

AXEL FINGERLESS MITTS



MATERIALS:

- 150 yds of bulky wool, to knit at about 3.5 sts per inch. I used a handspun merino.
- Set of five US #8 or #9 double-pointed needles (or use two circs or the Magic Loop if you prefer)
- Cable needle
- Stitch markers
- Waste yarn

DIRECTIONS:

CO 28 sts and join to work in the round.

Left mitt: Work in k2, p2 rib for 10 rounds. Next round: CO 1 st, pm, k1tbl, p4, k4, p4, k1tbl, work in 2×2 rib across palm side to last st, pm, co 1, p1.

Right mitt: Work in p2, k2 rib for 10 rounds. Next round: K1tbl, p4, k4, p4, k1tbl, pm, co 1, p1, co 1, pm, complete round in 2×2 rib.

Both mitts: Continue to cast on 2 gusset sts every third row — new st will always be just inside markers. Take new sts into k1, p1 rib. When there are 11 gusset sts, put them on waste yarn. CO 1 st to bridge the gap and rejoin the round.

Meanwhile, work 2x2 rib across the palm and work crossed cable pattern across the back side:

R1: K1tbl, p4, sl 2 to back, k2, k2 held back, p4, k1tbl.*

R2: K1tbl, p4, k4, p4, k1tbl.

R3: K1tbl, p3; sl 1 back, k1, k1 held back (Right Twist - RT); k2; sl 1 forward, k1, k1 held forward (Left Twist - LT); p3, k1tbl.

R4: K1tbl, p3, k6, p3, k1tbl.

R5: K1tbl, p2, RT, k4, LT, p2, k1tbl.

R6: K1tbl, p2, k8, p2, k1tbl.

R7: K1tbl, p1, RT, k6, LT, p1, k1tbl.

R8: K1tbl, p1, k10, p1, k1tbl.

*If desired, work a Front Cross on the second mitt by holding the two slipped sts to the front.

Repeat Rounds 1-8 two more times, then continue in 2x2 rib until the mitt reaches the tips of your index and ring fingers. BO in pattern. Pick up the thumb sts from the waste yarn, plus 1 st on each side of these held sts and 1 st from the top of the hole: 14 sts. Work in 1x1 rib until the thumb reaches your last thumb joint. BO in pattern. Weave in all ends, and wear in chilly environments that require your fingers to be free for typing, knitting, writing, etc.

