

Squid (or Kraken) mittens



You will need a set of size 3 double pointed needles and a bit under 100g of sport weight yarn (roughly 50 of the background color, a bit less of the accent). I like Diamond Pure Wool Superwash or Cascade 220.

These should fit most women's hands or bigger kids. You can use a size 4 or 5 needle to make bigger sizes; this pattern knit on a 5 should fit most men. To go smaller, you'll need to choose finer yarn as well as a smaller needle.

Cast on 48 stitches with accent color (I do 12-24-12 on 3 needles due to a 12-stitch repeat on the zigzag cuff, and just squish the long one to work in rounds). You can use a ribbed cuff instead if you prefer.

Zigzag cuff:

Row 0: Join to work in rounds and purl 1 row (accent color).

Stripe following rows as desired; my stripe pattern is 4 rows of background color (B), 1 accent (A), 2B, 3A, 2B, 1A, 3B.

Row 1: P1, K2tog, K3, YO, K1, YO, K3, SSK. Repeat to end.

Row 2: P1, K11.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 8 times, for a total of 16 rounds.

Knit 1 round (background color), increasing 3 stitches spaced evenly around for a total of 51 stitches on needles.

Work main chart (with the thumb and the larger squid) right-to-left for the left hand. For the right hand, substitute the “smaller squid” panel (worked right-to-left), but work the palm side including thumb gusset left-to-right. At the thumb gusset, when the chart blocks “step” outward, increase a stitch. I use make-one-right on the right side of the gusset and make-one-left on the left side, and I place these increases just inside the accent-color border of the gusset.

Note the pink line at the top of the thumb gusset. Work the row below this as usual. On the next row (above the line on the chart), when you get to the pink line knit the stitches it marks with a piece of scrap yarn in a contrasting color (this will be removed later). Move these stitches back to the left needle, and work the rest of the round in pattern over top.

Decreases: Any time the chart shows “steps” going inward, these are decreases. There are a few just past the thumb gusset (this gives some extra space for the thumb to move) and of course at the top. When the chart steps in from the left, work the last stitch as a K2tog. When it steps in from the right, work the first one as a SSK. These will of course switch when you work the chart the opposite direction; you always want your decreases to lean toward the center of the “panel” you are on.

Continue working chart until only 8 stitches remain. Thread end of yarn through remaining stitches, pull tight and sew in.

For the thumb, you will want to work the “outer” panel (shown on right) first for both hands. Remove the scrap yarn above the thumb gusset, placing stitches above AND below the scrap yarn back on needles. (For the upper row, I turn the mitten upside-down and put the needle through the right side of each stitch “V.” These stitches will look irregular.) I like to place 2 needles in the lower row and 1 in the upper. Turn mitten so that the hand is right-side-up. Pick up 2 stitches in the gap at the right corner of the thumb using the accent

color (this becomes part of the border shown in the thumb chart). Knit one more stitch in accent color, then make-1-right just inside the border. Continue knitting across lower-row stitches following the thumb chart for 9 stitches, then make-1-left (background) and knit the last stitch in accent color (starting the next border). Pick up 2 more stitches in the left corner gap using the accent color. Turn mitten and continue across upper row, working in pattern. Some of the stitches you picked up will not appear as a full loop; knit through back loop on these, which will twist them to make a closed stitch. You will also have some extra stitches at the edge compared to the inner-thumb portion of the chart; just knit these in background color, and after 2-3 rows decrease them to the number shown in the thumb chart (this creates a wider base and allows the thumb to move more comfortably. Join to the beginning where you picked up 2 stitches, and work chart in rounds until only 8 stitches remain. Thread end of yarn through remaining stitches, pull tight and sew in.

