

Andrew

by Lee Meredith - leethalknits.com

These mitts may seem plain at first glance, but upon closer inspection there are signs of good and/or evil hidden on each hand, and eyes on the palms which can be protective or demonic!

Use illusion knitting (which is made of just knits and purls) to hide a star or a pentagram on each hand, so when you hold your hand out to a viewer, the shape will reveal itself. Make one hand good and the other evil, or just go all out with one or the other on both hands, if you prefer.

Use twisted and slipped stitches to put eyes on both palms; hold your hand out to an evil-doer as symbolic protection, or put your hands up to your face to turn your mitts into an instant creepy costume.

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You need

- ▶ sport weight yarn in 2 contrasting colors - approx 70{80, 90, 100} yards / 65{75, 85, 95} meters in each color, for small{medium, large, extra large}
- a round, smooth yarn will work best for the illusion, and blocking is somewhat important, so wool or another blockable fiber is recommended
- ▶ size US 4 (3.5mm) needles (or sized to get gauge)
- either a long circular (32"/80cm or longer) to use magic loop method
- or a set of double pointed needles
- ▶ 6 stitch markers, 4 different colors/types (2 different pairs of the same type for 2 mB's and 2 mD's; 2 single unique types for 1 mA and 1 mC)

The samples

Dark & light purples: Knitted Wit *Welterweight Rambouillet* sport weight (Beaujolais and French Kiss); size small; right hand pentagram / left hand star.

Grey & red: Brown Sheep *Lanaloft Sports Weight* (Dark Ash and Roasted Pepper); size extra large; both hands pentagram (grey is the dark color; red is the light color).



Gauge

21 sts per 4 inches / 10 cm in garter stitch, striped between the 2 colors (7 sts per inch / 2.5 cm in slip stitch pattern - [k1, sl2] for 2 rows, [sl1, k2] for 2 rows).

It should be a dense gauge. You can just swatch for garter stitch gauge (2 rows each color) and assume the slip-stitch pattern gauge will be close enough; then test the fit after you've worked the first couple inches (basically treating the first couple inches of mitt as a fully patterned gauge swatch).

Try it on above the thumb, to check for fit (it should be loose around your wrist, but fitted around the hand). There should be very little negative ease (meaning, it shouldn't stretch much at all) - if it's tightly fitted with lots of stretch, then the illusion will be distorted. If it fits well after a couple inches, then you're good and you can keep on knitting. If not, start over with a different needle size and/or make a different size mitts. If knitting for a gift, you can use the same method, using your own hand as a guideline.

Sizing

Circumference

There are four sizes: **small {medium, large, extra large}**, which are for hand sizes of approx 6.5{7.5, 8.5, 9.5} inches / 16.5{19, 21.5, 24} cm, measured around the middle of the hand, above the thumb. These are approx:

- ▶ small = women's small
- ▶ medium = women's medium / men's small
- ▶ large = women's large / men's medium
- ▶ extra large = men's large

Note: Due to the differing numbers of stitches in the slip-stitch panels, small and large sizes have thumb gussets placed asymmetrically within the panels, while medium and extra large sizes have gussets placed centered within the panels (as seen at right).

Length

Total length, lying flat, is approx 6.25{6.75, 7.25, 7.75} inches / 16{17.25, 18.5, 19.75} cm.

The wrist bottom length (before the thumb gusset begins) is approx 2.75 inches / 7 cm; the hand top, above the thumb, is approx 2 inches / 5 cm; the thumb gusset length is approx 1.5{2, 2.5, 3} inches / 4{5.25, 6.5, 7.75} cm.

You can lengthen either end if you like - when the pattern tells you to repeat rounds with plain garter stitch panels, at the beginning and the end of the pattern, repeat extra times to add length.

Pattern elements

The panels

As you knit a mitt, it will be divided into 4 panels: a slip-stitch panel, the illusion pattern panel, another slip-stitch panel, then the palm garter stitch panel. The panels will be separated by stitch markers.

The thumb gusset will be placed in the middle of one of the slip-stitch panels, so the piece will sort of be divided into six segments during that section of knitting (one slip-stitch panel becomes a smaller slip-stitch panel, the thumb gusset, and another small slip-stitch panel).

It's important to pay attention to what's happening in your knitting, which panel is which, and then once it's established it will be easy to only have to look at your stitch pattern charts/rows and knit all other parts of each row without needing to look at the pattern.

Illusion patterns

Illusion knitting patterns are made with knits and purls, and look like plain stripes when viewed straight on. When looked at from an angle, the shape or picture appears; so in the case of these mitts, when you hold your hand out flat in front of you, pointing forward, people looking at it from in front of you will see the picture.

There are two illusion knitting patterns that you can choose from - a star (good) or a pentagram (evil). Choose one and put it on both mitts, for purely good or purely evil mitts, or put one on each hand and you can have a good side and an evil side.



Understanding illusion rows (for easier knitting)

The **first row of each color** will always be *knit all*.

The **second row in the light color** will be a stockinette stitch (knit) base, with some purl bumps.

The **second row in the dark color** will be a garter stitch (purl) base, with some knit stitches - the knit stitches will always fall in the same spots as the purl stitches in the just-worked light color stripe.

So, to minimize checking in with the pattern, for all dark color stripes (second row in dark color), you can look down at the previous light color stripe, working purls into all stitches which were knit, and working knits into all stitches which were purred.

By doing this, you'll only need to check the pattern row/chart for each second row in the light color.

Palm eye pattern

This stitch pattern is made with twisted stitches and slipped stitches, on a garter stitch base.

This eye on your palm can have good or evil meanings.

Hold an eye outwards towards someone looking at you with malice, to ward off the evil eye - there are many cultures with beliefs about the evil eye, and with eye symbols meant to protect from it. Several cultures even combine hands with protective eyes, like the Hamsa hand symbol used throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Or, hold your hands up to your eyes, palms out, to become disguised as Tenome, a creature from Japanese mythology with his eyes in his hands, or The Pale Man, a terrifying monster from *Pan's Labyrinth*.

(Or, for fans of specific shows, your palm eyes can turn you into the Seer from *Once Upon a Time*, or a Sister of the Sibylline from *Doctor Who*, if you wear your mitts on the wrong hands to put the eyes on the back sides.)

Notes

Use the basic cast-on technique of your choice; the long-tail cast-on was the method used on the samples.

Label whichever is the darker of your 2 yarn colors as DC (dark color), and whichever is the lighter shade as LC (light color).

Choose one of the two illusion patterns to use for each mitt; ignore the other one.

Chart legends are given on the chart pages; check in with the abbreviations list for more detailed twisted stitch instructions, as needed.

There are two B markers and two D markers, with stitch patterns between the pairs. (B markers used throughout, D markers only for the thumb gusset.) There is one A marker and one C marker.

Marker A (mA) marks the beginning/end of round - you may choose to instead switch needles at this point, and treat the needle switch as your "mA" spot.

This is an *at the same time* kind of pattern - as long as you look at your knitting you should be able to work most parts without needing to refer to the written steps. Know what the slip-stitch panels look like, versus the garter stitch panel, versus the illusion panel, and know that each round begins with a slip-stitch panel then illusion panel... Basically, just pay attention to what's happening, and you should be able to go along only needing to reference your chart / stitch pattern rows, and then check in with the thumb gusset instructions during that part.