

These mitts have delicate twisting mock cable columns that circle around little embroidered spots of colour. Almost all the texture comes from quick and easy mock cable, with only a little use of a cable needle, to make the rings around the spots. The spots are very simple to embroider- full instructions are given.

The cables remind me of metal knotwork, twisting around gemstones, so I especially like these mitts in old gold, silver or copper, with the spots embroidered in bright jewel colours. Textured stitches show best in paler colours (although the mitts still worked well in a blackish teal). When choosing your spot colours, they will pop best if quite different in tone (quite a bit lighter or darker) from the yarn you knit the mitts in.

The mitts shown here are knitted in Fiberspates Vivacious 4-ply and the embroidery is done in Fiberspates Gleem laceweight yarn. The spots look particularly good embroidered in yarn that is a little thinner than your main yarn but anything up to 4-ply thickness works. The little Fiberspates Gleem cards of 10m yarn are perfect here- each spot uses about 45cm of yarn. Alternatively, scraps from stash or colourfast, washable embroidery thread would work.



You will need:

155m (170 yards) of 4-ply (fingering) yarn (42g of Fiberspates Vivacious 4-ply)

Laceweight yarn or embroidery thread for spots, about 45cm (18") per spot, a total of 4.5m (5 yards) per pair of mitts

2.25mm (UK 13, US 1) double pointed needles (or whatever kind of needles you prefer for knitting small circumferences in the round)

Cable needle

Stitch marker

Stitch holder, optional (or a big safety pin, or a little waste yarn)

Wool needle

Tension (gauge) & Size:

It's always tricky to measure tension in cabled knits; how much cable pulls mitts in varies a little with the yarn chosen and, if washed, depends on how hard the knit was stretched out when drying. As a very rough guide, the ribbed & cabled wrist (the first bit you knit after casting on) measures about 6.5cm across, unstretched, before washing. The cable gives some stretch, so your mitts should be quite forgiving of any tension differences. These mitts blocked to 8.5cm wide (excluding the thumb) and 18.5cm long, the equivalent of small to large women's sizing.

Stitch abbreviations:

k : Knit.

p : Purl.

k2tog : Knit 2 stitches together.

m1r: Pick up the bar between the stitch you just knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the left needle from back to front, then knit into the front of the stitch.

m1l: Pick up the bar between the stitch you just knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the left needle from front to back, then knit into the back of the stitch.

m1pr: Pick up the bar between the stitch you just knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the left needle from back to front, then purl into the front of the stitch.

m1pl: Pick up the bar between the stitch you just knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the left needle from front to back, then purl into the back of the stitch.

1/1 RC: Mock cable stitch- miss out the first stitch on the left needle and knit the second stitch- don't drop this stitch off the needle yet. Now knit the first stitch on the left needle and then drop both the first and second stitches.

1/1 RPC: Slip next stitch to cable needle and place at back of work, k1, then p1 from cable needle.

1/1 LPC: Slip next stitch to cable needle and place at front of work, p1, then k1 from cable needle.



Cast on 56 stitches. Place marker, join in the round. Slip this marker every round.

Rounds 1 & 2: (K2, p2) × 14. (56 sts)

Round 3: (1/1 RC, p2, k2, p2) × 7.

Rounds 4 - 24: Repeat rounds 1 - 3.

#Round 25: M1r, k2, m1l, (p6, k2) × 6, p6. (58 sts)

Round 26: K2, m1pr, (k2, p6) × 7. (59 sts)

Round 27: 1/1 RC, p1, (1/1 RC, p6) × 7.

Round 28: K2, m1pr, p1, m1pl, (k2, p6) × 7. (61 sts)

Round 29: K2, p3, (k2, p6) × 7.

Round 30: 1/1 RC, m1pr, p3, m1pl, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3. (63 sts)

Round 31: K2, p5, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 32: K2, m1pr, p5, m1pl, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3. (65 sts)

Round 33: 1/1 RC, p7, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Round 34: K2, m1pr, p7, m1pl, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3. (67 sts)

Round 35: K2, p9, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 36: 1/1 RC, p9, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Round 37: K2, p9, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 38: K2, m1pr, p9, m1pl, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3. (69 sts)

Round 39: 1/1 RC, p11, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Rounds 40 - 41: K2, p11, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 42: 1/1 RC, m1pr, p11, m1pl, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3. (71 sts)

Rounds 43 - 44: K2, p13, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 45: 1/1 RC, p13, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Round 46: K2, m1pr, p13, m1pl, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3. (73 sts)

Round 47: K2, p15, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 48: 1/1 RC, p15, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Round 49: K2, p15, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 50: K2, m1pr, p15, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3. (74 sts)

Round 51: 1/1 RC, p16, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Round 52 & 53: K2, p16, k2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 54: 1/1 RC, p16, 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Rounds 55 - 57: Repeat rounds 52 - 54.

Round 58: Slip 1st stitch onto right needle, place 17 stitches on holder, slip 1st stitch back to left needle, K2tog, k1, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3. (56 sts)

Round 59: K2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Round 60: 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Rounds 61 & 62: K2, work chart, (k2, p6) × 3.

Rounds 63 - 71: Repeat rounds 60 - 62.

Round 72: 1/1 RC, work chart, (1/1 RC, p6) × 3.

Round 73 & 74: (K2, p6) × 7.

Round 75: (1/1 RC, p6) × 7.

Rounds 76 - 78: Repeat rounds 73 - 75.

Round 79 & 80: (K2, p2) × 14.

Round 81: (1/1 RC, p2, k2, p2) × 7.

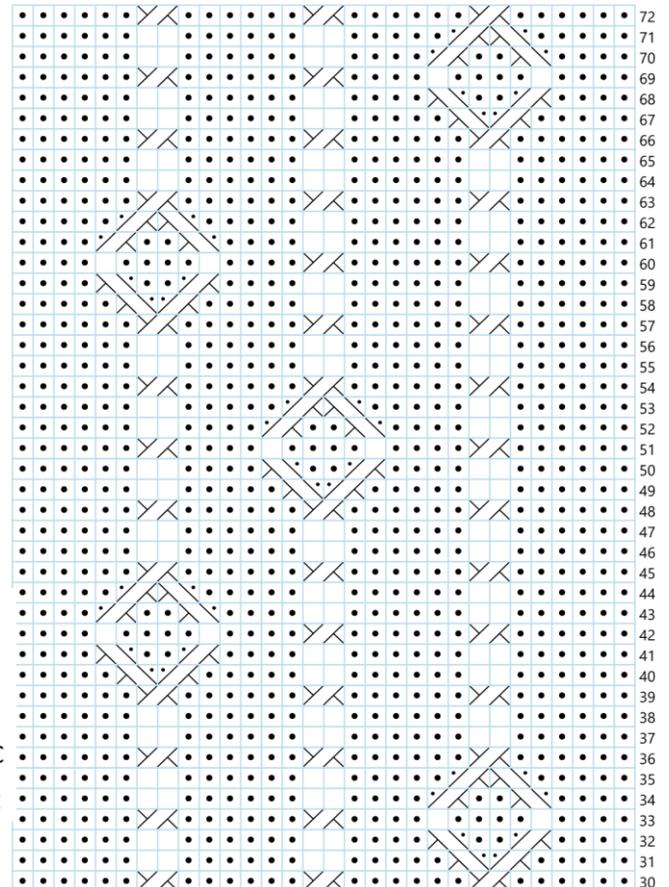
Rounds 82 - 87: Repeat rounds 79-81.

Round 88 & 89: (K2, p2) × 14.

Cast off in pattern (knitting the knit stitches and purling the purl stitches).



- purl
- knit
- ⊗ 1/1 RC
- ⊘ 1/1 RPC
- ⊙ 1/1 LPC





Thumb (same for both left and right mitts)

Transfer the 17 stitches held on stitch holder/safety pin/waste yarn onto 2.25mm needles.

Round 1: (k2, p2) 4 times, k1. Then pick up and knit 7 stitches over base of thumb opening. Join in the round and place marker. Slip the marker each round. (24 stitches)

Round 2: (k2, p2) 6 times

Round 3: (1/1 RC, p2, k2, p2) 3 times

Rounds 4 & 5: (k2, p2) 6 times

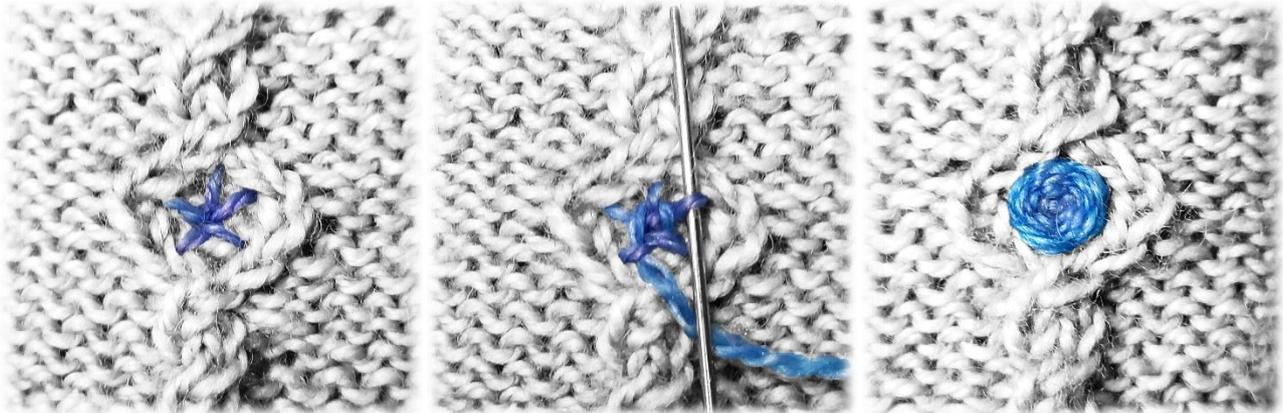
Round 6: (1/1 RC, p2, k2, p2) 3 times

Rounds 7 & 8: (k2, p2) 6 times

Cast off in pattern (k2, p2 all round)

Finishing

- ★ Sew in all ends.
- ★ Embroider a spot in each cable circle. Using the spot yarn, sew an asterisk shape with 5 spokes that fill the cable circle. Make sure you sew through the yarn of the mitt on each stitch; if you instead sew through the gaps between the stitches there's too much scope for movement and you end up with a very wonky asterisk, (a slightly wonky asterisk if fine as the next bit tends to pull it into shape). After completing the asterisk, poke the needle up through the centre of the asterisk. Then weave the needle under and over alternate spokes of the asterisk, working from the centre out, until the asterisk spokes are filled (about 22 times sewing under alternate spokes using Gleem laceweight yarn). Secure the ends.



- ★ If you're making the mitts for yourself, you can stop here but if you're making them for someone else, you might want to block them to a nice hand shape, as the cables pull the unblocked mitts in when off the hand. To block them, handwash the mitts gently in cool water. Squeeze out as much water as you can, squidding them dry between clean towels or tea towels. Then, pin them into a hand shape on a cushion or mattress protected by a towel (or on a blocking matt if you have one) and dry somewhere warm.

If you prefer charts to written instructions, there is also a fully charted version of this pattern

