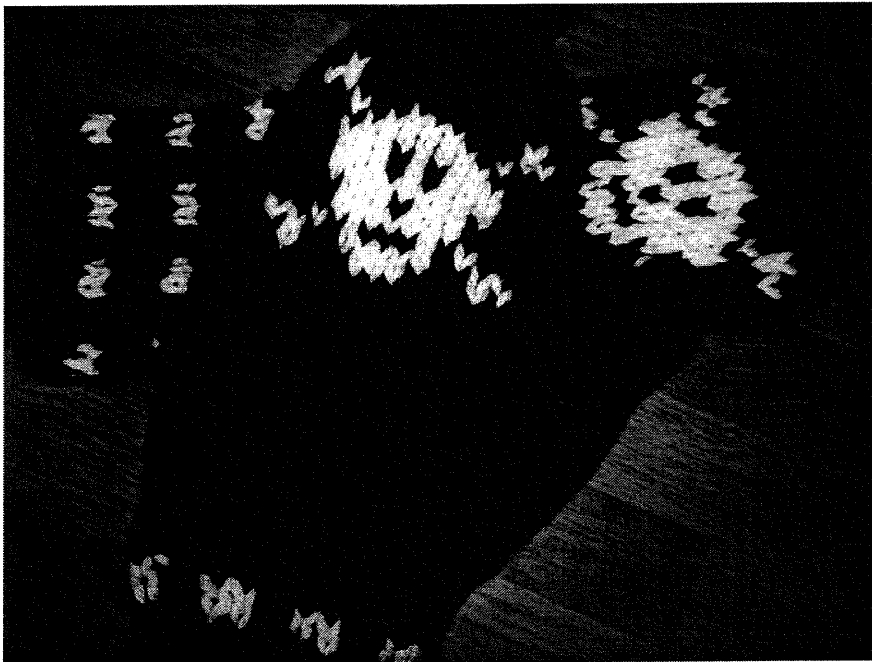


Knitting – Pirate Style!

Arr mateys, when you're on the high seas, you might find yourself needing some new garments! But of course, there is no mall nearby, which means you have to make them yourself. A great way to do that is to knit! Then you'll have a personalized piece of clothing that no one would dare plunder.



Today's masterpiece is pirate mittens – they'll keep your hands warm as you're pulling the sails and getting ready for adventure.

You will need:

- 2 knitting needles, size 7
- 4 oz of yarn, in two contrasting colours
- 1 yarn sewing needle
- 2 stitch holders
- 2 stitch markers (small elastic bands work great, or you can tie little circles with a piece of yarn)
- Scissors
- A row counter, or just a sheet of paper and a pencil to run a tally

This pattern is relatively simple and uses only two stitches – knit and purl. However, to get the pirate pattern in, you will also need to know how to change between two colours of yarn in the classic stranding (fair-isle) method. If you are having trouble, ask for help!

ABBREVIATIONS: k=knit, p=purl. Therefore, “k2” means “knit two stitches.”

MITTENS: Make 2 the same

TO START:

Cast on 28 stitches for a nice tight mitt to fit a hand just over 3 inches across (not counting the thumb). For a larger mitt, 32 stitches, for a smaller mitt, go to 24 stitches.

THE CUFF:

Work in classic k2p2 ribbing for 18 rows. (You may do this with just one colour, or add detail with a second colour. If choosing to add detail, I advise only adding a second colour during your knit stitches.) Knit across the next (19th) row, and increase by 4 stitches evenly across the row (for example, for a 28 stitch cast on, you might knit 6 and then increase by 1, knit another 6 and then increase by one).

THE MITTEN

Purl 1 row

Knit 1 row

Purl 1 row

START INCREASES FOR THE THUMB

Knit halfway across the row – 15 stitches if you originally cast on 28, 17 if you cast on 32, etc. Place a stitch marker on the needle, then increase by one, knit 2, increase by one, and add your second stitch marker. There should now be four stitches between the stitch markers in the middle of your work. Knit to the end of the row.

Purl 1 row.

Continue in stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl one row), increasing by 1 stitch after the 1st marker and by 1 stitch before the 2nd marker on KNIT ROWS only, until there are 14 stitches between the two markers, and then knit to the end of the row.

Purl 1 row

Knit 1 row without increasing.

Next: Purl to the stitch marker plus 1 (so 16 stitches for a 28 cast-on, 18 stitches for a 32), slip these stitches onto a stitch holder. Purl next 12 stitches. Slip the remaining stitches onto a second stitch holder – we'll get back to these.

THE THUMB

You should now have just 12 stitches on one of your needles.

Work in stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl one row) for 10 rows.

On the next (11th) row, knit 2 together across row.

Cut yarn leaving a long (6-10") tail of yarn. Using your yarn needle, pull this yarn through the remaining 6 thumb stitches tightly, so that they are pulled together. Sew up the thumb seam (best done from the inside of the work) to create a finished thumb.

Attach yarn at the beginning of the 2nd stitch holder on the wrong side of the work (the side with all the little bubbles – it's not as pretty as the other side), slip your held stitches back onto a needle, and then purl to the end of the row.

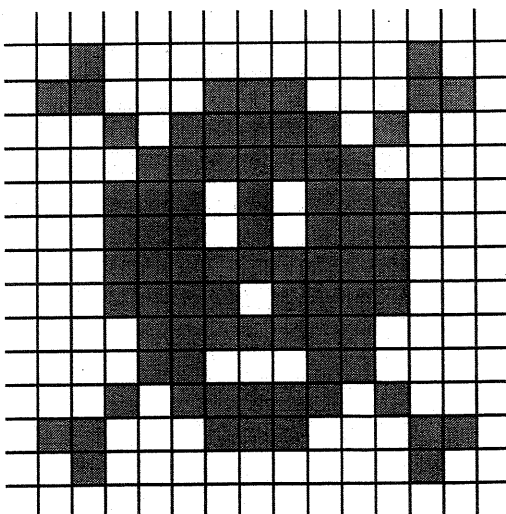
THE MITTEN

Knit across so that all stitches from the two stitch holders are back on your needle. As you knit across, decrease by 2 stitches (knit 2 together, twice).

Purl 1 row. Knit 1 row. Purl 1 row.

THE SKULL AND CROSS BONES

BEWARE: When adding the skull and cross bones image to the second mitten, do it on the opposite side of the thumb from your first mitten, or else you'll have one mitten with an image on your palm side!



This graph illustrates what the design should look like. Each box represents one stitch – the design is 15 stitches wide, and 15 rows high.

You will do the design continuing in stockinette stitch for all 15 rows. Best practice would be to use a stitch marker to mark after the 15th stitch of

the design in the middle, so that when coming back across the row you do not have to count all of the stitches every time. This design was made to go with a 28 stitch cast-on, meaning that there will be exactly 15 stitches for the design, (a stitch marker), and then another 15 stitches for the palm side of your mitten.

Once finished the design, continue in stockinette for 5 more rows (or your desired hand length).

DECREASE TOP OF MITTEN

Row 1: *Knit 2 stitches together, knit 2. Repeat from * across row, ending by knitting 2 stitches together.

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: *Knit 2 stitches together, knit 1. Repeat from * across row, ending by knitting 1.

Row 4: Purl 2 together across row.

Cut the yarn, leaving a long (12-15") tail. Using your yarn needle, pull the yarn tightly through the remaining stitches, and then sew up the mitten with a seam at the side.

Make mitten #2 the same way.

Sources:

For other pirate knitting ideas, try: <http://knitlikeapirate.com/>

This pattern was adapted for piracy from a pattern by Beverly A. Qualheim, found here: <http://www.bevscountrycottage.com/the-mitts.html>

Graphics by Kandise Brown

