

# GNOMITTENS

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Gnomittens were created, as many knitted items are, out of a necessity to warm the hands of a friend. The original design was to expose the least amount of skin needed for smoking cigarettes\* - only the top two knuckles of the index and middle fingers and the very tip of the thumb are showing - but it turns out that this same design is all you need for signing autographs (or credit card receipts), fishing change from your pockets, wrangling the cap off your lip balm, buttoning jackets, and unwrapping candy bars.



## **Pattern Notes**

The construction of these gloves is based on several patterns that I read but didn't make; mainly, the Cigar and Broad Street mittens from Knitty. I also got the idea for a lifeline from the [Hooray for Me Gloves](#) (which I have made in the past). Also note that this recipe produces mittens that fit my sorta-small (7.5" around my palm, size 5 ring finger) hands. [The Cigar pattern](#) can provide you with ideas for making larger gloves; I'm using thinner yarn and size 4 needles instead of worsted weight and size 5 needles. I'm more or less following the instructions for size large, so if you choose a worsted weight yarn and/or go up a needle size, your gloves will turn out larger than mine.

And um, maybe this isn't something that everyone else in the world needs to hear, but the gloves are made exactly the same and can be worn on either hand *until you attach the mitten shell*. That's kind of something that I needed to hear before attaching the second mitten shell. Learn from my mistake!

Finally, there's a lot of binding off and picking up and casting on when you get to the fingers. I wrote pretty much what the patterns above said, but I actually used the pickup methods that I use for socks; that is, to eliminate holes between the fingers, I picked up more stitches than recommended and just K2tog in the next round to end up with the right number of stitches. Don't worry if there are holes between your fingers, though - when you're rejoining the yarn for each finger, leave a 4-5" tail. Then when you go back to weave in the ends, you can sew the holes shut.

## **Materials**

I used Wool-Ease Sportweight, which is no longer available. I can't say how much was used, but I'd already made a pair of socks out of this skein, and after making the Gnomittens, there's still plenty of yarn to make 2 more pairs of socks. If you're using some other sportweight or DK yarn, get enough for a pair of socks (200 yards?) and it'll be plenty.

Size 4 needles (I used the [Magic Loop](#) method throughout, but DPNs will also work fine)

Waste yarn (for holding stitches)

Tapestry needle

### **Gauge**

I got 5 stitches to the inch on stockinette in the round. On my flat swatch, I got almost 5 stitches per inch. I think my purls tighten up. You'll be working in the round, so I recommend the round swatch, anyway.

## **Gloves (make two):**

### **Cuff**

Using [Twisted German Cast On](#), CO 44 sts (partly because it sounds crazy, partly because it's very stretchy)

Join carefully, then knit rounds 1-20 in K2 P2 rib (just over 3", but you can make it longer)

### **Thumb (part 1) and Pinky (part 1)**

Next round: K all sts

Next round (increase round): K1, M1, K to end of round, M1

These are rounds 21 & 22. Repeat them 4 more times. 52 stitches.

K 3 rounds, then work an increase round.

These four rounds are 31-34. Repeat them 2 more times. 58 stitches.

Next round: K to last 7 sts, place next 15 sts on waste yarn for thumb

Next round: CO 1 st, rejoin round, K all sts (44 sts)

K 6 rounds straight (but do a check here and either try the glove on or hold it up to your hand - if it doesn't reach the bottom of your pinky finger, it won't mess anything up to knit a couple more rounds) *This is where I put my lifeline.*

Next round: K17, place next 10 sts on waste yarn for the pinky, CO 2 sts, rejoin round and K remaining 17 sts. 36 sts.

K 3 rounds.

### **Index**

K6, place next 24 sts on waste yarn for index finger, CO 2, rejoin, K to end. 14 sts.

K 5 rounds or to bottom of middle knuckle.

BO loosely. For a little elasticity, I bind off in K1, P1 rib.

### **Middle**

Pick up and K 2 stitches from cast on sts from index finger (or near there).

K 5 sts on one side of hand next to index finger, CO 2, K 6 sts on other side of hand next to index finger, join to work in the round. 15 sts.

K 5-6 rounds to bottom of middle knuckle.

BO loosely in 1x1 rib again.

### **Ring**

Pick up and K 2 sts in CO sts from middle finger (or thereabouts)

K remaining 11 sts from waste yarn next to middle finger (13 sts)

Join round and K to the end of the fingertip (my nails are never very long, so I knit until I *just covered* the end of my finger - it was 18 rounds for me)

Next round: K2tog 6 times, K1

Next round: K2tog 3 times, K1

Break yarn, draw thru remaining stitches, and pull tight.

### **Pinky**

Pick up and K 2 sts in CO next to held sts for pinky

K 10 held sts. (12 sts)

Join and K to end of fingertip (15 rounds for me)  
Next round: K2tog 6 times  
Next round: K2tog 3 times  
Break yarn, draw through remaining sts, pull tight.

### Thumb

Pick up and K 1 st in CO next to thumb gusset, K 15 held sts  
K 12 rounds, or enough to reach tip of thumb.  
BO loosely in 1x1 rib.

Sit back and admire your *handiwork*. :) (I slay me sometimes)



Now, make another glove.

### Mitten shell

OK, I have to admit that I used #3 needles here, but #4 would work fine. I *meant* to use #4s.

CO 28 sts using Twisted German Cast On (or your fav cast on, since these don't HAVE to be stretchy)  
Rows 1-9: K2, P2 ribbing (back and forth, not in the round)

Pick up 28 stitches across the knuckles of the glove. For left glove, make sure the thumb is on the right side. :) *Important note:* For the purposes of writing out the decrease rounds, I'll refer to the sts you picked up as the pickup sts and the sts that started out as K2 P2 rib as the mitten sts. By the time you get to the decreases, it will be obvious that the picked up sts are just as much a part of the mitten shell as the ones that you started with, but I'm referring to the side you're working on.

-If you're using 4 DPNs, divide your sts so that there are 7 on each needle. The needle with the picked up stitches which is closest to the thumb on the left glove and closest to the pinky on the right glove is needle 1.

-If you're using 3 DPNs, put all the pickup sts on one needle (needle 1) and put the mitten sts on needles 2 and 3.

-If you're using magic loop, pick up the stitches from pinky to thumb so that both needles are pointing toward the thumb on the left glove. On the right glove, pick up the sts from thumb to pinky and have both needles pointing toward the pinky.

Join the pickup stitches with the ribbing and knit 20 rounds in st st.

Begin decrease rounds (done just like socks):

1. Needle(s) with pickup sts: K1, ssk, K across pickup sts to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1

Needle(s) with mitten sts: K1, ssk, K across mitten sts to last 3 sts, K2tog, K1

2. K 1 round even

Repeat these two rows until 12 sts remain on each needle.

Using [Kitchener stitch](#), graft remaining sts together with your tapestry needle.

Weave in all your ends and close any gaps with your yarn tails and your tapestry needle.

Your mitten shells might flop around without a button to hold them back. You can make a loop of i-cord and sew it to the end of the mitten shell, but the length of the i-cord loop depends on the button you choose.

Now, go make some Jazz Hands!



\* I don't condone smoking at all, but neither do I condone letting a friend freeze.