

Eloquence by Mary Keenan

My hands were freezing last spring as I read Wayson Choy's Not Yet: A Memoir of Living and Nearly Dying. Imagining his doing the same during winter writing sessions in the attic room he so movingly describes, I designed these fingerless gloves in a warm, undyed wool/alpaca blend. The soft whorls of the twisted rib cuff represent the cycles of our lives, while the embroidered Chinese symbols for 'eloquence' honour the artist's gift for making the most elemental experiences beautiful. The unusual thumb gusset makes an unembroidered pair of gloves reversible – perfect for children in a hurry to get outside – and I like the feel of the fabric so much, I've added a variation for mittens, too!

Materials

Toots LeBlanc & Co. Jacob/Alpaca - DK (50% wool, 50% alpaca; 250 yards/229 m; 5 oz/142 g) Medium Grey, 1 skein (MC)

Mitten cuff variation: Knitterly Things Vesper Sock Yarn (100% superwash merino wool; 428 yards/392m; 3 ½ oz/100g) 'Open Flame', 26 (32, 48, 54, 60) yards (CC)

1 set 3mm/US 2.5 double-pointed needles
2 yards/2m embroidery thread or fingering yarn
1 small crochet hook
1 tapestry needle

Gauge

24 sts and 32 rows = 4" in st st

Sizes

XS (S, M, L, 1X)

Width: 4 ½ (5 ¾, 7 ½, 8 ¾, 10 ¼) inches

Glove length: 4 ½ (4 ½, 6 ½, 6 ½, 6 ½) inches

Mitten length: 5 ¾ (6, 9 ¼, 9 ½, 9 ¾) inches

Size-Specific Yardage

Fingerless Gloves 75 (85, 130, 152, 180) yards

Mittens 100 (120, 180, 210, 240) yards

Cuff Variation for Mittens Deduct 26 (30, 38, 48, 54) yards from total mitten yardage and substitute sock yarn or fingering as specified in Materials; more specific gauge is not important here.

Notes

Left raised increases are most easily completed by watching from the front as you slip the left needle into the back loop of the K st below the most recently worked K st on the right needle, and lifting it up to rest on the left.

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Directions

Using 3.0 mm double-pointed needles, cast on 33 (39, 45, 51, 57) sts with MC; distribute evenly across 3 or 4 needles and place marker. Join, being careful not to twist.

Cuff

Rnd 1: *K2, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Rnd 2:*RT, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Repeat these 2 rnds until ribbing measures 2 (2, 2 ½, 2 ½, 2 ½)" long, ending after working a Rnd 2.

Mitten Cuff Variation

Cast on as given above, but using CC. Work in cuff pattern as given above. Break CC and change to MC.

Hand

Knit 4 (4, 7, 7, 7) rnds or until work measures 2 ½ (2 ½, 3 ½, 3 ½, 3 ½)" from beginning.

Thumb Gusset

Rnd 1: K1, LRI, K10 (10, 12, 14, 16), RRI, K to end of rnd – 35 (41, 47, 53, 59) sts.

Rnds 2, 3, 4: Knit (Sizes XS and S; work Rnd 2 only, then advance to Rnd 5).

Rnd 5: K2, LRI, K9 (9, 11, 13, 15), RRI, K to end of rnd – 37 (43, 49, 55, 61) sts.

Rnds 6, 7, 8: Knit (Sizes XS and S; work Rnd 6 only, then advance to Rnd 9).

Rnd 9: K3, LRI, K8 (8, 10, 12, 14), RRI, K to end of rnd – 39 (45, 51, 57, 63) sts.

Rnds 10, 11, 12: Knit (Sizes XS and S; work Rnd 10 only, then advance to Rnd 13).

Rnd 13, K4, LRI, K7 (7, 9, 11, 13), RRI, K to end of rnd – 41 (47, 53, 59, 65) sts.

Rnds 14, 15, 16: Knit (Sizes XS and S; work Rnd 14 only, then advance to Rnd 17).

Rnd 17: K3 (3, 2, 1, 1), LRI 1 (1, 2, 3, 3) time(s), slip next 10 (10, 12, 14, 14) sts onto holder, slip first st from right needle onto left needle and K2tog into these two sts but leaving them on the needle, then knit into the back of these two sts and discard them. K1, RRI 1 (1, 2, 3, 3) times, K to end of rnd – 33 (39, 45, 51, 57) sts.



Abbreviations**K:** knit**LRI:** left raised increase (K1, then lift 2nd wrong-side purl nub below the stitch last knit, and transfer it to the left needle. Knit into the back of the resulting loop; because of its position, if you knit into the front you will twist the stitch.)**P:** purl**RRI:** right raised increase (raise the purl nub that is below the first st on the left needle, K the raised loop, then K the next st on the left needle.)**RT:** right twist (skip next st on left needle, K 2nd st at front of work, then K skipped st.)**st (s):** stitch (es)**Finger Rib** (if making mittens, advance to 'Mittens')

Knit 4 (4, 8, 8, 8) rnds.

Rnd 1: *K2, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Rnd 2: *RT, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Repeat these 2 rnds 1 (1, 2, 2, 2) time(s) more; then cast off loosely in K2-P1 rib.

Thumb

Rnd 1: Slip reserved thumb stitches onto 3-4 needles and use crochet hook to thread 5 (5, 6, 4, 7) loops through the fabric in the gap between the thumb and the hand; place marker for end of round, join and then knit to end of rnd – 15 (15, 18, 18, 21) sts.

Rnd 2: Knit.

Rnd 3: *K2, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Rnd 4: *RT, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Repeat the last 2 rnds 1 (1, 2, 2, 2) time(s) more; then cast off loosely in K2-P1 rib.

Mittens

Knit until hand measures 1 ¾ (1 ¾, 3 ¼, 3 ¼, 3 ¼)” from Rnd 17 of thumb gusset.

Mitten Decrease

Rnd 1 – Right Mitten: K5, K2tog, K7 (8, 9, 10, 11), K2tog, K7 (8, 9, 10, 11), K2tog, K to end of rnd – 30 (36, 42, 48, 54) sts.

Rnd 1 – Left Mitten: K8 (12, 16, 20, 24), K2tog, K7 (8, 9, 10, 11), K2tog, K7 (8, 9, 10, 11), K2tog, K to end of rnd – 30 (36, 42, 48, 54) sts.

All remaining Rnds are identical for both mittens.

Rnd 2 and all even-numbered Rnds: Knit.

Rnd 3: *K3 (4, 5, 6, 7), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 24 (30, 36, 42, 48) sts.

Rnd 5: *K2 (3, 4, 5, 6), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 18 (24, 30, 36, 42) sts.

Rnd 7: *K1 (2, 3, 4, 5), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 12 (18, 24, 30, 36) sts.

Rnd 9: *K0 (1, 2, 3, 4), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 6 (12, 18, 24, 30) sts.

Size XS ends here; advance to Mitten Finishing.

Rnd 11: *K0 (0, 1, 2, 3), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 0 (6, 12, 18, 24) sts.

Size S ends here; advance to Mitten Finishing.

Rnd 13: *K0 (0, 0, 1, 2), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 0 (0, 6, 12, 18) sts.

Size M ends here; advance to Mitten Finishing.

Rnd 15: *K0 (0, 0, 0, 1), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 0 (0, 0, 6, 12) sts.

Size L ends here; advance to Mitten Finishing.



Rnd 17: *K0 (0, 0, 0, 0), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 0 (0, 0, 0, 6) sts.

Mitten Finishing

Cut an 8-inch tail and run it through the remaining sts; pull tight on inside of mitten and tack down, smoothing out the tip for a rounded edge.

Thumb

Next Rnd: Slip reserved thumb stitches onto 3-4 needles and use crochet hook to thread 5 (5, 6, 4, 7) loops through the fabric in the gap between the thumb and the hand; place marker for end of round, then K to end of rnd – 15 (15, 18, 18, 21) sts

Knit 10 (10, 13, 13, 13) rnds.

Rnd 1: *K3 (3, 4, 4, 5), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 12 (12, 15, 15, 18) sts.

Rnd 2 and all subsequent even-numbered Rnds: Knit.

Rnd 3: *K2 (2, 3, 3, 4), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 9 (9, 12, 12, 15) sts.

Rnd 5: *K1 (1, 2, 2, 3), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 6 (6, 9, 9, 12) sts.

Sizes XS and S end here; advance to Thumb Finishing.

Rnd 7: *K0 (0, 1, 1, 2), K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 0 (0, 6, 6, 9) sts.

Sizes M and L end here; advance to Thumb Finishing.

Rnd 9: *K0[0, 0, 0, 1],K2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 0[0, 0, 0, 6] sts.

Thumb Finishing

Cut an 8-inch tail and run through remaining 6 sts; tack on inside, smoothing out the tip for a rounded edge.

Finishing

Darn in any loose ends.

Using contrast yarn and satin stitch, embroider the palm or thumb of the right glove with the character for ‘sprouting plant’, and the left with that for ‘mouth’, as shown below.

