
Learn to Knit: Fingerless Gloves with Maggie Pace

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Most new knitters begin by making swatches. These cozy gloves that I'm wearing are great, because all they are are a way to put your swatches to use, so they're swatches that have been folded in half and seamed up at the sides here.

Tools and materials

- You could download the fingerless glove pattern from the website and follow along as we go through the project. In it, you're gonna find information about the materials. This is a bulky weight yarn that recommends a size 10 needle. You're gonna need a set of size 10 needles. You're gonna need for your little buttons a cabone ring or a plastic ring about that size there. A contrasting color yarn to cover it and also a yarn needle which sometimes is called a tapestry needle. Your pattern will also mention gauge. Gauge is always kind of a tricky thing for new knitters. Until you actually knit, it's kind of hard to understand what it is. But basically all it is is how tightly you pull your yarn as you knit which makes sure stitches either loose or tight. Each stitch as they add up together makes the length or the width of the piece different. So it's really important that you know what your gauge is as you knit. It is not right now for this project though, because what knitters do is they knit up a big swatch in order to test their gauge and make sure they're using the right needle size. Well all you're doing in knitting this glove is making a swatch. So we'll go ahead and just make the glove. And then we're going to test for the gauge at the end.

Chapter 2 - Knitting

Long-tail cast-on

- All knitting starts with cast on, which is another way of saying putting stitches onto the needle. And all casting on begins with a slipknot. To make a slipknot, make sure you have about a yard and a half of yarn on this side. You'll go like this, which is making a little loop there, and then you will pull your finger through that loop, and pull up the end that's on the left hand side. So let's do that one more time. You make a loop, and then you go and grab the end that's coming from that left hand side. Okay, so there's the slipknot. We place the slipknot on the needle, tighten it like that, and now we have our first stitch. So how you make the remainder of stitches, which is there's 30 cast on all together, split the yarn like this, hold it with good tension between these two fingers, wrap it over your thumb, and then have nice tension down here on your pinky, so I'm really pulling that fairly tight, not too tight, but I have tension, see. And then, you take your needle, and you cross it underneath the yarn that's coming from your thumb, like that. And then you grab that side, and let go of your thumb, and you've made a stitch. Now I have two stitches on my needle. So let's do it one more time. What's really important is the setup. Splitting the yarn, wrapping the yarn around your thumb, holding with tension in your pinky, and then on this side, having the yarn come between these two fingers. Taking the needle down, see, I make a little x there, that's a good way to remember that. Pick that up, and then go grab that piece of yarn over there and then pull it through, let your thumb go, and then pull it tight. And now, I'm gonna finish casting on. The pattern calls for 30 stitches, so I'm just gonna go ahead and cast them all on, and I can tell by looking that I probably have maybe 15 stitches, but this is the way that you count them, 'cause I wanna be sure. So I'll go

like this, each one of these is a stitch. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, so you can see it's really important that you count your stitches all the time when you're a new knitter because that's how you know if you're making mistakes. 28, 29, and 30, okay, that's 40 stitches on my needle, and we're ready to go on to the next step.

Knit stitch

Purl stitch

Bind off

- I'm gonna show you how to check the glove for fit. So this garter stitch edge here is bigger than the one at the top. And that is where it goes around your wrist. Somewhere in there. So just wrap it around. Like try and get it to fit you. If you're happy with the fit and I'm happy with my fit right now, now's the time to bind off. If you're not happy with the fit, you can knit a few more rows, make it work for you. So, I'm gonna go ahead and show you how to bind off. Bind off begins with knit stitch. So you knit your first stitch, and then your second stitch, and then you pass that first stitch over the last stitch that you just knit. Like that. And it's easier to do it if you keep some tension in this hand. So I'm gonna knit again. And then I'm gonna take this stitch pull, give a little tug over here. And pass it over. And now I've bound off two. And as I bind off, you can see that I'm getting a really pretty little edge here. I'll show you, see? And I'm also locked in all of those stitches so it won't unravel. I'm gonna continue to bind off to the end. Bind all off 30 stitches it says. In the pattern. So you'll notice that in bind off, you only have one or two stitches on the right hand needle. Because you're locking 'em down over on this side. I find binding off to be the funnest part of knitting. It's very satisfying, 'cause you're almost done. It means you're moving on to the fun part, which is finishing, and then you get to wear your project. Okay, I'm almost done binding off. A few more stitches left to go. Now you can really see that edge there. See how pretty that is? It looks like the cast on edge. It's like the inverse of the cast on edge. So I'm gonna keep on binding off until I get to my last stitch. And when I get to my last stitch, I need to treat it a little bit differently. I can't bind it off like I'm binding off all the other ones. And that process is called fastening off. And that's what it will say in your pattern. Fasten off last stitch. I'm binding off this last stitch on my left needle. But you'll notice, I still have one more stitch. So I kind of, make it bigger. I cut my yarn from the ball. And then I'm gonna go ahead and pull that tail through. And then I'm gonna pull it tight to lock it down. That's fastening off.

Weave in ends

- We just finished binding off and now you may be wondering what are we going to do with these ends? So the most important thing about your ends is never cut them or knot them. Because if you cut 'em too short then your work can become unraveled. If you knot them, it just makes for uncomfortable bumps in the work. So you take your yarn needle, which is also sometimes called a tapestry or a darning needle, thread the tail through like this. And then do it on the wrong side. And you weave in like this. And every knitter has their own technique, some will go horizontally, some will go vertically, it really doesn't matter. The whole point is that you wanna bury that end so it's not visible inside the work. And after you pull it through like that, give a little tug so that it's not pulling

the work tight. And then some people go in more than one direction, like I'll go up there and there's no real science to it. Just the whole point is to weave in enough of it so that it does not come unraveled. That's enough. I think I weaved it in about, I don't know, maybe two inches there and that should be plenty. And I'm gonna grab my scissors. And then you cut it very close to the surface of the work. So when you cut that end, you just need to be really really careful not to get in there and cut the stitch, cause if you do, all of the work can become unraveled. So, let's weave in the second end. And some people also, just so you know, will use the end to seam up the sides. I'm not gonna do that today cause that end is not long enough. So I'm gonna go ahead and seam this one in. There, see how much better that looks? You can't see it now. And then cutting very close to the surface, being careful not to cut that stitch and they are gone! And the other thing to remember is this is the wrong side of the work. You always weave in your ends on the wrong side. And you can't see them at all from the right side. Alright, now our ends are woven in and it's time to make our glove. This is the most exciting part.

Chapter 3 - Understanding Gauge

Checking gauge

- Before we turn this into a glove, let's talk a little bit about gauge, because basically what we've done here is we've knit a swatch. And that is how knitters test their gauge. They first knit a nice, large swatch. This is bigger than usual, but basically, this is what we do. So how you test for gauge, or check for gauge, is you get this little tool here, which is a gauge measurer, and you find a place somewhere in the middle, and you count your stitches. So before I do that using this, I'm going to kind of show you what stitches look like. And the best way to do that is to kind of open the work up like this. Each one of these v's is a stitch. Unfortunately, we can't open the work like that up when we're testing for gauge, because what we're trying to understand is how close your stitches are together. So we go like this, and then count. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. That's 10 stitches over. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven rows. So that's 10 stitches over seven rows. And what you would do with that information is you would check it against the pattern. If it's the same in the pattern, then your gauge is spot-on. If you have less stitches than that, then you have a loose tension, and loose tension means you need to go down a needle size. If you have more stitches than that, that means you have a tight tension, and you need to go up a needle size. So, with this project, what you need to decide is if your tension is not spot-on, you can go ahead and knit another glove using the original-size needles, and that's fine, you're going to have two gloves that are the same size, or you can start over and you can make a fresh set of gloves.

Chapter 4 - Finishing

Seaming swatch

- Okay, now we're ready to seam up our glove. The way that you do this is you start by actually putting it on you, measuring and marking. This is how we start. So I want this seam to land somewhere right in the crook of my hand there, so I'm gonna mark that. Right there, and then it's gonna stop for a minute to make room for my thumb. Then I'm gonna pick it back up right around here. So now I know where I'm gonna be seaming. I'm gonna start by threading my yarn needle. Like so, and then I'm gonna fold it in half and I'm making sure that the wrong sides are touching each other when I fold it. I'm gonna pick up a stitch here on the edge, right there. Run the yarn through, and then I'm gonna pick up a stitch on the other edge here. And don't worry if it's this or this. Just grab one that's in the corner there. You don't have to be too particular. Pull it tight, or not tight but

pull it. And then, what I'm looking for are these bumps that go this way. Each one of these is a stitch. And I'm gonna put my needle through that right there and find its partner on the other side, right there. And then I'm gonna stay on this side. I'm gonna go underneath that little ridge there. And I'm gonna find its partner on the other side. A lot of people who are new to putting together knitting think that it's counter-intuitive to do it from the right side, but you have to do it from the right side. It's not like sewing where you sew from the wrong side. So there's my ridge there, picking that up, and I'm gonna find its partner on this side. This is called a mattress stitch. I think it's gonna be that one there. You can see how I'm getting a nice edge. There's that loop and that loop, and then that will bring them together. And as I work I kind of like to pull it and stretch it to see how my seam's looking. It's looking pretty good. And then I'm gonna continue all the way until I reach my mark. And then when I get to my mark, I'm gonna stop and I'm gonna weave in my end on the wrong side, like this. And I'm weaving it in just like I did earlier. I'm actually gonna weave it in along the seam, and the reason I do it like that is it's just gonna strengthen the seam I just made. So everybody kind of does this different, but I always come back and reinforce my seams when I'm weaving in my ends. Just like this. So now that one's done. Cutting close to the surface here. Be very careful not to cut that stitch. And then I'm gonna turn it back to the right side facing me. This is the right side, and I know that's the right side cause it's the flat side. The wrong side has bumps. And I'm gonna start at my second mark. I can remove this one now cause I'm all done. And I'm gonna restart my process from this second mark now. So I'm finding the loop of the stitch, putting my needle through it, and then finding its partner on the other side. Same thing here. There's that loop and here's the one that matches up on the other side. And the more you do this, the more you'll be able to see the stitches. So give yourself a break. Seaming is something that is hard for all knitters even knitters who are experienced. But definitely be patient with yourself. The more you do it, the more finesse you'll have with it. And if you don't have a perfectly even and straight seam it's fine, the important thing is to get the project done. So I keep on doing that so I can make sure that it's not pulling too tight as I seam it, and it seems to be looking pretty good there. See, if I pull it too tight, see how that makes the stitches all bumpy? But by opening it up, then I have a nice, flat seam. Let me show you how I do this last stitch. I'm gonna put the needle through the corner edge stitch right there, and then I'm gonna bring it back over to this stitch here. And I actually repeat that a couple times just to make sure that my ends, my end they won't split, because sometimes with seaming that's what happens, and also it's nice and flat and straight at the top, and by going back and forth a couple times, it reinforces that part, which is probably the weakest part of the seam. So now I'm gonna turn this inside out, and I'm gonna weave in this end. And as I weave it in I'm reinforcing the seam from the back. And then that's it. I'm just about done. Gonna cut it. And then I'm gonna take a look here, and see if I have anything left to do, which I do. I notice that I have another end here. So I'm gonna go ahead and weave that one in. I'm gonna reinforce this just like I did on the other side. Just so I have a nice flat seam there, and then I'm gonna run that back through, weave it in. Like that. Then I'm gonna cut it close to the surface. Now we're done, and here's the fun part. We get to try it on. So I'm gonna go ahead and put it on, see if it fits. And it does. It looks perfect. So the next thing we're gonna do is add the decorative buttons, and then our project will be complete.

Wrapping buttons

- So you can buy buttons for your gloves, but I always think it's more fun to make something from scratch. So, I'm gonna teach you today, how to make, these little darling cover buttons, that look like this when they're done. So the way we do it is we have a 1/2 inch cabone ring, plastic ring, you

can get it at any craft store and about a yard of yarn in there. Thread it on the needle. Run the needle through the ring towards you. And then do it again. And stop it when there's a loop like that. And run the needle away from you through that loop. And then pull it. And then just repeat that process over and over again. Bring the needle towards you, stop it when there's a loop like that, and then away from you, and then pull it tight. That's my second stitch. And then they just start piling up, on top of each other. And that's how you cover the whole button. I'm gonna keep on with this same exact stitch, until the whole button's covered. And when I reach the end of the button, I'm gonna weave in the end. Much like how I weave in the end for my knitting. So, I'm gonna go ahead and finish covering this. I've got, I don't know, I think maybe six more stitches will fit in there. You can play around with it. Sometimes, if there's less stitches, it just has a more loose look to it. Sometimes if there's more, it looks really cool when they're really compressed. I ran out of yarn on that side, so I'm picking it up on this side. And it's the same exact stitch. So, that's good for you to know if you run out of yarn, that's how you deal with it. Okay, so now I have this end and in order to finish it I'm gonna run it back through this last stitch right here. And that's how I'm weaving it in. Like that. I'm gonna do the same thing with this one on this side, but before I do that, I'm actually gonna go ahead and use this end to sew it down, and I'm doing that by grabbing a loop from the knitting and then running it through a loop here. Then I'm gonna do it again. I don't have to catch every single loop, but I want to catch, you know, maybe every other. And then I'm just gonna work my way all the way around. There, now I've reached the end. And at the end I'm gonna send the yarn right back through the last stitch, and then I can cut it, very close to the surface. And I'm gonna repeat that same exact process with this end, and then I'll be done. So then I'm gonna make two more buttons, or however many you want, maybe one or two. And then, you're gonna have your first finished knitting project. A pair of fingerless gloves. So exciting. Hopefully it's the first of many projects that you'll be doing.

Chapter 5 - Troubleshooting

Common mistakes

- I wanna show you a few problems that you might run into as a first-time knitter. These are really common mistakes that knitters can make. One of the biggest one is if you are in the middle of knitting a row, and you get distracted and you put it down, and then you come back to it. You don't know where you are. So this is very common. So lots of times, new knitters will want to knit this way, and you can do that, that's why it's such a common mistake, 'cause you can, but you actually should not, because you're gonna make a big hole in your work. This is why. The yarn is on the wrong side. Your work should actually be oriented like this. When you start, this yarn coming from the ball always needs to be on the right-hand side. It cannot be coming from the left-hand side. So that's one of the most common things that new knitters do. So when I pick up this work, by looking at it, I know I'm holding it the right way 'cause the yarn's on the right-hand side. The other common issue is that stitches fall off and they come undone, like this, and then that can be a really scary thing for a new knitter. Like, what do I do with this situation here? I've got this, and I've got this. The way to solve that is to put your needle in the stitch and in the stitch that you can, okay? And then you recreate the stitch by taking this bar and pulling it through that loop. That's on the knit side. If that had been a purl stitch, you put the bar in the front and you pull it through this way. And I know that, and I've made a purl stitch, 'cause I have that little thing right there, that little bar right there. So let me show you one more time. If you want to make a knit stitch, this is called a drop stitch 'cause I dropped a stitch. If you wanna make a knit stitch, you come like this. If you wanna make a

purl stitch, you put the bar in front and you go like this. And then just put it back on your needle and keep on knitting. It's like it never happened. So I accidentally just skipped that stitch entirely, right like that? So now I need to back these stitches up so I can go rework that stitch. And the way I would do that is I would put my needle in this hole right here, and then I would release that earlier stitch, like that. And I would do it again. I'm going into the stitch below by doing this. See, into that little bar? And then I'm going to release that stitch. And now I've arrived at this stitch that I skipped, but I can't knit it from this needle. I have to slip it onto the left-hand needle. And then I can go ahead and knit it. So those are three of the most common mistakes, and I'm gonna show you one more. A lot of time, new knitters will, as they knit, they won't get that extra bit off, and they'll knit it again, and that results in an extra stitch. And you won't even notice you're doing it. So the best thing to do when you're a new knitter is to count your stitches all the time. At the end of every row, count all of your stitches to make sure that you have the same number that you began with. And so if you find, at the end of the row, you have added an extra stitch, back it up like this until you find the stitch that you added. See, you can tell, 'cause it looks differently. There's the stitch I added. It's got a little bar in front of it, it's kind of attached to that other one, so I know that's an error. So I'm gonna pull that right off the needle, like that, and I'm gonna pull it out. I'm gonna replace that stitch onto my left-hand needle. And I know it's gonna go on my left-hand needle and not my right because of where this yarn is. So this yarn is always gonna be on your right-hand side, and it's gonna be in the first stitch that you're ready to work. That's how you keep your orientation while you're knitting. So those are a few of the most common mistakes that you'll certainly be making, and believe me, as you knit, you'll make many more mistakes than that. But part of the joy of knitting is sort of unraveling, like, to go back and to see what went wrong, and that's really how you learn. So don't be afraid to take your stitches back, and don't be afraid to make mistakes. The whole goal here is to have fun and learn, and the best way you can learn is by making mistakes.