

# POLKA DOT MITTENS

by Orsi Vincze

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If you love **polka dots**, these **mittens** are for you. They were the very first fingerless **mittens** featuring a thumb I ever made, which tells you how easy they are. By the way, they were also my second colourwork project ever.

I made these **mittens** for a friend who loves purple, and had bought a pair of sneakers in matching colours. She had also just finished her PhD, but I still thought she would appreciate these since they come handy: **mittens** can be used for typing in non-heated environments post-grads have to endure in certain places and climates.

If in doubt about these **mittens** or want to know more about my knitting adventures, find me at [woolventures.com](http://woolventures.com)

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## SIZE

These mitten are one size fits all. Since I gave them away, I do not have the exact measurements, but I am sure they fits most adult hands.

## GAUGE

24 stitches to 10 cm/4" in stockinette stitch on 3 mm needles

## YARN

1 skein of Drops Baby Merino in lavender (colourway 25) – main colour  
1 skein of Drops Baby Merino in dark purple (colourway 35)  
1 skein of Drops Baby Merino in cerise (colourway 08)

You will need a whole skein in any of the colours.

## NEEDLES

3 mm / US 2½ double pointed needles or circular needles if using the magic loop technique

## OTHER

1 stitch marker to mark the beginning of the round  
Tapestry needle

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## PATTERN

Cast on 64 stitches using the long tail cast on method in the main colour.

### Ribbing

Row 1: Without joining to knit in the round, knit a set up row for ribbing: knit 2, purl 2

Row 2: Without joining to knit in the round, turn your work and work as established in the ribbing pattern: knit 2, purl 2

Round 1: Join the work in the round, placing stitch marker to mark the beginning of the row, and being careful not to twist the stitches. Knit ribbing as established.

Round 2-18: Continue with ribbing pattern.

When finished, you should have a total number of 20 rows/rounds of ribbing counting the two set up rows.

### Main part

Round 1: Knit all stitches in main colour.

Round 2-24: Knit rows 1-23 of the polka dot pattern.\* Don't forget that you are supposed to read colourwork patterns starting from the lower right corner.

Round 25:

**RIGHT HAND:** Knit the first 5 stitches of row 24 of the polka dot pattern; knit next 10 stitches using waste yarn for the afterthought thumb\*; resume knitting with the working yarns and finish the row following the polka dot pattern.

**LEFT HAND:** Knit the first 17 stitches of row 24 of the polka dot pattern; knit next 10 stitches using waste yarn for the afterthought thumb\*; resume knitting with the working yarns and finish the row following the polka dot pattern.

Rounds 26-47: Continue knitting the polka dot pattern (rows 25-46). When finished, you have knitted a total number of 9 rows of polka dots.

Round 48: Knit all stitches in main colour.

\*If you decide to knit the single polka dot in a third colour (C, cerise in the sample shown in the photo), you'll need to do some intarsia knitting. Note that intarsia is usually not knitted in the round. My solution here was the following:

Round 1: Knit to the point where you have to introduce C. Join new working yarn C, knit the necessary stitches. Before knitting the stitches right after the C-coloured dot, wrap the main colour yarn (L, lavender) around C once, then leave C where you left off, and resume knitting with the other two colours (lavender - L and dark purple - DP) for the rest of the round.

Round 2: Knit again to the point where you have to introduce C. Now turn the mitten to work on the wrong side. You will have to purl the necessary stitches in C – since the yarn is on the left side now. Once done, turn your work so the right side is facing you, wrap C around L once, and go on with the polka dot pattern for the rest of the round using L and DP.

Rounds 3-6: Carry on as described above.

Note: As you can see on the polka dot pattern, I had decided to place the C coloured dots differently on each mitten. You are most welcome to make your own choices.

### Top ribbing

Work 5 rows of ribbing (knit 2, purl2).

Bind off.

### Afterthought thumb\*

Pick up 10 stitches each below and above the waste yarn; remove waste yarn.

Join working yarn in main colour.

Work 15 rounds in knit stitch (use beginning of the round marker if necessary).

Bind off.

\*If this is your first time ever to make an afterthought thumb yet, do not despair. It is fairly easy. I have not had the chance to make my own tutorial yet, but I do find this one very clear and helpful:

<http://maryjanemucklestone.com/all-thumbs/>



### **Finishing**

Bring the yarn tail left at the beginning of the work through last stitch of the set up row and back through the first stitch. Secure and weave in on the wrong side of the work. Trim yarn end.

At bind offs, bring the yarn tail through the first stitch of the last round and back through the last stitch. Weave in on the wrong side of the work and trim yarn end.

Weave in yarn ends at the intarsia bit.

Weave in the yarn tail left where you joined the working yarn to knit the afterthought thumb. Before you do so, you can use this tail to patch up holes left at the corners of the thumbs. See how: <http://maryjanemucklestone.com/holes-horrors/>

If in doubt, contact me at: [woolventures@gmail.com](mailto:woolventures@gmail.com)

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