



SNOW MITTENS

Brittany Wells

Photos by Matt Graves unless otherwise noted

Project originally published in *Easy Weaving with Little Looms Winter 2023*

You may be familiar with the Ukrainian folk tale of how woodland animals found a warm resting place inside one lost mitten. Brittany and her family especially love the adaptation by Jan Brett. She designed this set of mittens so that an adult and small child could wear coordinating, cozy mittens for snowy walks—and with any luck, not lose them in the snow.



RIGID HEDDLE

SNOW MITTENS

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RESOURCES

Garton, Christina, and Susan Horton. "Blanket-Stitch Basics." *Easy Weaving with Little Looms*, June 23, 2023. littlelooms.com/blanket-stitch-basics.

"Simple Felted Wool Mittens." Purl Soho, January 13, 2013. purlsoho.com/create/2013/01/13/mollys-sketchbook-simple-felted-wool-mittens.

MATERIALS

STRUCTURE Plain weave.

EQUIPMENT Rigid-heddle loom, 14" weaving width; 12-dent heddle; 2 shuttles. **Note:** Have a 12.5-dent heddle? See the Heddle Conversion Chart at [LittleLooms.com](https://littlelooms.com).

YARNS Warp: Nature Spun Sport (100% wool; 184 yd/1.75 oz; Brown Sheep Company), #740 Snow and #N03 Grey Heather, 252 yd each.

Weft: Nature Spun Sport, #740 Snow, 154 yd; #N03 Grey Heather, 290 yd.

OTHER SUPPLIES Tapestry needle; needlefelting needle; fingering-weight wool yarn or embroidery floss for edge stitching and optional string for baby mittens (Brittany used Nature Spun Fingering [100% wool; 310 yd/1.75 oz; Brown Sheep Company], #405 Juicy Plum, 8 yd; #505 Blue Marina, 8 yd); mild detergent.

WARP LENGTH 168 ends 108" (3 yd) long (allows 8" for take-up, 14" for loom waste).

SETTS Warp: 12 epi. **Weft:** 12 ppi.

DIMENSIONS Width in the heddle: 14".

Woven length: (measured under tension on the loom) 86". **Finished size:** 10½" × 58" (cloth after felting); adult mittens, 4¾" × 10¾" each; baby mittens, 3" × 4" each.

PROJECT STEPS

Weaving

1 Set up your loom for direct warping a length of 108" (3 yd) or wind a warp of 168 ends 108" (3 yd) long following the warp color order in Figure 1. Centering for a weaving width of 14", warp the loom using your preferred method.

2 Wind a shuttle with Snow and another with Grey Heather. Spread the warp with scrap yarn.

3 Leaving a tail 4 times the width of the warp for hemstitching, weave 2 picks in Grey Heather. Hemstitch in bundles of 3 ends using the long tail. Continue weaving following the weft color order in Figure 2. Finish with 2 picks of Grey Heather and hemstitch as you did at the beginning.

4 Remove the piece from the loom leaving at least 2" of fringe on either side. Cut fringe to about ½" from hemstitched edge.

Fulling and Sewing

5 Place the fabric in a washing machine and fill with hot water. Add several drops of mild detergent along with a large towel (for extra agitation). Allow the washing machine to run, checking frequently until desired fulling and shrinkage have occurred. The piece should be fullled densely enough that no spaces remain between warp and weft. Rinse and spin out excess water. Allow the cloth to air-dry.

6 From the gray section, cut out 2 pieces each of shapes A and D.

7 From the white and gray fabric, cut out 2 pieces each of shapes B, C, and D.

8 For the adult mittens, line up the thumbs and pin A to B and machine stitch around the thumb and horizontal edge using ¼" seam allowance. Repeat with the second A and B, mirroring the direction for left and right mittens.

9 Pin the A/B pieces to the C pieces, right sides together and with the curved top of A aligned with the curved top of C. Pin the thumb toward the palm center in a Y shape and machine stitch around the entire edge using ¼" seam allowance, leaving the bottom



of the mitten open. Turn the mitten and thumb right side out. Repeat for the second mitten.

10 For the baby mittens, pin a gray felt D to a white/gray felt D and sew around the arch using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, leaving the bottom horizontal edge open. Repeat with the second baby mitten and turn both right side out.

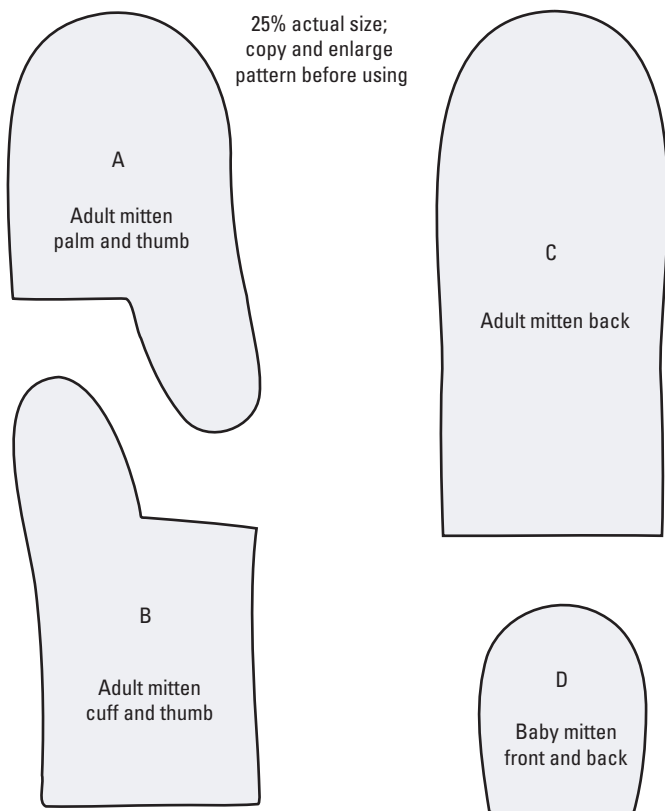
11 On both sets of mittens, finish each cuff edge with a blanket stitch (see Resources) using a tapestry needle and wool yarn or embroidery floss. Alternate long and short stitches for a decorative edging. Brittany used #405 Juicy Plum for the adult mittens and #505 Blue Marina for the baby mittens.

12 Use a needlefelting needle to flatten the inside seam for $\frac{1}{2}$ " up from the bottom inside the cuff of each mitten.

13 (Optional) Make a 4-strand round braid with extra yarn of each color for a length of about 32" (See pp. 4). Sew one end of the braid to the inside seam of each baby mitten. *



Sewing pattern for shapes A–D



WEAVING TIP

As you weave, keep the selvages loose to prevent the fabric from puckering during fulling.

Figure 1. Warp color order

42x	
84	2
84	2
168 ends total	

Figure 2. Weft color order

Grey Heather	
Snow	
1	1
1	1
60" 26"	

FOUR-STRAND ROUND BRAID

Make round braids any time you want a functional, strong, and decorative cord. They work well for items such as lanyards, key fobs, and bag straps.

- 1** Attach four strands to a solid surface as you did in step 1 for the three-strand braid (see Figure 1).
- 2** Hold the two strands on the right with your right hand and two on the left with your left hand. Just as in the four-strand flat braid, the strands are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 from left to right at the start. The leftmost strand is always considered strand 1 and the other strands are in numerical sequence from left to right after completing steps 3 and 4. However with this braid, the shifting of strands after step 4 is only within the two pairs, i.e., 1 and 2 change positions with each other, and 3 and 4 do also.
- 3** Starting on the right, pass strand 4 (pink) under strands 3 and 2 (green and yellow) and then over strand 2.
- 4** Repeat step 3 from the left this time, passing strand 1 (yellow) under strands 2 and 3 (pink and yellow) and then over strand 3.
- 5** Repeat steps 3 and 4 for the length of your braid. Keep your tension steady and give a slight tug from time to time to tighten the braid.
- 6** End 2 to 3 inches before you run out of length to work with and tie an overhand knot to keep the braid from unraveling.

