Ten 10 yard Cuffs

by Lee Meredith - leethalknits.com

Ten cuff patterns which each use 10 yards of yarn and 2 buttons, plus instructions for all techniques used. Knit cuffs are a fun way to use up small amounts of yarn, try out a new technique, show off some vintage buttons, or feel productive with a quick project while watching a show. Wear them like jewelry to spice up your outfit and add a pop of knit!

This pattern set is meant as a learning tool for beginners, or as a fun and easy way to use up leftover yarn for seasoned knitters. Each pattern starts out by letting you know which techniques it uses; knitting a small project is a great way to try out a technique for the first time, so you don't need to be familiar with anything before starting a cuff! If you can make a garter stitch scarf, and have access to internet tutorials (if needed) to help you along visually, you'll be able to knit every cuff here and feel like an expert by the end!

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You need (per cuff)

- approx 10 yards / 9 meters worsted weight yarn
- size US 10 / 6mm needles, or size to get gauge
- 2 buttons, approx .5 inch / 1 cm across

Gauge

Approx 4.5 sts per inch / 2.5 cm in stockinette, but gauge isn't terribly important for these cuffs because they are so small, and because the patterns are written to custom fit your wrist.

Yarn

The samples are in hand-dyed yarns, as the designs are meant to make short-color-section variegation look its best. You can use any yarn you like, but many of the cuffs will look plainer in a solid color. Feel free to play around with using two or more colors - you could get some cool effects!

Sizing/fit

When pattern says "until it fits" that means until the cuff fits around your wrist with a little overlap (enough for the buttons to work comfortably). When determining where to stop, think about how you want it to fit - stretch it the amount you'll want it to stretch when wearing it.

Stretch your work a bit before measuring, so you're measuring what it will be when wearing it. A few stitch patterns get longer after pulling on them, so this will ensure a good fit.

If you are knitting for someone other than yourself, a good standard cuff size is 7-8 inches / 18-20 cm across.

Abbreviations

(with extra notes if you need them)

st(s) = stitch(es)

k = knit

p = purl

RS = right side

WS = wrong side

sl = slip (bring stitch from left needle to right needle, without knitting/purling into it) - unless otherwise noted, slip stitches purlwise, with the yarn on the side it's already on (if knitting, yarn is in back; if purling, yarn is in front)

wyif = with yarn in front (move yarn to the front, like when purling)

wyib = with yarn in back (move yarn to the back, like when knitting)

yo = yarn over (bring yarn forward and up over the needle to make an extra stitch with a hole; when purling after a yo, be sure to bring yarn all the way around the needle and back under to the front)

k2tog = knit 2 together, to decrease 1 (bring needle through next 2 stitches at the same time and knit through them together, for a right-slanting decrease)

ssk = slip, slip, knit slipped stitches together, to decrease 1 (slip next 2 stitches knitwise, one at a time, insert left needle into the fronts and knit them together, for a left-slanting decrease)

p2tog = purl 2 together, to decrease 1 (bring needle through next 2 stitches at the same time and purl into them just as you purl into 1 stitch)

sk2p = slip, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over, to decrease 2 (slip the first stitch knitwise, knit the next 2 together same as a k2tog, then pass that first slipped stitch over like when binding off)

kfb = knit into front and back, to increase 1 (knit into next stitch without dropping it off the needle, then knit into the same stitch through the back loop, needle pointing downward, and drop it off, so you've knit 2 into the original 1 stitch)

pfb = purl into front and back, to increase 1 (purl into next stitch without dropping it off the needle, then purl into the same stitch through the back loop with needle pointing upward and drop it off)

w+t = wrap and turn (see short rows section to the right)

Techniques

Buttonholes

Each cuff has eyelet buttonholes, made with yarn overs and decreases. An eyelet hole is created by placing a yarn over (which increases 1) next to a decrease, so the row ends with the same number of stitches that it started with.

The two decreases used most in these patterns are k2tog and ssk, for opposite slants. So buttonhole rows (when there are two holes in the same row) start with k2tog, and end with ssk, so that the row is symmetrical. There are a few variations, but the concept of combining a yarn over with a decrease is always there.

Slip-stitches

Slipping stitches is a fun and easy way to make interesting stitch patterns. By simply moving some of the stitches from one needle to the other without working into them, you can drastically alter the look and feel of your knit fabric. Slip-stitch patterns are made more dramatic by working with more than one yarn color, which makes them ideal for variegated yarns. If you want to experiment, try knitting one of the slip-stitch cuffs with 2 or 3 colors rotating back and forth!

Short rows

Working short rows simply means turning your work before you reach the end of the row. This basic act can create all kinds of shaping, color patterns (when working with variegated yarn or multiple yarns striping) and other effects.

Wrapping a stitch before turning pulls the stitches together and prevents holes that would otherwise result from turning your work in the middle of the row. When working in stockinette, if you want your wraps to be invisible, you need to knit (or purl) the wraps together with the wrapped stitches when working back over them. If working in garter stitch, the wraps are hidden and don't need to be worked in.

Wrap and turn after knitting

- Slip next stitch onto right-hand needle, purlwise.
- Bring working yarn between needles to front, as if to purl.
- Slip that slipped stitch back over to left-hand needle.
- Then turn work to start working in other direction.

Wrap and turn after purling

- Slip next stitch onto right-hand needle, purlwise.
- Bring working yarn between needles to back, as if to knit.
- Slip that slipped stitch back over to left-hand needle.
- Then turn work to start working in other direction.

Knitting wraps together with wrapped stitches: When you reach a wrapped stitch, knit into wrap loop along with wrapped stitch to close holes and make the wrap invisible.

Purling wraps together with wrapped stitches: When you reach a wrapped stitch, pick up wrap loop with your needle and slip it onto left-hand needle, then purl into wrap and wrapped stitch together.