



Urban Necessity, by Colleen Michele Meagher

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When the weather is cold, my hands need mittens. Whipping those mittens on and off to get at some spare change, use my transit pass, turn a page, or fiddle with my coat zipper can be awkward, especially when my hands are already full. Gloves are more convenient, but they aren't as warm. These fingerless mitts with a removable mitten enclosure not only keep my hands and fingers warm as toast, but when I need my fingertips to be free, I can do that without removing the entire mitt. Since I anticipate that the mitten top will be in use the majority of the time, I designed it to lie flat when it's off. There's no i-cord loop or button to get snagged on anything.

These gloves also accommodate my larger-than-average fingers by increasing slightly from the wrist to the knuckles. The measurements contained in this pattern are simply a guide. The good thing about knitting your own gloves is that you can (and should!) customize them for your own hands.

This tam was conceived during a blisteringly cold week in Boston, one when I could not bear to be outside without many added layers. I quickly noticed how much bag space a typical hat and pair of mittens required, and tucking those

things under my arm quickly became a bore.

The great thing about a tam is that it folds flat, but expands to provide sufficient ear coverage and wind protection. The snowflake motif adds a bit of texture to what otherwise is a very simple knitted item. The snowflake results from working the chart between each column of decreases. Alternating the charted design with a panel of straight stockinette stitch would yield a more abstract design.

Gloves

Difficulty Level

Intermediate

Materials

Cascade 220 Superwash, 100% superwash wool, 220 yds / 202m per 100g skein; 2 skeins. Substitute approx. 440 yards of any worsted weight wool yarn.

US 6 / 4mm set of 5 double pointed needles
cable needle

Sizes

Women's S (M, L, XL).

Hand circumference at knuckle: 7 (7.5, 8, 9)" / 17.75 (19, 20.25, 23)cm

Gauge

21 sts = 4" / 10cm in stockinette stitch

Abbreviations

C2F: Sl 1 st to cable needle, k 1 st from left needle, k st from cable needle.

M1: With the left needle, lift the bar between the two stitches from front to back; knit this loop from the back.

M1R: With the left needle, lift the bar between the two stitches from back to front; knit this loop from the front.

PM: Place a stitch marker

PSSO: K1, sl 1 knitwise, return both stitches to the left needle, and pass the slipped stitch over the knit stitch.

TBL: through the back loop

SSK: Slip two stitches knitwise, return them to the left needle, then knit them together through the back loop.

Cuff and Hand

Using the long-tail or other stretchy method, cast on 36(40, 42, 48) stitches. Divide the stitches evenly between four DPNs, join (being careful not to twist the stitches) and work in k1, p1 ribbing for 2.5 (3, 3, 3.5)" / 6.5 (7.5, 7.5, 9) cm. Change to stockinette and m1 at the end of the next round. 37(41, 43, 49) sts.

Start thumb gusset: K 18(20, 21, 24), pm, m1, K1, m1r, pm, (2 sts inc) K to end of round. 39(43, 45, 51) sts. K 2 rounds even.

Inc again as foll: K to marker, sl marker, m1, k to marker, m1r, sl marker. K 2 rounds even.

Inc as above every 3 rounds 1(3, 5, 6) more times. Inc as above every 4 rounds 2(1, 0, 0) times. 47(53, 57, 65)sts. Total sts for the thumb gusset (in between the markers): 11(13, 15, 17).

Next round: K to gusset, place the 11(13, 15, 17) gusset sts on a holder or

spare piece of yarn. 36(40, 42, 48) sts on the needles. K to end of round. On next round, K to one st before the gap caused by the thumb gusset. C2F with the two sts on either side of the gap (this will twist the sts to close the gap caused by the gusset). K to end of round.

Increase for fingers

Instructions for S (M, XL):

Row 1: K5(5, 6) M1, K9(10, 12) M1, K9(10, 12) M1, K9(10, 12), M1, K4(5,6) 40(44, 52) sts.

Row 2: K.

Row 3: K5(6, 7) M1, K10(11,13) M1, K10(11, 13) M1, K10(11, 13), M1, K5(5, 6) 44(48, 56) sts.

Instructions for L:

Row 1: K4, M1, K9, M1, K8, M1, K9, M1, K8, M1, K4 47 sts.

Row 2: K.

Row 3: K5, M1, K9, M1, K10, M1, K9, M1, K10, M1, K4 52 sts.

44 (48, 52, 56) sts on needles (not including the held sts for the thumb).

Work even in stockinette until portion above the ribbing measures 3.5 (3.75, 4, 4.25)" / 9 (9.5, 10, 10.75)cm.

Fingers

Little finger: K 5 (5, 6, 6) and put all but last 5 (6, 6, 7) sts on a holder or spare piece of yarn. Divide these 10 (11, 12, 13) sts among three DPNs. Join, and k 1 round until you reach the gap at the hand. C2F (as for the the two stitches on either side of the hand gap). Continue working until finger measures about .75 (1, 1, 1.25)" / 2 (2.5, 2.5, 3.2)cm (or customize this length to suit your finger). Cast off loosely.

Upper hand: Return the held sts to 3 DPNs. Join yarn at the little finger edge and begin working. K to last stitch of round, C2F with the last st of this round and the first st of the next. Continue working until this section measures about .25(.25, .5, .5)in/.5(.5, 1.25, 1.25)cm.

Ring Finger: Put all but the first 5 (6, 6, 7) and the last 6 (6, 7, 7) sts on a holder or spare piece of yarn. Divide these 11 (12, 13, 14) finger stitches evenly on 3 DPNs. Join yarn at the little-finger side, and work as for the little finger, including the C2F at each gap, until finger measures 1 (1.25, 1.25, 1.5)" / 2.5 (3, 3, 3.75)cm. Cast off loosely.

Middle Finger: Put the first 5 (6, 6, 7) and the last 6 (6, 7, 7) sts evenly on 3 DPNs. Join yarn at the ring-finger side and work as for the little finger, including the C2F at each gap, until finger measures 1.25 (1.5, 1.5, 1.75)" / 3 (3.75, 3.75, 4.5) cm. Cast off loosely.

Index Finger: Place the remaining sts evenly on three DPNs. Join yarn at the middle-finger side. Work as for the little finger, including the C2F at each gap, until finger measures 1 (1.25, 1.25, 1.5)" / 2.5 (3, 3, 3.75) cm. Cast off loosely.

Thumb: Divide the sts held for the thumb gusset on three DPNs. Join yarn, and begin to work in the round. Work until thumb measures about 1.75 (2, 2, 2.25)" / 4.5 (5, 5, 5.75)cm. To close thumb top, k2tog around. If three sts remain at end, k3tog. Cut yarn and thread through the remaining sts. Draw through to close.

Weave in all ends. The ends for each finger can be used to reinforce the area

between the fingers, and close any small gaps that may remain.

Mitten Cap

Start the cap by picking up a row of stitches between the top of the thumb gusset and the bottom of the fingers. To do this, slip a DPN into the right loop of every stitch on the back of the hand (as if to frog a row) and pick up 22(24, 26, 28)sts. Because your glove is knit in the round it will look as if the stitches you pick up are not from the same row. This is not important, so long as the picked-up row is even across the back of the glove. This will form the bottom of the cap, so place it where will feel most comfortable for you, but do not place it below the top of the thumb gusset.

K across these loops, beginning at the thumb side of the back of the hand for the left glove, and the non-thumb side of the back of the hand for the right glove. Turn the work and using the cable or knitted method, CO an additional 22(22, 26, 28) sts 44(48, 52, 56) sts total. Distribute these sts evenly on four DPNs.

To work the cap, join these sts at the thumb side and begin knitting up from the back of the glove. To ensure that you are working in the proper direction, the fingers should be beneath the mitten cap. K 22(24, 26, 28) sts, switch to K1, P1 ribbing for the next 22(24, 26, 28) sts. Continue in this manner until the bottom of the cap measures about .75in, 2cm.

Note: It might be helpful to cinch together the finger sts with a rubber band when you work the cap. This will hold the fingers down below the cap as you work.

Begin working the diamond-shaped chart on the center back of the mitten cap. When you have reached row 15 of the chart (or when the cap measures about 2.5" / 6.5cm), begin shaping the cap. These decreases are spaced so that they occur outside of the charted stitches.

*K 4 (4, 4, 5), k2tog, work chart K to last 6 (6, 6, 7) sts, k2tog; Palm side: K 4 (4, 4, 5), k2tog, k to last 6 (6, 6, 7) sts, k2tog, k to end of round.

Continue decreasing in every row (keeping the decreases outside of the charted sts), and working the chart on odd-numbered rows. When you have finished the chart, continue decreasing in this matter, but leave one fewer stitch between K2togs until you reach k 1 (1, 2, 3), k2tog, k to last 3 (3, 4, 5) sts, k2tog; Palm side: K 1 (1, 2, 3), k2tog, k to last 3(3, 4, 5) sts, k2tog, k to end of round.

Next Round: Sizes S/M: K2tog around.

Size L:

*k1, k2tog, repeat from * around.

Size XL:

*K2, k2tog, repeat from * around.

Finishing

Cut yarn, thread through rem sts and pull tight, and weave in all ends.

Link to glove [chart](#)

Link to cable [chart](#) for Small and Medium Tams.

Link to cable [chart](#) for large and extra large Tam.

Tam

Difficulty Level

Intermediate

Materials

Cascade 220 Superwash, 100% superwash wool, 220 yds / 202m per 100g skein; 1 skein. Substitute approx. 220 yards of any worsted weight wool yarn.

US 6 / 4mm 16" / 40cm circular needle

US 6 / 4mm set of 5 double pointed needles
cable needle

Sizes

Women's S (M, L, XL)

Band circumference 17 (18, 20, 21)" / 43 (46, 51, 53)cm

Gauge

21 sts = 4" / 10cm in stockinette stitch

Abbreviations

M1: With the left needle, lift the bar between the two stitches from front to back; knit this loop from the back.

M1R: With the left needle, lift the bar between the two stitches from back to front; knit this loop from the front.

PM: Place a stitch marker

PSSO: K1, sl 1 knitwise, return both stitches to the left needle, and pass the slipped stitch over the knit stitch.

TBL: through the back loop

SSK: Slip two stitches knitwise, return them to the left needle, then knit them together through the back loop.

Band

Cast on 88 (96, 104, 112) sts using the long-tail method, or another stretchy cast on. Be careful not to twist your stitches as you cast on. Pm and join.

Work in k1, p1 ribbing for 1 (1, 1.25, 1.5)" / 2.5 (2.5, 3, 4) cm.

Body

Increase for hat body: *K2, m1, repeat from * around. 132 (144, 156, 168) sts on needle. Continue in stockinette until piece measures 3.25 (3.5, 4, 4.25)" / 8.25 (9, 10, 10.75)cm from increase round.

Set markers for charted design: *K 22 (24, 26, 28), pm. Repeat from * around. You should now have 6 markers placed.

Begin decreases and working the chart for the top of the hat:

Row 1: *work chart row, sl M. Repeat from * across.

Row 2: *K2Tog, work chart, SSK, sl M. Repeat from * across.

Continue working the decreases and the chart in this manner. Decreases occur on the chart's even-numbered rows only. For a more abstract design, alternate between chart panels and StSt panels. For a plain tam, skip the chart altogether.

Switch to DPNs when the top becomes too narrow for your circular needle.

When you have finished the 22 rows of the chart, *k2tog, remove marker. Repeat from * around.

Finishing

Cut yarn, weave through the remaining stitches and pull closed. Weave in ends and block.

To finish, you could leave the hat as it is, or add a small i-cord loop. To make the i-cord loop, CO 3 sts to a DPN. Work these three stitches, then without turning the piece, slide them to the opposite side of the left needle. Continue working in this fashion until the i-cord is the length you desire. Bind off, make a loop of the i-cord and attach it at the center of the tam.



Colleen Meagher designed this set while she was living in Boston, where winters get c-o-l-d. You might have seen her knitting on the T. She now lives in Brooklyn, NY where she enjoys much longer subway rides and slightly (just slightly) milder winters. If you look closely at the above photo, you'll notice one end that she forgot to weave in. Contact Colleen by email: [colleen\[at\]subwayknitter\[dot\]com](mailto:colleen[at]subwayknitter[dot]com), or visit her [blog](#).

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You may neither sell this pattern, nor sell any items produced with the aid of this pattern. But please feel free to alter the pattern in any way. Heck, I would.

