

## Little Birds Mittens



**Size:** Ladies Medium.

**Materials:** Louet Gems sportweight, 1 100 gram skein. [I used approximately 60 grams.]  
Set of double pointed needles size 3.25 mm/No. 3. (Mittens are knit on four needles - five total needed). Or size needed to achieve gauge.  
Darning needle to weave in ends. Stitch holder or small piece of waste yarn to hold stitches

**Gauge:** 24 stitches, 32 rows to 4 inch swatch in stocking stitch.

### Special Notes

These mittens are worked from the top to the cuff. The Little Birds pattern is from A Treasury of Knitting Patterns by Barbara Walker has been modified for knitting in the round over a 24 stitch repeat.

### Top

Create a slip knot and place it on 1 dpn. Using the backwards loop method, cast on 10 stitches. Using a second dpn, knit the 10 stitches and drop the slip knot of the needle. Purl 1 row, knit 1 row, purl 1 row for a total of 4 rows to form a rectangle.

Begin to work in the round: Leave the 10 stitches on the first dpn. Using a second and third dpn, pick up 2 stitches along one side of the rectangle and 5 stitches along half the cast-on edge and leave them on the second needle. Using the third and fourth dpn, pick up 5 stitches on the second half of the cast-on edge and 2 stitches down the other side of the rectangle for a total of 24 stitches. Arrange the stitches over the needles so that you have 5 stitches from one of the long sides of the rectangle and 1 stitch picked up from an end (total 6 stitches) on each of the four needles. Knit 1 round even.

On the next round increase 4 stitches:

Needle 1: K 1, M1, knit to the end

Needle 2: K until the last stitch, M1, K1

Needle 3: K 1, M1, knit to the end

Needle 4: K until the last stitch, M1, K1

Then knit a round without increasing.

Repeat these 2 rounds until you have a total of 48 stitches. Arranged 12 stitches on each needle.

Knit 3 rounds.



### **Little Birds Pattern Stitch**

Follow pattern stitch for only needles one and two (the top of the mitten) and continue to knit needles three and four plain (the palm of the mitten).

Row 1 - Knit 11, slip 2, knit 11

Row 2 - Knit 9, slip 2, drop next stitch to front, slip same 2 stitches back to left hand needles, pick up dropped stitch and knit it, knit 2, drop next stitch, knit 2, pick up dropped stitch and knit, knit 9.

Row 3, 4, 5 - Knit all stitches

Row 6 - Knit 4, slip 2, knit 12, slip 2, knit 4

Row 7 - Knit 2, slip 2, drop next stitch to front, slip same 2 stitches back to left hand needles, pick up dropped stitch and knit it, knit 2, drop next stitch, knit 2, pick up dropped stitch and knit, knit 8, slip 2, drop next stitch to front, slip same 2 stitches back to left hand needles, pick up dropped stitch and knit it, knit 2, drop next stitch, knit 2, pick up dropped stitch and knit, knit 2.

Row 8, 9, 10 - Knit all stitches.

Work pattern stitch for desired length to thumb opening. Hint: Try to place thumb opening on rows 3-5 or 8-10 of pattern.

#### **Right Mitten**

On needle 3 - knit 2, knit 6 stitches with waste yarn and then slip these stitches back to left needle and knit as usual.

#### **Left Mitten**

On needle 4 - knit 4, knit 6 stitches with waste yarn and then slip these stitches back to left needle and knit to end of round.

Continue pattern stitch for desired length to cuff.

[I placed my thumb opening on row 34 of patterning. I completed 55 rows total of the pattern or in other words, five and a half repeats of the little birds pattern. My hand measures seven inches in length.]

Knit 3 rounds.

### **Cuff**

Work in knit 1, purl 1 ribbing ,(k 1, p 1 and repeat), for desired length of cuff.

Bind off loosely.

[I used a Russian bind off - knit 2 together, loosen it a bit and then place back onto the left needle, knit two together again (that loosened stitch and a new stitch), loosen, place it back onto the left needle, and repeat. A very stretchy bind off.] [My cuff was 14 rounds, binding off on the 15 round.]

### **Thumb**

Remove waste yarn and place resulting live stitches on needles. Divide stitches between needles to begin working in the round. When working first round, pick up and knit 2 stitches in each corner. After first round, there will be 16 stitches. Divide stitches so that there are 4 on each needle with needles 3 and 4 matching palm.

Knit to desired length, approximately to middle of thumbnail. [I knit for 22 rounds.]

Next round: Knit 1, ssk, knit to last three stitches of needle 2, K2tog, K 1. Knit 1, ssk, knit to last three stitches of needle 4, k2tog, K1.

Next round: Knit.

Next round: Knit 1, ssk, knit to last three stitches of needle 2, K2tog, K 1. Knit 1, ssk, knit to last three stitches of needle 4, k2tog, K1.

8 stitches total remain, 2 on each needle. Place stitches from needles 1 and 2 on one needle and needles 3 and 4 on one needle.

Cut yarn leaving a tail long enough to Kitchener stitch close the remaining stitches.

Weave in ends.

Machine washable in warm or cool water on gentle cycle. Fluff briefly in the dryer and lay flat to finish drying.

Original Little Birds stitch pattern for flat knitting found in A Treasury of Knitting Patterns by Barbara Walker.