

METSÄ MITTENS

Design: Lankava, Lee Esselström.

Size: One size.

Finished measurements: Circumference approx. 20 cm, length approx. 26 cm, thumb length 7 cm, thumb circumference 10 (12 cm).

Yarn: Lankava Villava Wool Yarn 3-ply (100 % Finnish wool, 100 g = 180 m), 40 g natural white (1) and 40 g grey (3).

Needles: Double-pointed needles 4.5 mm, or size to obtain gauge.

Gauge: 17 sts and 22 rnds = 10 cm.

Stockinette Stitch: Working in the round: K all sts.

Notions: Waste yarn in contrasting color.

Abbreviations: CO = cast on, DPN(s) = double-pointed needle(s), K = knit, K2tog = knit 2 stitches together, rnd(s) = round, P = purl, SKPO = slip 1, K1, pass the slipped st over the knit st, st(s) = stitch(es), WS = wrong side

Instructions: Start by working the left hand mitten. Using DPNs and natural white yarn, CO 36 sts. Begin working a Latvian braid in the round for the mitten edge as follows:

Rnd 1: *K1 in natural white, K1 in grey*, repeat *-* to end without twisting yarns around each other on the WS of the work.

Rnd 2: Bring both yarn to the front of the work and hold them in front for the entire rnd. *Pick up the natural white yarn over the grey yarn and P1 with it, then pick up the grey yarn over the natural white yarn and P1 with it*, repeat *-* to end.

Rnd 3: Work as Rnd 2 keeping the yarns in front of the work for the entire rnd and picking them up in the opposite manner: *Pick up the natural white yarn under the grey yarn and P1 with it, pick up the grey yarn under the natural white yarn and P1 with it*, repeat *-* to end. For an online video tutorial, search for "Latvian braid". Bring the yarns back to the WS and start working the colorwork pattern. Work the 18 sts on needles 1 and 2 following Chart A and the 18 sts on needles 3 and 4 following Chart B. Keep repeating Rnds 1–2 of Chart B. Once you have worked approx. 8.5 cm, mark the thumb opening as follows: Work the last 6 (7) sts on needle 2 with contrasting color yarn, return sts back on the left needle and continue following the charts. Once you have worked 38 rnds, begin working top decreases on each side of the work as follows: at the beginning of needles 1 and 3, work SKPO, and at the end on needles 2 and 4, work K2tog. Work these decreases on all rnds until you have 8 sts left. Cut yarn and draw it twice through the last 8 sts.

Thumb: Remove the waste yarn marking the thumb opening, pick up sts from the top and bottom edge of the opening and then extra 1 (2) sts from each end of the opening = 14 (18) sts. Divide sts onto 3 DPNs = 5+5+4 (6+6+6) sts, and then using natural white yarn, knit until the thumb is approx. 7 cm. Next, keep working K2tog decreases at the end of each needle until you have a total of 6 sts left, cut yarn, and draw through the last 6 sts. Weave in ends. Work the right hand mitten otherwise the same but follow Chart A for needles 3 and 4 and Chart B for needles 1 and 2. Work the thumb opening at the beginning of needle 3.

Finishing: Weave in ends. Gently steam block the finished mittens from the WS holding the iron above the mittens, or wet block if desired. Squeeze out excess water but do not wring. Shape the mittens on a flat surface, on top of towels, and let dry.

