
Holiday Mitten Garland with Maggie Pace

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Introduction

- This little mitten is a great holiday project, not only because it makes an adorable topper for a present, but because by learning how to knit it in this small little form, you're actually learning how to knit a real life-size mitten. It's exactly the same construction. So in this project, we're going to be learning how to do the ribbed edging, the thumb gusset, and the shaping around the top. Put on the little buttons and do the blanket stitch. (gentle instrumental music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To make this project, I am using about 30 yards each of 100% worsted weight wool, a yarn needle, thread, and a regular sewing needle, buttons in assorted sizes, two stitch markers, size four straight needles, size five needles used as if they were straight needles, a holder or a waste yarn, and scissors.

Chapter 3 - Knitting

Cast on

- To begin the project, I'm gonna cast on 24 stitches and that's right here at the base of the mitten, and then I'm gonna work in a knit one purl one rib, and when I cast on for this project, I use a long tail cast on, and the reason I've selected that cast on is because it makes for a very elastic edge. So you can do any kind of long tail cast on that you know how to do. It really doesn't matter which one you select. This is the one that I do. I start by making a slip knot, then I place it on my needle and I pull it to tighten. I split the yarn between my fingers. I pull the needle down to create an X. Put the needle up through the center of that X, bring it over, capture this yarn coming off of my index finger and bring it back through. Then I pull it taught, and I repeat that until I've cast on all 24 stitches. Make the X, put the needle up through that top of the X, go grab the yarn that's coming from around my index finger, and then I release and tighten. I'll continue working my long tail cast on until I have a total of 24 stitches on my needle. Right now I'm working on my size four needles. When we're done with the ribbing, I'm gonna switch to my size fives to shape the actual hand part of the mitten. Okay, there's my 24th stitch. I'm gonna turn my work now, and get right into the knit one purl one rib. I begin by knitting the first stitch. I bring the yarn to the front, and then purl the second stitch. Move the yarn to the back and knit the next stitch, yarn to front and purl. Continue in this manner until you get to the end of the row, alternating knits and purls. And you repeat this exactly for the following four rows and you'll build a little rib that looks just like this. I use that elastic long tail cast on because it gives me a cuff that tapers in right here like that. If I used another kind of cast on, for instance, a knit on cast on or a cable cast on, then the shape of this would be more like that, and there'd be nothing wrong with that. It would just, I think it makes it not quite as cute and changes the shape of the mitten slightly. But if you only know how to do a knit on cast on, by all means, go for it. The project will not be altered dramatically, but just slightly. It'll look a little bit more like that.

Change color and start mitten

- Now that I've completed the cuff it's time to switch to my larger needles and change the color of yarn that I'm using. I'm all done with my red, so I'm gonna go ahead and cut that, leaving about a six inch tail. I'll come back later and weave that in. Here are my size five needles. Today I'm using circular needles, but I'm not knitting in the round on them. I'm using them exactly as if they're straight needles. I'll insert the needle as if to knit, pick up the new color yarn, leave, again, about a six inch tail right there, place it between your finger and the needle to lock it in place and keep that tail in place, and knit with it. That's it, it's that easy to add color. Now I'm gonna be knitting in stockinette stitch for the rest of this pattern, which is knit a row, purl a row. And at the very beginning of this first row I need to do a little bit of shaping. At this point the pattern calls for a make one left and the point of this increase is to give a little shaping right here. See how the glove is getting a little wider on each end? That's because I'm adding stitches on each end here. To make a make one left I use my left hand needle and I grab this little bar that lives between those two stitches with my left hand needle from the front to the back, I loop it up and put it on there. Let's show you that again, 'cause that's important. You grab from the front to the back. And then I knit that stitch that I just added through the back loop. And how I get through the back loop is I take my right hand needle, I put it behind my left hand needle, and then I knit as I normally would with my blue yarn, 'cause I've switched to blue. And if you can see that right there, see how there's a little bar that slants to the left, that's why it's called a make one left, because that's an increase that leaves a bar that slants to the left. I knit to the end of this row and at the end of this row I'll make a make one right. That is another increase, which is much like the first, except for it leaves a little bar that slants to the right. I'm gonna stop after knitting the second to last stitch here, that's my last stitch I'm gonna knit before I do my make one right. Again, with my left hand needle I go into that bar between the two stitches, but I do it in a different way. I go from the back to the front. It's the opposite of what I just did. Before I went from the front to the back, this time I went from the back to the front. With my right hand needle I insert underneath the stitch on the left hand needle and put the right hand needle to the back and in doing so I'm twisting that stitch and that little twist makes the bar slant to the right. After completing my last stitch I'll turn my work and purl, dropping that size four needle and picking up with the size five needle. I'm purling, because I'm sticking in my stockinette stitch pattern, which is knit a row, purl a row. Every purl in this pattern involves no shaping at all. So when you're purling all you need to do is purl all the way back down the row. So I'll purl all the way back. And then move onto the thumb gusset shaping. For the next knit row I'm gonna begin my thumb gusset shaping. Knit 12. Two, four, six, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12. And this is the beginning of my thumb gusset. I need to grab a marker, place it, and do another make one left increase, and that is the increase where I grab this little bar here from front to back and I knit through the back loop, which means I send my right hand needle behind my left hand needle, and knit as I normally would. And then I knit two. I make one right, which is where I take my left hand needle, I pick up that bar from the back of the work to the front, and with my right hand needle I knit that stitch by sending the right hand needle through the yarn that's over from this side to that side, wrap my yarn and knit. And you can see my little right slant here and I have a left slant on this side. I place a marker, and those markers remind me that the stitches from here to here are my thumb gusset. I then knit 12 to reach the end of the row. Now that I have showed you how to make the increases that make up the thumb gusset I'm gonna pause for a minute here and I'm gonna talk about the purpose of those increases and what a thumb gusset is. This is where the thumb gusset will live and the best way to show what the purpose of the thumb gusset is is to fast forward in the project a little bit, so you can see the shape that we're eventually making. It looks just like this right

here. This is what we're making. And this to me is one of the most exciting things about knitting, I love knitting in unusual shapes, and this is a pretty unusual shape. But here's the coolest part, watch, when we fold it in half here's the mitten, now you can see it. And there's the little thumb coming out right there. So where we are in the project right now is we're at this point right here, we're increasing through here in order to make that thumb shape come out. I'm gonna increase up to eight stitches between these two markers and then that's when my thumb will start emerging, and then we'll continue shaping the rest of the mitten from there. I'm purling back and every purl row in this pattern is just a straight purl. There's no increases in the purl rows at all and that's really typical with mitten patterns. Just purl straight back. And then in the next row we're gonna do a little bit more of that thumb gusset shaping. I'm just finishing up this row, my last two purls, turn my work, knitting this row. This row calls for a little bit of that same exact shaping right on the outside to get more of that rounded edge that I showed you earlier. So it's another make one increase to the left. The way we do that is we take our left hand needle, go from front to back, knit through the back loop, and then I'm gonna knit right to that marker where my thumb gusset lives. I've reached my thumb gusset increases and I'm gonna make the same exact increase that I did last time, a make one left, by taking the left hand needle, picking up that bar in between, knitting through the back loop. And you can see that that bar that's left right there is slanting to the left. I'm gonna knit the stitches in between until I reach the next marker and then make one right by taking the left hand needle and pulling up that bar from the back to the front, putting the right hand needle in the stitch from this angle to twist the stitch and knit. Slip the marker and now I have two, four, six stitches in between the thumb gusset. The pattern calls for completing the thumb gusset shaping when there are eight stitches between those two markers, so that means that I only have a row to purl back and then another increase row for the thumb gusset and then I'll be done, 'cause I'll have eight stitches between those two markers, and then I'll be able to move onto the next part of the shaping of the mitten.

Work front and back of mitten

- The pattern called for me to stop when there were eight stitches between my gusset markers and there are here I'll show you that, these two, four, six, eight, and now I'm at the point where I can shape the rest of the mitten, and the way that that's gonna happen is I'm gonna go ahead and knit two, four, six, eight. So that's my thumb gusset done, that means I can move forward and shape the rest of the mitten. Knit to the marker. At the marker. Stop. And grab your holder or your waste yarn. And all waste yarn is is a long piece of yarn threaded with a yarn needle. I prefer to use waste yarn in this situation because the mitten is gonna be easier to work, a holder is really stiff and long, and when you knit it can get clunky and a little bit in the way, so I usually just opt for the waste yarn. So the way that I transfer these stitches from my needle onto the waste yarn is I insert my needle into each one of the stitches and slide them right onto that yarn. I'm gonna move this out of the way. The purpose for this, and what I'm doing, is I'm holding these stitches, I'm not gonna be working them for the next several rows, I'm gonna be working the stitches that only remain on the needle, and that allows me to achieve that shaping that I showed earlier in which I could work one side of the glove and then the other side of the glove. Now that I've transferred all of these stitches onto the waste yarn, I come back to the needle and the live stitches that are on my needle, and I'm making sure to leave my markers in place so I remember where my thumb gusset is, and I'm just gonna go ahead and knot off that waste yarn so that those stitches do not slip off. I'm coming back to my live stitches that are still on my needle, I turn my work and I find my yarn, my live yarn still

connected to my ball. The pattern tells me that I'm beginning on a pearl row, but also I know I'm beginning on a pearl row because that's where my yarn is, my yarn is on a pearl row and it's coming from this first stitch here. So I follow the pattern which tells me to pearl back and work in stockinette stitch for eight rows. I pearl through this row, I'll turn my work, and knit the following row, and continue that until I've completed those eight rows. Once I'm done with those rows, I'm gonna shape the top and that's what's gonna give the top of my front mitten its little rounded shape, right here. It's important to understand where we're headed with this project because mitten shaping can get a little bit confusing, so I'm gonna show you this piece again, which we brought out before, about where we're headed. So what I'm gonna do is I'm gonna work eight rows from here in stockinette stitch, these are the stitches minus that, that we put on the holder, all along here. And I'm gonna work from here to here in stockinette stitch. And once I've done that my work will look like this right here. So here's those eight rows completed in stockinette stitch, and now I can do the shaping at the top, which is right here, and that shaping at the top is what I'm gonna show you now. The shaping to decrease is much simpler in a sense than the shaping for increasing because all it is in this case is knit two together, and knitting two together can't be easier, so basically what we're gonna do is we're gonna knit two. And then knit two together. And we're gonna repeat that process until we get to the end of the row. Knit two, and then knit two together. Knit two, and then knit two together, and the pattern says end knit one, which means there's only one stitch left so that tells me that I know I'm right in the pattern. So I'm ending knit one. I'm gonna go back and pearl straight, and like I've said before, none of the pearl rows involve any increases or decreases, every pearl row is that you just perled back straight, and then in the following row there's another set of decreases and what those decreases are doing is they're quickly bringing those stitches in and they're creating that little round curve at the top of the mitten. I'm finishing up my pearl row. I'll turn my work. I'll knit one, so now my decrease has changed because I have less stitches on my needle, and then I'm gonna knit two together. Last row I knit two knit two together, now I'm knitting one and I'm knitting two together. And that's all in the pattern. That just makes sure that my decreasing is even. By making the decreases in the same place at every point in the mitten, I get a really nice curve here. If I did all the decreases on one side, that would be lopsided so it's really important to make sure that all of the increases are done evenly, but that's all in the pattern so basically all you're doing is following the pattern for decreasing. The next row I'm pearling back, and then continuing in the idea that the decreases get closer spaced, I'm gonna knit two together all the way to the end. And that will be my last row. So here we go. Knit two together. All the way to the end. Ending knit one. I'm gonna break my yarn, which I actually already have it broken here, it normally would be connected to a ball. And then I'm gonna take a yarn needle, and I'm gonna thread those stitches back through. And then instead of binding off, which would leave a straight line, by threading the stitches back through I take my needle off and I just get my yarn needle and I send it right through the stitches, there's a few ways to do that, that's just one way, you can come back the other way too. I pull my yarn and watch what happens, I get a little gather at the top, right there. See how nice and tidy that is? You can see where I did each of my decreases and doing at the same time it makes sure that they all fan in together, and then gathering at the top instead of binding off makes a nice round top. So that's the mitten shaping. Now that the front side of the mitten's done and I actually keep on calling it front side and back side, but mittens can be either front and back, they're actually identical so just a side. Now that I'm done with this side I'm gonna move on to the next side and I'm not dealing yet, with the thumb gusset stitches that are between these two markers. I'm gonna leave those on the waste yarn. I know that these are my thumb gusset stitches because one, they're

marked off, and two, I can see all of my left and right slanting increases that I placed all along here. I'm gonna cut my waste yarn. I'm gonna remove these stitches right here, and place them onto my size five needle. I'm getting ready to work the other side of the mitten. And I'm gonna stop at that marker, because that's the thumb gusset. Pull that waste yarn out. I'm gonna leave my markers there, and then tie that off to preserve that thumb gusset in place and to make sure that those stitches don't come undone. And here I am at the next side of the mitten. And the pattern tells me to orient my work so that it is wrong side facing or pearl side facing, I know that that's the pearl side because it has all of these little bumps, or the wrong side, pearl side in stockinette stitch. But this is referred to in knitting as the wrong side. And the right side in stockinette stitch is flat. So the pattern told me to start on a pearl side. I pick up a new yarn, and I'm gonna pearl. And the way you add a new yarn is exactly how you add a new color, you just drop it, hold it in place, and then begin purling, don't worry about the tail, we'll come back later and weave that in. With the stitches now on the needle, I'm ready to pearl and that puts me to the same place in the pattern than I was when I was right here. The pattern is identical from here to here, I work in stockinette stitch for eight rows, and then I do my decrease pattern to get the top shaping. It's exactly the same, so you repeat what we actually just did over here, and then we'll move on to the next part of the shaping of the mitten.

Knit thumb and seam mitten

- To knit the thumb, remove the waste yarn. Grab your needle. Run your needle through the stitches. This is the size five needle, and then remove that waste yarn, like that, and then we work back and forth on this in stockinette stitch for four rows, and again, I'm on a circular needle, so I can do that. I'm starting on a knit row. If you did that with a straight needle and you were not starting on a knit row, turn your needle around. Pick up a new yarn. Act as if you're going to knit. Place that new yarn here behind the needle. Hold it in place with your index finger, and then go ahead and knit with it. I'm gonna knit a row, purl a row, knit a row, purl a row, and that's all there is to it with the thumb. Knit a row, purl a row, and then in order to shape the top of the thumb, I'm finishing purling the last row. I just worked four rows in stockinette stitch. This is my last purl stitch here, and now, I'm gonna go ahead and cut this yarn, leaving maybe a 12 inch tail or something like that. I'm gonna take my tail, thread it with a yarn needle, and then I'm gonna remove these stitches with that tail by placing them onto this needle, and then I'm gonna pull through and run that tail right through, pull it tight and I've gathered, and just in gathering, I've made that little thumb shape, so this is actually the really exciting part because we go from it looking nothing like a mitten at all, just this weird, sort of funky shape, and then when you fold it in half and then pull that yarn, it's magically transformed into this great, little mitten. I'm gonna go ahead and secure this gather by sending the yarn back through one more time, and I don't have to be precise about it 'cause I already captured all of the stitches. I'm just trying to lock it down here a little bit and make that gather more permanent, and I'm gonna use this same exact threaded needle and seam up that thumb to finish. Seam it using the mattress stitch, and the way to do the mattress stitch is you grab a stitch coming from right to left. Go from the outside of the stitch right there and then grab the same stitch on the other side, like that, and then pull through, and that brings those two sides together. From the same side that you just worked, put the needle from back to front towards you through the next stitch, and find the corresponding stitch on the other side, which is right here, and put the needle through the stitch from front to back. We do that in the next row, going in the opposite direction. I'm putting the needle in from the back through the front and I'm finding the corresponding stitch on this side. I'm sending the needle through the stitch and bringing it towards me. Find the corresponding stitch on

the other side, sending the needle towards me, pulling the yarn through, and now, I'm gonna go down one row, find the next stitch, send the needle away from me through the stitch, find the next stitch on the other side of the seam that corresponds with this one, and I'm gonna send the needle away from me and pull the yarn through, so the rhythm of it is back and forth, back and forth from each row, and then I'm just gonna work all the way around until the whole mitten is seamed, so now that I'm done with the thumb, I'm gonna continue. I'm just gonna fold that thumb back there. I'm gonna find the right stitch here, send the needle away from me, find its partner on the other side, send the needle away from me, come back, drop one row here, find the stitch here, find its partner on the other side and bring the needle toward me. Move onto the next row. I'm gonna do the same thing. Here's the first row. I like to work using these loops right here, which is not the edge stitch, but one stitch inside the edge stitch, so I wanna pick that one right there and I'm gonna choose the same stitch on the other side, not the edge stitch, but one on the inside and the reason I do that is that it makes for a neater seam. The other good tip for the mattress stitch is you always pick the stitches in the same row. All of these stitches live in the same row, so I'm gonna pull from the stitches all in this row. Right there, and then on the other side, same thing. All of these stitches in this row. Those are the stitches that I'm working from. The yarn goes away from me and then it comes toward me and I just continue that process until I've fully seamed all the way around, then you weave in all the ends, trim them, and then your little mitten is almost done.

Chapter 4 - Embellishing

Add blanket stitch

- I love to finish up my little mittens with a blanket stitch. I just think it pumps up the cute level quite a bit, or little buttons, and I'm gonna show you today how to do both of 'em. To start the blanket stitch, I come in from the back to the front and then I wrap back around and I go from the back to the front again, and then I leave myself a little loop here, and then I send my needle away from me and through that loop. Now, I just wanna say that I know that this is not the perfect way to do it 'cause my first stitch always has this funky little bar here, but you know what, but that is the way I do it, and that's the only way I know how, so the rest of the stitches will be correct. At the end I'm gonna come back and I'm gonna fix that funky stitch. There's other ways to start it but this is just how I do it. I'm gonna start at the back of my work, probably about a quarter of an inch away from the other one. So I bring the needle from the back to the front and I pull that through. I leave my finger there so I catch the loop back there and then I send the needle away from me through that loop and then I pull the tension. And see, there, that's a perfect stitch. So I'm actually even gonna remove this here and I'll come back at the end and weave that in. Whoops. I like to keep a little tension it though as I'm working because that's what's keeping that nice angle right there with the rest of the blanket stitches. So about a quarter of an inch away, I'm coming in from the back to the front. I'm pulling my yarn through, I'm leaving that loop, and then I'm sending my needle away from me and through that loop and then I'm pulling taut. There we go, there's a nice blanket stitch. And then from here, I'm just adjusting my tension so they look nice and tidy. I'm gonna do the same thing again towards me and then away from me, and then I'm gonna pull that tight, and now I can let go of that first stitch because these are all locked in, and then I'm just gonna continue working all the way around the mitten until the whole thing is embellished with this little, cute little blanket stitch edging, and you can really vary the look of it by making it bigger or smaller, changing the color. Blanket stitch is one of my favorite stitches. I use it all the time. It's really great for this little Christmastime project and it really accentuates the shape of the mitten. It's important to keep the

spacing consistent. So, when I say a quarter of an inch, it's an estimate but really try and stick to that because the more consistent the spacing is between each one of the stitches, the better the embellishment is gonna look. I'm gonna pull that through and I'm just gonna weave in the end exactly like I weave in all my other ends. I'm gonna send it down that way, and then I'll come up this way like that. That buries it right into the work. I'm gonna snip that right at the top of the surface, and now I have to come back and deal with this funky one. I'm gonna thread the yarn needle and I'm gonna complete this stitch by running it through here. There. Look how nice and tight that is. And now, I'm just gonna weave that end in just like I did with all my other ends.

Add buttons

- You can embellish these little mittens in a lot of different ways. I personally like to cover them with buttons. I have a sewing needle with standard thread, doubled and knotted. You can double it or not, I like to double it when I'm working on yarn, it just makes it easier. And it holds the button a little better. Especially when I'm working on a big button like this one. I'm gonna come in from the inside of the mitten, and I'm gonna send my needle through. Grab one of the holes in the button from underside, through. I'm coming back through the hole that's right next to the first one and pulling my needle. I'm gonna go in the next hole from the inside, and then I'm gonna grab that last hole there, and send the needle back inside the glove. And then I'm gonna repeat that to make sure that button's on there really tight. And I'm not that worried about whether I'm hitting the right holes in the right order, I'm just making sure that I'm sending the thread back and forth several times so that button really stays locked down on there. And when I'm done, I personally treat the thread, and I'm just about done here. Much like yarn, when I'm sewing on to yarn, and I just thread that thread right through the knitting, and weave it in. So I'm gonna weave in this end, but I'm making sure it doesn't come through on the right side. I've turned around to the wrong side and I'm just weaving it in there like that. And that's locking it down, and then I'm gonna trim it right at the surface. Turn the glove back, right-side facing, and there's my first button placed. That button feels a little bit lonely, so I'm gonna put a bunch of little tiny buttons around it. For this project I did a little flower, or snowflake feeling motif here, with all these little tiny buttons. And I'm gonna connect the little tiny buttons exactly the same way I did the big button. I'm probably just gonna do it with a single thread cause they're so much smaller. Once I'm done placing these little buttons, I'll secure them exactly the same way I did the first button and I encourage you to play around with different motifs and shapes and blanket stitches, and any kind of embellishment you can on these. Choose fun colors, lots of colors, and make as many as you possibly can. And then string them all up around your house because they're so cute and they make for great holiday decorations. The greatest thing about this project is now that you know how to make a little tiny miniature mitten, you have all of the skills necessary to make ^an actual set of big mittens, so go find yourself a pattern ^and make a pair of mittens. ^(Christmas music)