

Tour de France KAL 2011

Commemorative Pattern



In celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Tour de France KAL, I whipped up a jaunty set of cycling-inspired fingerless gloves. They are named for the Vilaine River, which the peloton must cross to reach the Stage 3 finish in Redon. Like the river, which forms part of Brittany's canal system, this pattern should be easily navigable for the knitter with a little experience.

Materials

The pattern is written so that you may use a yarn of any weight from your stash. Use a slightly smaller needle than the ball band dictates so that the gloves will be sturdy. (I used The Fibre Company's Savannah DK — one 160-yard skein was more than enough — and a US #4 needle.) You'll also need two buttons.

Directions

Wrist Band

CO 3 sts and work about 3 centimeters of i-cord — a bit more if you are using a DK or worsted weight. Without breaking yarn, CO 8 more sts by the knit or cable CO: there will be 11 sts total, with the i-cord at the left edge of the work.

Knit the wrist band in woven stitch with slipped stitches at both edges as follows:

R1 (RS): Sl 1, k1, sl 1 wyif, k1, sl 1 wyif, k1, sl 1 wyif, k4.

R2: Sl 3, p8.

R3: Sl 1, sl 1 wyif, k1, sl 1 wyif, k1, sl 1 wyif, k1, sl 1 wyif, k3.

R4: Sl 3, p8.

Repeat these four rows until the band is long enough to snugly encircle your wrist (but without overlapping).

On a WS row, BO as follows: p3tog, BO the next 5, BO the next 2 tog, BO 1. Leaving the final loop on the needle, knit up stitches along the edge of the band from the WS so that the slipped edge stitches form a chain along the RS. Turn the work when you reach the CO edge and then work two rows as follows:

RS: Sl 1, knit across.

WS: Sl 1, purl across.

On the next row, increase to 20% more stitches: knit 4 stitches, make 1; repeat across. (Don't worry if there are a few extra stitches at the end.) Join to work in the round.



Left Glove

Knit across 1/4 of the stitches, increase a stitch by the thumb loop method, and place a marker (or begin with a new needle so the gap between needles marks the place). Knit to complete the round.

If there is a loose place at the join, twist up another stitch out of the slack.

On every subsequent row until the glove is long enough to reach the base of the thumb joint (or until there is enough fabric to accommodate the thumb), increase before the marker.

Vilaine Gloves
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Work even to the top of the thumb joint, then set aside stitches for the thumb as follows:

On either side of the palm increase marker, measure off about 3 centimeters' worth of stitches and put them on waste yarn. Remove the marker and place the marker at the beginning of the round, above the split for the wrist band. Rejoin to work in the round by casting on half the number of stitches you just set aside. (*Hint: In instances such as these, I like to cast on one fewer than my desired total, then twist up the extra stitch out of the inevitable loose thread left over from the thumb loop cast on when I work them on the following round.*) Knit to complete the round.



Work two more rounds even, then decrease 2 stitches, one at either edge of the stitches you cast on above the thumb hole. Repeat these three rounds once more.

Work even for about 3 cm. Then switch to woven stitch:

R1: K1, sl 1 wyif around.
R2 and following even rnds: Knit.
R3: Sl 1 wyif, k1 around.

Repeat until you have 10 rounds of woven stitch. BO in p1, k1 to help the edge resist curling.

Thumb

Pick up the stitches on waste yarn and knit up stitches from each of the cast-on stitches. Close the gaps at either side of the thumb by working together the stitches on either side on the next round. Switch to woven stitch as given above for 10 rounds, and BO in p1, k1.

Right Glove

Begin as given for the left glove, but when you reach the palm increases, mirror them as follows:

Knit 3/4 of the stitches, place marker, increase one stitch by thumb loop method, knit to end of round. On every subsequent round, increase one st after the marker.

Complete the glove in the same manner as for the left glove.

Finishing

Sew the free end of the i-cord to the further edge of the wrist band to create a button loop. Sew a fetching button to the other end of the band. Weave in all ends.

Now artfully arrange a baguette or two in your pannier and go cycle through a charming Breton village! *Vive le Tour!*

