

Fingerless Gloves

Traditional color patterns from Lithuania were most frequently used on gloves, mittens, and socks. These fingerless gloves are an easy version of a traditional design that lets you practice the color patterns. If you use the same yarn and needles as you plan to use in your sweater, the gloves can be used as your gauge swatch. Knit 2, purl 1 ribbing is very popular on gloves in Lithuania. You may want to experiment with that here.

- ✔ *Striped ribbing*
- ✔ *Color patterns worked both in the round and back and forth*

The example shows gloves in a women's medium, worked in a worsted-weight yarn at 5½ stitches to the inch (22 stitches to 10 cm).

Pattern: Climbing Vines (page 42).

The Flowers pattern (same page) will make absolutely charming fingerless gloves, if you'd like a small challenge in this project.

In order to have balanced patterns (three vertical repeats each on front and back), it will need to be worked at a gauge of about 9 stitches to the inch (36 stitches to 10 cm). You will also probably want a few additional plain stitches on either side of the thumb, so the patterned area has room to breathe around the thumb opening.

Get ready *yarn & needles*

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Yarn

Smooth yarn will show off these color patterns best. Wool is best for gloves, because the springy yarn knits up into an elastic fabric that will hold its shape and cling to your wrists.

Any weight of yarn will work, but for practice I suggest a medium-weight yarn and U.S. size 7 or 8 (4.5 or 5 mm) knitting needles. To fit a large motif on the back of the hand, you will need to use fine-weight yarn and U.S. size 0 or 1 (between 2 and 2.5 mm) knitting needles, or whatever gives you a gauge of about 8 stitches per inch (32 stitches to 10 cm).

You will need a total of approximately 400 yards (365 m) of medium-weight yarn or 500 yards (458 m) of fine-weight yarn for a pair of adult gloves.

Knitting needles

In a size appropriate for the yarn you've chosen:

✦ Double-pointed needles: set of 4 or 5

Two sizes smaller than primary needles:

✦ Double-pointed needles: set of 4 or 5
for ribbing

Needle guidelines, including tips on choosing lengths of circular needles and on working small tubes on circulars, if you would like to use them instead of double-points, are on pages 18–20.

Additional supply

✦ Stitch marker (optional)

Get set *stitches, gauge & size*

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Stitches and gauge

1 Select the pattern stitches for your gloves. Use the combination shown on the sample illustration (page 45), or choose your own combination of stitches either from this book or from a knitting stitch library.

2 Make a gauge swatch in each of the pattern stitches you have chosen.

It is a good idea to practice each pattern stitch to make sure you enjoy knitting it and to learn the pattern. That way you'll make any mistakes on your practice swatch instead of on your gloves.

3 Measure your gauge and record it on the planning worksheet on page 48.

Size

1 Choose a size for your gloves and write the measurements on the visual plan below and in the boxes on the planning worksheet on page 48.

- ★ Child: circumference 6½ inches (16.5 cm)
- ★ Women's medium: circumference 7½ inches (19 cm)
- ★ Women's large or men's medium: circumference 8½ inches (21.5 cm)

2 Use the calculations on the worksheet on page 48 to figure the remaining numbers before you start, or just calculate each new number as you need it.

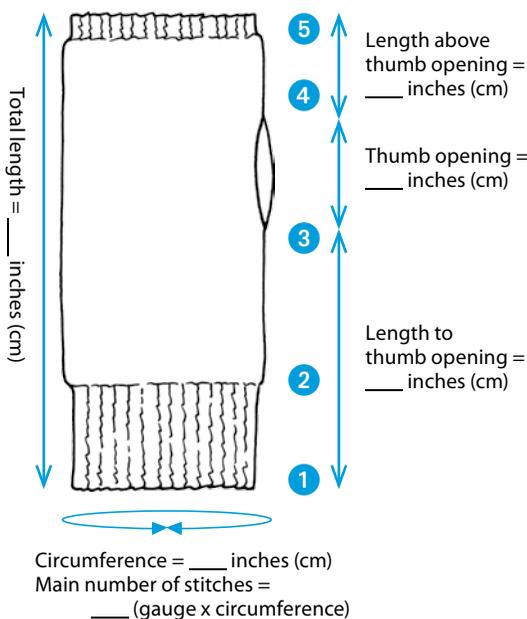
3 Transfer the resulting numbers to the visual plan below or the step-by-step

instructions on page 49, depending on how much guiding detail you would like to have while you knit. The visual plan can be helpful even if you are using the step-by-step project sheet as a confidence builder.

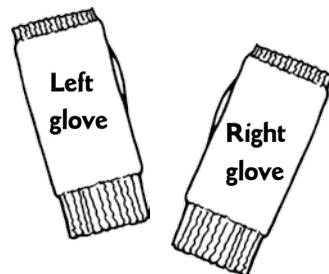


Knit! *option 1: using a visual plan*

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- 1 Cast on and work initial border
- 2 Set up pattern(s)
- 3 Form thumb opening
- 4 Work final border
- 5 Bind off



Knit! *option 2: using a planning worksheet*Lithuania
Fingerless Gloves**Measurements and stitch counts for project I**

	Calculation	Example	Description
<i>Stitch gauge</i>	___ stitches = 1 inch or 1 cm	5½ stitches = 1 inch	Stitch gauge is critical for a good fit on fingerless gloves.
<i>Circumference</i>	___ inches (cm)	7½ inches	Desired circumference of a glove.
a <i>Main number of stitches</i>	___ x ___ = ___ stitches	5.5 x 7.5 = 41.25 stitches 40 stitches	Multiply the stitch gauge by the circumference to calculate the main number of stitches . Round up or down to a multiple of your pattern stitch repeat. If you are using different patterns on the back of the hand and the palm, adjust the stitch count as necessary.
A <i>Length to thumb opening</i>	___ inches (cm)	5 inches	Desired length from cast-on edge to thumb opening . This is the distance from the base of your thumb to the wrist of the fingerless glove. How far past your wrist bone would you like the glove to extend?
B <i>Length of thumb opening</i>	___ inches (cm)	2 inches	Desired length of thumb opening . Measure the hand from the base of the thumb, just above the wrist, to the point where the thumb separates from the hand. It will usually be between 1½ and 2 inches (3.75 and 5 cm).
<i>Length above thumb opening</i>	___ inches (cm)	2 inches	Desired length from the top of the thumb opening to the bind-off edge. How far down your fingers would you like the glove to extend? This length generally falls anywhere between the knuckles at the bases of the fingers and the first knuckle on the little finger.
C <i>Total length</i>	___ + ___ + ___ = ___ inches	5 + 2 + 2 = 9 inches	To get the total length of the glove, add length to thumb opening PLUS length of thumb opening PLUS length above opening.

Need a slightly different stitch count? Increase or decrease by a few.

Knit! *option 3: a step-by-step project sheet*

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Do the calculations on the planning worksheet on page 48 so you have the numbers to fill in here.

1 Cast on and work initial border

With contrasting color and smaller needles, cast on **main number of stitches:** ___ stitches.

Distribute stitches evenly on 3 or 4 double-pointed needles. Being careful not to twist, join to knit in the round. Place a marker or use the yarn tail from the cast-on to keep track of the beginning of the round.

Work in striped ribbing, changing colors as desired, until ribbing measures 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7.5 cm), or desired length.

2 Set up pattern(s)

Change to background color and larger needles. Follow chart to work the pattern stitch of your choice until gloves measure ___ inches (cm) (**length to thumb opening**).

3 Form thumb opening

To form thumb opening, work to the end of the round and turn. Work back and forth, continuing to follow your pattern chart, until the thumb opening measures ___ inches (cm) (**length of thumb opening**).

Rejoin to work in the round. Work even until glove measures ½ inch (1.25 cm) less than ___ inches (cm) (**total length**).

4 Work final border

Cut background color. With contrasting color and smaller needles, work ½ inch (1.25 cm) of ribbing.

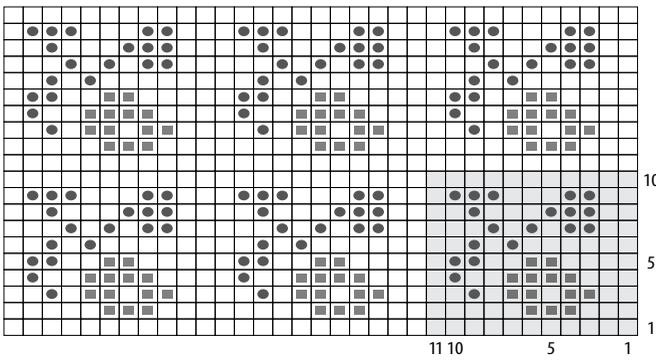
5 Bind off

Bind off loosely. Weave in the ends.

B

C

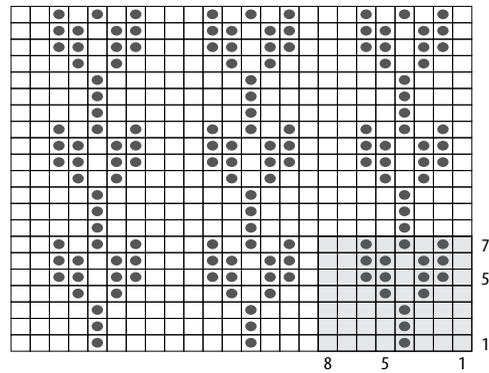
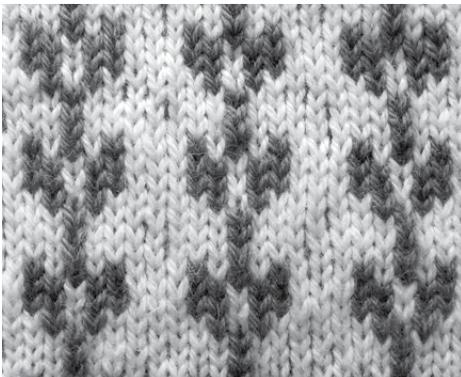
Flowers (all-over pattern)



You can work the two patterns on this page right side up or upside down.

Repeat:
11 stitches
by 10 rows

Climbing Vines (all-over pattern)



Repeat: 8 stitches by 7 rows

The names on these patterns are not traditional.