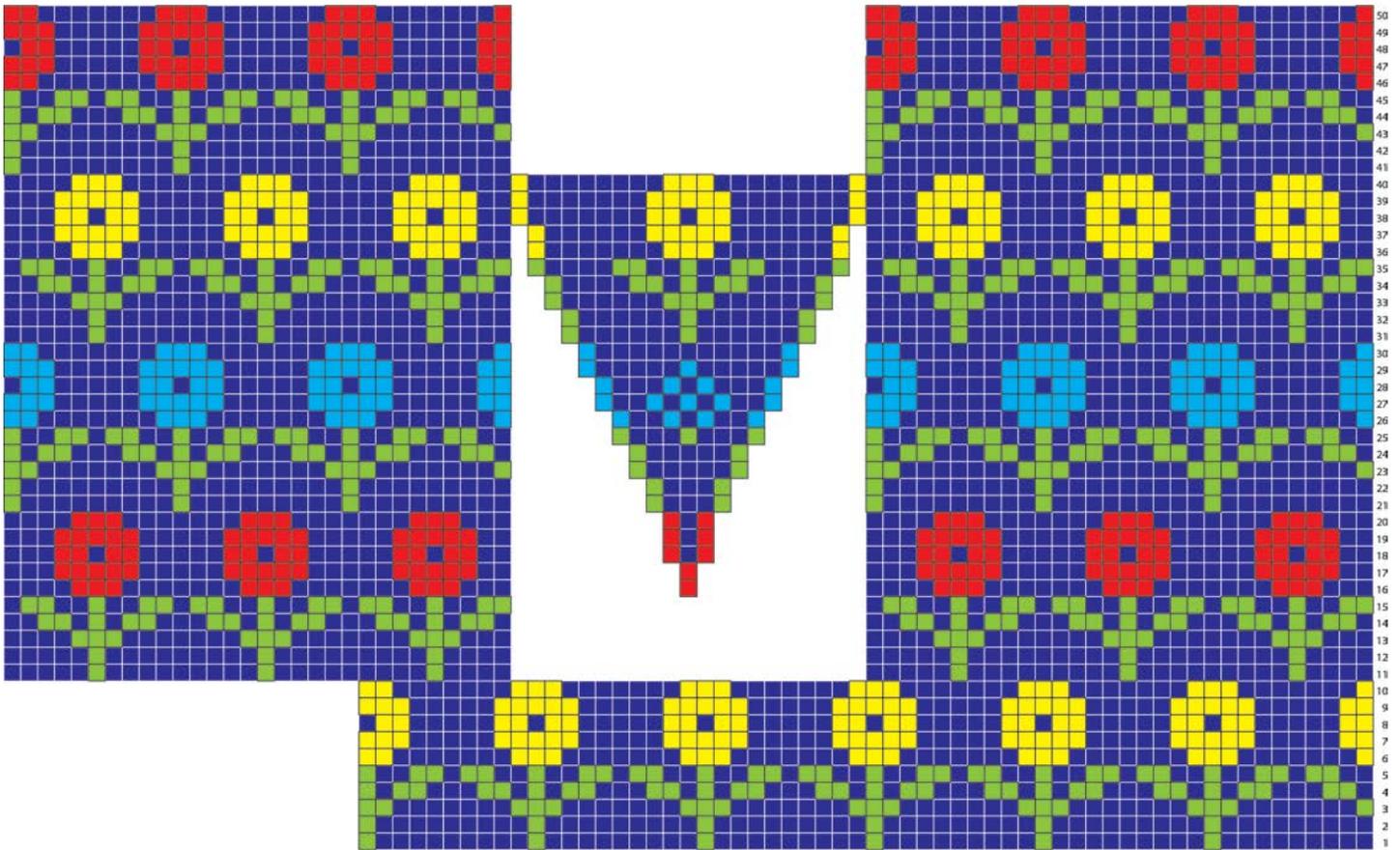
Next increase (third round of gusset, chart round 18): M1R with Flower color, K1 with MC, M1L with Flower color.
 Remaining increases (as indicated on chart): Working colors as charted, work the next and all subsequent thumb gusset increases as follows: K1, M1R, K to last st, M1L, K1. This means the increases will actually be on the inside of each outer gusset stitch.

After last round of gusset (Rnd 41): Work hand stitches to first marker, remove marker. Using a tapestry needle threaded with waste yarn, slip the 21 thumb gusset stitches onto the waste yarn – you will again have 60 hand sts. Remove second marker and continue hand pattern to end of round.

Complete hand chart. Break all yarns except MC. K 2 rnds MC, then work 6 rnds K2, P2 rib. BO in rib.

Thumb: Place the 21 thumb stitches on needles; distribute as desired for working. With MC, pick up and knit one stitch from hand, knit 21 thumb stitches, then pick up 2 more at hand (24 sts total). K 2 rounds. Work 6 rnds K2, P2 rib. BO in rib.

Weave in ends and enjoy!



Knitting Abbreviations:

K – knit

P – purl

st, sts – stitch, stitches

rnd – round

M1R – make one right (right-leaning increase) – with left needle, pick up bar between stitches from behind. Knit through front of loop.

M1L – make one left (left-leaning increase) – with left needle, pick up bar between stitches from front. Knit through the back loop.

Note on M1 increases: When working rounds with two colors you will have bars or floats of both colors behind your work. Pick up the appropriate color to make the increase (ex. – if your increased stitch should be Cream, pick up the Cream bar or float).

BO – bind off