

## Grown Together



Have you ever experienced any of this when knitting mittens?

- ☐ You knit one mitten but the other one never gets finished
- ☐ The mittens are essentially 'ready' but the thumbs don't knit themselves
- ☐ Your beautiful colorwork mittens are finished but the yarn-ends haven't disappeared

These mittens literally grow together, hand in hand, rooted in their thumbs.

They will grow into two mittens at the same time. This means that you will work simultaneously with two cuffs and two thumbs and two thumb gussets, and continue working again simultaneously, with two cuffs, two hands and mitten tops. And as soon as all stitches are worked and bound off, and all yarn-ends are cut off, the conjoined mitten twins are separated by cutting the knitting along a steak line.

Isn't it obvious, that this is not the most usual way of knitting mittens? Therefore, I recommend you put aside everything you have learned about mitten knitting, follow the instructions, enjoy the knitting process and be positively surprised about the outcome. When these mittens are 'ready', they are ready for a snowball fight – if you like 😊.

Enjoy!

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### Size

Any size

The instructions give stitch and row counts for female S/M and L/XL, knit with given gauge. If your gauge is reasonably close to the gauge of the sample, you should be able to knit a large variety of sizes with the instructions given. The directions for size adjustment are given in footnotes<sup>1</sup> on the same page with the main instructions.

The sample pairs measure (S/M first; [L/XL in square brackets]):

Total length: 22 cm/8.75" [26 cm/10.25"]

Circumference: 19 cm/7.5" [21 cm/8.25"]

Thumb and thumb gusset: 5,5 cm/2.25" [6 cm/2.5"]

Cuff: 5 cm/2" [6,5 cm/2.5"]

### Yarn

Sport/DK weight, Non-Superwash, animal fiber yarn. If the yarn felts, even to some extent, it should be ok.

The sample mittens are made with Sandnes Garn Tove (100 g/320 m; 100 % Norwegian sheep wool). A pair weighs 42 gr [52 gr]; (75 m/83 yd [100 m/110 yd] of color 1 (forest green) and 65/[75m/83yd] of color 2 (ochre)).

### Gauge

The sample's gauge is 25 sts and 40 rows/10 cm\*10 cm (4" \* 4"), stockinette, with smaller needle. You can knit the mittens with a different gauge, but you need to know your stitch gauge before casting on. The row gauge is not as essential, you can adjust the number of rows as you progress.

### Needles and other resources

**Long circular needles** (at least 150 cm/60" for magic looping, or two circls about 80 cm/32") 2,5 mm (US 1,5)/3mm (US 2,5) – or size needed to obtain gauge. (I use a larger needle for stranded colorwork to maintain the same stitch gauge as with stockinette)

Needle 1 refers to the needle holding the BOR (beginning of round) marker.

**A crochet hook**, preferably a size smaller than the knitting needle.

**Stitch markers**, one lockable

**Scissors**

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<sup>1</sup> Footnotes are uniquely numbered and always on the same page as the reference to them.

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### Abbreviations (in alphabetical order)

BO – bind off

CO – cast on



color 1

color 2

k – knit; *kn* – knit *n* (*n=number*) stitches

k2tog – knit 2 sts together

k2tog tbl – knit 2 sts together through the back legs

K3tog C – knit 3 together centered

LLI – lifted left leaning increase (tutorial)

p – purl; *pn* – purl *n* (*n=number*) stitches

RLI – lifted right leaning increase (tutorial)

RS – right side of the work

rnd - round

*sn* – slip *n* (*n=number*) stitches from one needle to the other as to purl

SM – set marker

ssrs – shadow wrap stitch on RS (tutorial)

ssws – shadow wrap stitch on WS (tutorial)

ssk – slip slip knit slipped sts together through back legs

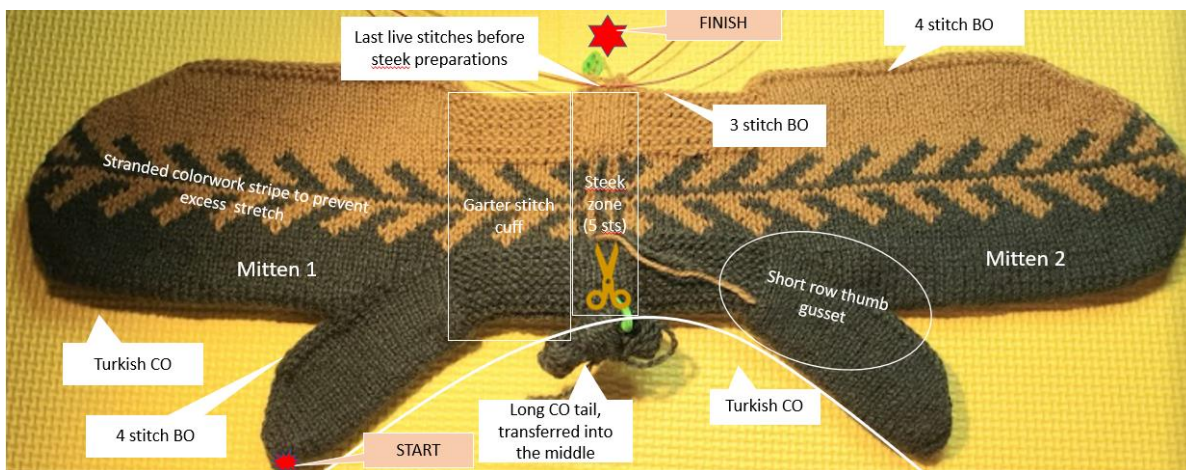
st(s) – stitch(es)

WS – wrong side of the work

### Instructions

#### Overview

The below picture shows the overall structure and knitting order of the mittens. You start from the thumb tips and finish in the middle of pinky side edge.



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### Cast-on and set-up

Leaving approximately a 2,5 m/2,7 yd tail, use color 1 and the smaller needle to cast on 75 [91] pairs of stitches<sup>2</sup>. The Turkish CO method is highly recommended (a link to a tutorial provided). Before deciding to use a different double-sided co method, ensure that the method leaves the tail in the beginning of the cast-on row; you will soon see, why.

#### Set markers.

Each marker has a distinct acronym associated with it, which is explained in the footnotes<sup>3</sup> below. Eventually, as the set-up becomes apparent, you may choose to remove all but one marker as you see fit. However, it is strongly recommended that the BOR marker be retained.

#### Needle 1:

K 25 [29], SM (1c21), k10 [14], SM (1c22), k3, mark the last knit st as center stitch 1, set BOR marker, k2, SM (1c11), p10 [14], SM (1c12), k to end of needle 1, SM (1eon)

#### Needle 2:

S1, **knit with the tail** 24 [29], SM (2c11), k10[14], SM (2c12), k2 (leave the tail yarn here, ensuring that it stays on the RS). Slip the sts back to left needle and pick up the ball yarn. K to marker 2c11, p to 2c12, k5, SM (2c21), p10[14], SM (2c22), knit to end of needle 2, SM (2eon).

K to 1c21, p to 1c22, k to BOR

In the next part, cuffs continue to be worked as set, while adding the thumbs and building the gussets. When working the cuffs, remember to alternate knit and purl rows to maintain the garter stitch cuffs.

### Thumbs and short row gussets

#### Increase to create more space in the tip:

1: work (knit cuff sts) to 1 st before 1eon, RLI, k2, LLI, work to 1 st before 2eon, RLI, k2, LLI, work to BOR

2: work (purl cuff sts) a rnd without increases

Repeat step 1 one more time.

Work 3 rnds without increases<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Make your own size: Measure the distance from the top of the thumb to the point in wrist/arm you want the mitten to reach (sample mittens: 15 cm/6" [18 cm/7,25"]). Multiply the number by 2 and calculate the needed stitch count. The stitch count (pairs of stitches) must be an odd number, of which 5 sts go to the steek zone in all sizes. You decide the length of the cuff. The rest of the sts are used for the thumbs and gussets. Usually the thumb and gusset are of equal length. Ensure, that the remaining stitch count (after cuff stitches) is enough for both thumb and thumb gusset.

<sup>3</sup> Marker key: first number=needle 1 or 2, c=cuff, middle number=mitten 1 or 2, last number=1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> marker for given needle and mitten, 1eon = end of needle 1, 2eon = end of needle 2

<sup>4</sup> Make your own size: If you are using dk weight (or heavier) yarn, knit only 2 or 1 rounds.



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*Decrease to form the thumb:*

3: work to 3 sts before 1e on, ssk, k2, k2tog, work to 3 sts before 2e on, ssk, k2, k2tog, work to BOR

4. work a rnd without decreases

Repeat steps 3 and 4 two [three]<sup>5</sup> more times. Work step 3.

Work to 3 sts before 1e on.

**Repeat section** (from this point to **\*end of repeat section** you work first with the mitten 1 and then repeat the section for mitten 2)

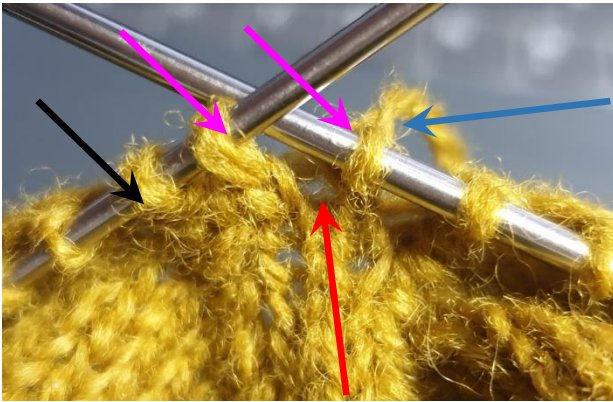
*Close the thumb seam:*

5. k2tog tbl, k1, s1, k2tog, turn<sup>6</sup>

6. s1, p1, s3, turn

Repeat steps 5 and 6 eight (nine) more times<sup>7</sup>. (There should be 11[14] sts between the cuff and the last decreased st on both needles)

Work step 5. S1, p2, slip the **last st** back to right needle (the two sts between the decreases are now on different needles, see picture below)



**Red arrow** pointing to end of needle (1 for mitten 1, 2 for mitten 2)

**Blue arrow** pointing to last worked stitch

Both needles should have the same number of stitches (size S/M: 13. L/XL 16 sts after the cuff)

*CO new stitches for the hand:*

Pull both needle tips so that you have some 10 cm/4" space on them. Place the needles next to each other in your left hand, the mitten thumb pointing down. Bring the yarn up between the needles, ensure there are no additional loops on either needle. Twist the yarn

<sup>5</sup> Make your own size: Repeat the decrease rows until the total width equals the needed thumb circumference (take a tight measure, because the BO seam will increase the circumference with the width of 2 sts) and the last worked rnd is a decrease rnd.

<sup>6</sup> Recommendation: turning the work for just one purl stitch sounds silly. Therefore, instead of turning the work, knit the 1 stitch (p1) backwards, and no turning the work is needed in either step. Just 1 stitch backwards!

<sup>7</sup> Make your own size: Repeat the BO steps until the thumb is of desired length and the last step worked is step 5.

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counterclockwise (i.e. the first loop is on the needle closest to you), round the needles (tightly!) 25 [30] times<sup>8</sup> – 25 [30] pairs of new stitches cast on (see photo tutorial below)



Beginning of CO (hold the needles closer to each other than in the picture; the tighter the CO, the likelier you avoid a hole in the thumb crotch)

**Red arrow** pointing to the first stitch cast on



5 stitches done, 20 (25) more to go!

*Short row thumb gusset:* (you can replace the shadow wrap short row method with your preferred short row method)

Pull the back needle tip out (making use of the needle wire to hold the provisional stitches) and knit all newly cast on sts on the left needle (25 [30] sts).



Back needle tip pulled out, just about to knit the first of five sts (25/30 in the real mitten)! NB! The stitches on the cable will be worked in step 8.

K2.

Close the small hole by lifting the right leg of the decreased st on the left needle. Knit the lifted loop (1 st increased).

7. Work an ssrs, turn the work

8. Slip the shadow st onto the right needle and purl to the end of the needle, purl the newly cast on sts, p2, close the small hole by lifting a loop from the decreased st and purl it (1 st increased), work ssws, turn the work

9. slip the ssws, knit to 1 st before the end of needle, RLI, k2, LLI<sup>9</sup>, knit to the ssrs, knit it as one st, k1, ssrs, turn the work

<sup>8</sup> Make your own size: Measure the distance from thumb crotch to the tip of index finger and calculate the needed stitch count.

<sup>9</sup> Make your own size: If the target hand's index finger is as long as or longer than the middle finger, you should omit these increases.

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10. slip the ssrs, purl to the ssws, purl it as one st, p1, ssws, turn the work

Repeat steps 9 and 10 until there are 1 or 0 st before the cuff<sup>10</sup>. The last ssrs will be knit as one st on the next rnd.

(\* end of repeat section)

Work to 3 sts before 2eon and repeat the steps 5 to 10 for the mitten 2.

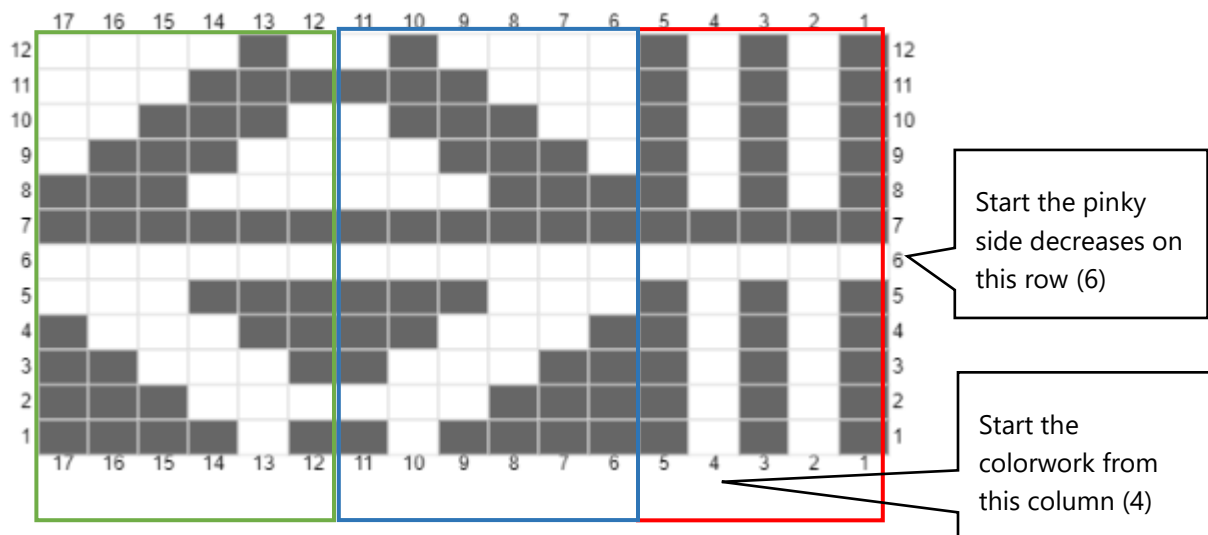
Work to BOR.

### Stranded colorwork section

Change to a colorwork needle (if you need). Join the color 2 (leave a minimal tail, don't bother weaving in) and follow the charts as instructed below. Discontinue the top increases (unless you need more space for any of the fingers).

Cease the garter stitch pattern for the cuff. Instead, work also the cuff in the colorwork pattern below.

Work the 5 steek zone stitches according to columns 1 – 5 (Note! The first colorwork row starts from column 4), repeat columns 6 – 11 when knitting towards the mitten top, and columns 12 – 17 when knitting towards the cuff. If you wish, match the pattern on top starting the mirror pattern from the corresponding column (e.g. last knit column was 6 {7,8,9,10,11}, start the repeat after top from column 17 {16,15,14,13,12}). The sample mittens have a 2 sts wide one-color band at the top.



<sup>10</sup> Make your own size: The short row section should have approximately the same number of rows as the thumb. If there are too many stitches in the gusset, stop the short rows earlier, if too few stitches, do some turns without the stitch between the turns.

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Cut the color 1 (leave a minimum tail, don't bother weaving in). Change back to your stockinette needle. Continue the garter stitch pattern in cuff (start with a knit row).

### Decreases at the pinky side

- 1: work a round
- 2: work to 3 sts before 1eon. Ssk. K2. K2tog. Work to 3 sts before 2eon. Ssk. K2. K2tog. Work to BOR

Repeat steps 1 and 2 three [four] more times. Then repeat only step 2 six [nine]<sup>11</sup> times.

### Close the pinky side seam

Work to 3 sts before 1eon.

- 1: k2tog tbl, k1, s1, k2tog, turn

- 2: s1, p1, s3, turn

Repeat steps 1 and 2 until all stitches before the cuff are worked, step 1 being the last step. S1, purl 2 sts together (the two stitches between the decreases), turn.

Interim check: The first stitches on the needles are:

- Right needle – the result of the last k2tog tbl
- Left needle (from right to left) – the result of the purl 2 together, the result of the last k2tog

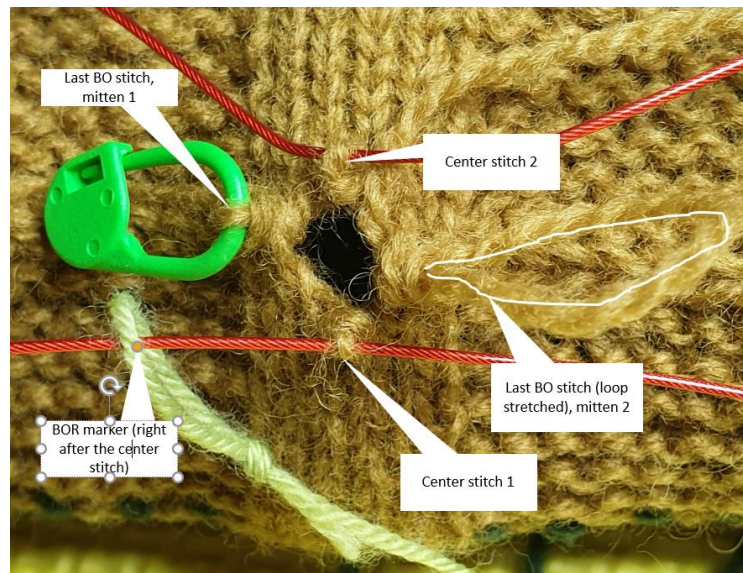
- 3: K3tog C (Slip the first st on the right needle to the left. Slip 2 sts as if to knit them together and slip them back to left needle. Knit 3 sts together from the back legs)

- 4: Continue the closing with the above K3tog C to BOR (and the corresponding stitch on the needle 2). **Don't work the center sts** (=the middle sts of the steek zone)

Place the last worked stitch on a locking stitch marker. (Time to ensure that all yarn ends, CO tail included, are on the RS).

Knit to 3 sts before 2eon. Repeat steps 1 – 4. Note! Step 4 to be continued to 1 st before BOR.

You should have 4 live stitches, 3 on your needles and 1 on a stitch holder (see picture). If you like, place the center sts and the last worked st on separate (distinctive) stitch holders and release the needles. Don't cut yarn yet.



<sup>11</sup> Make your own size: for wider hand, work more repeats, for smaller hand, work less repeats.



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### Reinforcing the steek

Detailed tutorial for Crocheted Steek is provided as a link. The following instructions show the way the principle is applied on a circular steek zone. The crocheted reinforcement is started and ended differently in the tutorial.

#### *Working mitten 2 reinforcement:*

Use the working yarn. Take the last stitch worked on the crochet hook, go underneath the left leg of the leftmost stitch, which was part of the last decrease, and through (without twisting the stitch, wrong in the picture) the adjacent center stitch (center stitch 1). Pull the yarn through all loops. (Picture: the center stitch 1 is on the needle, center stitch 2 on the cable. Additionally, the crochet hook seems to hook the center stitch from a wrong direction ☹)



Continue left by picking up the next two legs, forming a '>' -shape (see picture) and crocheting them with slip stitches.



There is a shift at the CO seam and the stitches start to open into the opposite direction. When you reach the seam, pick the legs from '<' -shape (you should always pick the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> leg of the steek zone)



Finishing the round: go underneath the right leg of the rightmost stitch, which was part of the last decrease, and through the adjacent center stitch 2 (without twisting the stitch). Pull the yarn through all loops.

Cut the yarn and weave it in securely on the mitten 2 side.



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*Working with mitten 1 reinforcement:*

Finally, the CO-tail is used! Turn the work so that the mitten 1 points to you. Start to crochet from the first stitch left to the CO seam and continue left in the same manner as with mitten 2.



Crossing the BO seam:

Crochet the right leg of the rightmost decreased stitch (next to center stitch 1) together with the left leg of the center stitch 1. Crochet the stitch on the stitchholder alone. Crochet the left leg of the leftmost decreased stitch (next to the center stitch 2) together with the center stitch 2. Continue to the point you started. Note that the stitches open now into different direction ('>'). Secure the tail on the mitten 1 side. Cut the remaining tail.

## Separation

Cut the ladders between the reinforcement lines. Trim the edges.






## Finishing

Give the mittens a gentle bath. You may give the steek an extra reinforcement by rubbing the edge with soap and make it felt a bit. Squeeze all excess water out and block.

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## Links to techniques used

The below links lead to tutorials freely accessible on internet. I'm most thankful to people who share their knowledge with the knitting community, and all that free of charge. I don't charge for my tiny contribution, either 😊.

RLI, LLI (lifted increases)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0V359rMUTs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0V359rMUTs</a>	
CO (Turkish cast on)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4oG2JxhujU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4oG2JxhujU</a>	
Shadow wrap short rows	<a href="https://cocoknits.com/blogs/knit-tutorials/how-to-knit-shadow-wrap-short-rows">https://cocoknits.com/blogs/knit-tutorials/how-to-knit-shadow-wrap-short-rows</a>	
Crocheted steek	<a href="https://youtu.be/JvpOUoDUH2c">https://youtu.be/JvpOUoDUH2c</a>	