



Blue State Mittens © ThreadingWater.com

Melt the resolve of the most unrepentant conservative in your life. Blue State Mittens will change the world, one toasty hand at a time.

Materials: (2 skeins) Cascade 220, Paton's Classic Merino, or wool felting yarn of your choice. Always felt a sample swatch of your wool to learn how it will behave.

1/3 yd. 45" width light fleece or flannel fabric for lining and cuff band

Embroidery thread or needlepoint wool for cuff band decoration and appropriately sized embroidery/darning needles

Small amount of non-felting wool for knit cuffs

Gauge: Approximately 5.5 sts/inch

Needles: Two circulars (optional) and/or 4 dpn's in size needed to obtain gauge

Size: Instructions given are for a Women's Size Medium. For other sizes, increase or decrease cast-on stitches by multiples of 4, and increase or decrease the length measured from the crook of the thumb to the point where tip decreases begin, by $\frac{3}{4}$ " increments.

Directions: Cast on 52 sts. Place marker if using two circ's. If using dpns, divide work on 3 needles as follows: Needle #1-26 sts, Needles 2 & 3 – 13 sts each.

Join stitches and knit 5 rounds.

Begin gusset for thumb:

1st increase round: k25, k into front and back of next 2 sts. K to end of round.

Next round: knit

2nd increase round: k25, k into front and back of next st., k2, k into front and back of next st., k to end of round

Continue to alternate the increase rounds and the plain knit rounds, adding 2 sts between increases on each increase round, until the thumb gusset equals 20 stitches. (Increase or decrease the total number of thumb gusset sts by multiples of 6 for other sizes)

When you have reached the appropriate number of thumb gusset sts, place those stitches on a thread or holder and continue knitting to the end of the round.

Continue knitting around until mitten measures 4.5 inches from crook of thumb.

Switch to dpn's if you have been using circs to this point. Divide sts on three needles as in beginning.

Begin Decreases for Tip

Decrease round:

Needle 1: k1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1

Needle 2: k1, k2tog, k to end

Needle 3: k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1

Next round: knit

Repeat these two rounds until 12 sts remain.

Next round *k1, k2tog repeat from *

Next round *k2tog repeat from *

Draw yarn through remaining sts and tie off.

Thumb

Divide thumb sts onto 3 dpn's and pick up and knit two extra sts where gusset sts meet the body of the mitten. Knit around until length reaches middle of thumbnail – approx. 15 rounds.

Next 2 rounds: *k2tog repeat from *

Draw yarn through remaining sts and tie off.

Felting:

Felt mittens in washing machine using hot water and mild soap. You may need to repeat the process two or three times to obtain the proper size. Detailed felting instructions can be found on numerous web sites and many pattern books.

Shape mittens to proper size when still wet and allow to air dry flat for one or two days.

Lining:

Fold lining fabric in half, right sides together. Using mittens as a template, trace and cut around mitten outline, leaving a 3/8" seam allowance around the sides, the thumb and the tip of the mitten. On the cuff edge, cut the lining a generous 1.5" longer than the cuff edge of the mitten.

Machine or hand stitch the two lining halves together. Do not stitch the bottom edge of the cuff.

Check fit by slipping your hand into the lining and pulling the felted mitten over your hand. If the lining feels right, trim seam around lining close to edge of stitching.

Cuff Band:

Slip lining into mitten, seam edges will be right-side out. Fold-up excess cuff length of lining material so it covers the bottom edge of the felted mitten. Turn the unfinished edges under and stitch to body of mitten by hand or by machine.

Decorate Cuff:

Use embroidery thread or needlepoint yarn to decorate cuff. Use your imagination. Add beads, ribbon trim, anything that appeals to your true blue heart.

For my sample mittens, I worked a blanket stitch pattern around the bottom edge. This stitch is particularly useful because it leaves a nice base of stitches for you to knit into when attaching the knitted cuff.

Knit Cuff:

Note: The knit cuffs may be knit separately and sewn to the bottom of the fabric cuff band, or knit directly into the cuff band if you have provided some loose decorative stitches to knit into.

Cast on 28sts on 3 dpn's. (Increase or decrease in multiples of 4) Work 2x2 ribbing (*k2, p2 repeat from *) for desired length.

Bind off loosely. Hand sew to bottom edge of fabric cuff band.