# Magpie Gloves to Knit

ANGHARAD THOMAS



Angharad Thomas designed these gloves as a tribute to the skilled glove knitters of both the past and present, making use of a variety of techniques.

The Magpie Gloves owe a debt to anonymous knitters long dead, to those such as Mary Allen (1857–1924), the skilled glove knitter from Yorkshire, and to many makers very much alive! These gloves combine old and new elements—from Yorkshire, England; Sanquhar, Scotland; Kihnu Island, Estonia; and elsewhere—to make a fun-to-knit project. The gloves' use of color reflects those found in old gloves, mittens, and socks all over Europe that have been knitted through the years—a strong dark-and-light contrast and a touch of red for luck.

The techniques include a two-color long-tail caston from Europe, a two-color rib from Yorkshire, and knitting in the round with two colors, a technique found all over the knitting world. Because this project is relatively small, it offers a good way to try these techniques for the first time. The asymmetric thumb gussets that give the gloves a great fit and appearance is a construction found in vintage patterns and also in some modern Japanese glove patterns. By the way, feel free to adapt as you wish; for instance, if you can't do a long-tail cast-on, just do your usual one.

The yarn, Pip Colourwork, is a blend of pure British wool spun in Yorkshire, from a company called Baa Ram Ewe based in the Yorkshire city of Leeds. The company has put pure wool yarns from Yorkshire on the map and aims to bring Yorkshire wool to the world. The wool has plenty of character with lots of bounce and a great selection of colors, and it is forgiving of dropped stitches and a little unevenness in knitting!

### MATERIALS

- Baa Ram Ewe Pip Colourwork, 100% British wool yarn, fingering weight, 4 ply, 126 yard (115.2 m)/25 gram (0.9 oz) ball, 1 ball each of #008 Coal (A), #001 White Rose (B; natural), and #009 Wesley Bob (C; dark red)
- Needles, 2 size 3 (3.25 mm) circ 24 inches (60 cm) or set of 4 or 5 double pointed size 3 (3.25 mm) or size needed to obtain gauge
- Stitch markers
- Waste yarn in similar weight and contrasting color for stitch holders and, optionally, for stitch markers
- Tapestry needle

**Finished size:** To fit an average adult; 10½ inches (26.7 cm) length from CO to middle fingertip and 7 inches (17.8 cm) hand circumference above thumb **Gauge:** 36 sts and 36 rnds = 4 inches (10.2 cm) in 2-color St st after light wash and press

#### SPECIAL NOTES

• The two-color knit one, purl one rib is more easily worked by holding one yarn in each hand. Carry the dark or main color yarn in the left hand and knit using the continental method and carry the light yarn in the

right hand and knit using the English method. Always keep the same color in the same hand throughout to ensure that the patterning stitches look even. The tensioning of the yarn may be different in each hand, so this is important for consistent results.

- The textured bands around the cuff use purl rounds flanking a round of eyelets to create decorative ridges separated by a band of two-color patterned stockinette.
- The thumb increases are worked using the makeone-right technique (M1) by inserting the left-hand needle tip from front to back to lift the strand between the marked stitches, then knitting into the back of the lifted strand.
- When marking the stitches that form the sides of the thumb gusset, I prefer to use loops of contrasting yarn because they do not get in the way as much as rigid stitch markers.
- For the top of the thumb opening and finger gussets, turn the work and use a two-needle method (such as the knitted or cable) to cast on stitches onto the left-hand needle. On the next round, knit into the back of these new stitches to tighten them.
- When picking up stitches between the fingers, pick up and knit into the cast-on stitches of the previous finger.
- You may find it helpful to tuck completed fingers down into the hand as you work to keep them out of the way.
- Knit-three-together decreases are used to shape the fingertips to avoid interrupting the alternating color pattern. The first and third stitches of the knit three together will be the same color; work the knitthree-together decrease using the color of the center stitch.

# $I\;N\;S\;T\;R\;U\;C\;T\;I\;O\;N\;S$

Notes: See above and visit www.pieceworkmagazine .com/abbreviations/ for Abbreviations and Techniques. Traditionally, gloves have been made on a set of double-pointed needles, but using two circular needles is an alternative method, with each needle holding about half the stitches. Some knitters may find that the magic-loop method works well for the fingers. The glove can be tried on at any stage to check for fit. If worked using size 2 (2.75 mm) needles at a tighter gauge, these instructions will produce a glove to fit a slimmer hand.

# **Right Glove**

#### Cuff

Hold yarns A and C for a long-tail CO so that the sts formed on the needle are in A and the edge below the needle is in C, and CO 64 sts. Join into rnd, checking that sts are not twisted, and pm for beg-of-rnd. Work 15 rnds of k1, p1 rib as foll.

Rnd 1: \*K1 A, p1 C; rep from \* to end. Break C and join B.

*Rnds 2–15:* \*K1 A, p1 B; rep from \* to end.

Joining yarns as needed, work Rnds 1–19 of Cuff Chart. Break C.

#### Hand

*Note:* Rounds begin at the little-finger side of the hand, at the start of the back-of-hand stitches.

Key k with A Cuff k with B 19 k with C 17 p with C 15 13 yo with A 11 k2tog with A 9 M1 with B 7 CO 1 st in color shown 5 0 0 3 no stitch pattern repeat

8-st rep



Next Rnd: With A, k1f&b, k30, pm, k2, pm, k30, k1f&b—66 sts; 2 thumb gusset sts between m, 32 sts each side of marked gusset sts.

Work Right Hand Chart as foll.

Rnd 1: Work 32 sts in patt, sl m, k1 A, M1 with B, k1 A, sl m, work 32 sts in patt by working indicated 2-st rep 16 times—3 sts between gusset m.

Rnds 2–20: Cont chart patt as established, inc as shown—86 sts; 22 sts between gusset m and 32 sts each side of marked gusset sts.

Rnd 21: Work 32 sts in patt, sl m, k1 A, place next 20 sts on holder for thumb gusset, CO 4 sts alternating A and B as shown, k1 A, sl m, work 32 sts in patt—70 sts rem; 6 sts between m and 32 sts each side of marked sts.

Rnds 22–37: Work in patt to end of chart. Do not break yarns.

## Little Finger

Set-Up Rnd: Work Rnd 1 of Right Little Finger Chart over first 9 sts of rnd, place next 52 sts on holder, CO 4 sts in alternating colors, work last 9 sts of rnd in established patt—22 sts.

Cont as established until Rnd 21 of chart has been completed. If necessary, cont working all sts in alternating colors as established until finger measures 2½ inches (5.7 cm) or just before desired length.

Next Rnd: Cont in patt, [k3tog, k1] 5 times, k2—12 sts

Next Rnd: Cont in patt, [k3tog, k1] 3 times—6 sts rem. Break yarns, leaving a 12-inch (30.5-cm) tail of A. Thread the tail on the tapestry needle, draw through rem sts, pull tight to close fingertip, and fasten off. Weave in ends from finger on WS.

### Ring Finger

rem.

*Note:* The ring-finger pattern is symmetrical and uses the same chart for both the right and left gloves.

With the palm of the hand facing, transfer last 9 held hand sts to needle, and rejoin A and B at beg of needle. Set-Up Rnd: Work 9 sts in established patt, use alternating colors to pick up and k 3 sts from base of little finger CO, use B to pick up and k 1 st from the base of 1-st B column at end of Right Little Finger Chart (counts as 1st st from Rnd 1 of chart), transfer first 8 held hand sts to needle and work the next 8 sts from Right or Left Ring Finger Chart over these 8 sts, CO 3 sts in alternating colors—24 sts on needles; 35 sts rem on holder.

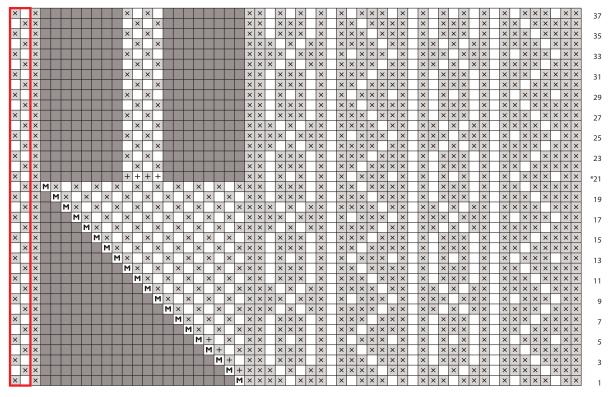
Cont as established until Rnd 24 of chart has been completed. If necessary, cont working all sts in alternating colors as established until finger measures 2¾ inches (7.0 cm) or just before desired length.

Next Rnd: Cont in patt, [k3tog, k1] 6 times—12 sts rem.

Next Rnd: Cont in patt, [k3tog, k1] 3 times—6 sts rem.

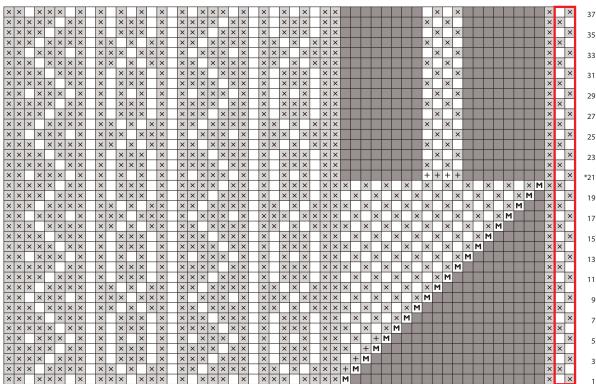
Close fingertip as for little finger.

Right Hand



2-st rep work 16 times \*see instructions

## Left Hand



\*see instructions

2-st rep work 16 times

Right	or	Left	Ring	Finger

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Right Middle Finger

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#### Middle Finger

With the palm of the hand facing, transfer last 8 held hand sts to needle, and rejoin A and B at beg of needle. Set-Up Rnd: Work 8 sts in established patt, use alternating colors to pick up and k 3 sts from base of ring-finger CO, use B to pick up and k 1 st from base of 1-st B column at end of Ring Finger Chart (counts as 1st st from Rnd 1 of Right Middle Finger Chart), transfer first 8 held hand sts to needle and work the next 8 sts from Right Middle Finger Chart over these sts, CO 4 sts in alternating colors—24 sts on needles; 19 sts rem on holder.

Cont as established until Rnd 26 of chart has been completed. If necessary, cont working all sts in alternating colors as established until finger measures  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches (8.3 cm) or just before desired length. Work 2 dec rnds as for ring finger—6 sts rem. Close fingertip as for little finger.

## **Index Finger**

Place rem 19 held sts on needles. Rejoin A and B at beg of sts with back-of-hand facing.

Set-Up Rnd: Use B to pick up and k 1 st from base of 1-st B column at end of Right Middle Finger Chart (counts as 1st st from Rnd 1 of Right Index Finger Chart), work next 8 sts of Right Index Finger Chart over next 8 sts, work 11 rem sts in established patt maintaining the 1-st A column, then use alternating colors to pick up and k 4 sts from base of middle finger CO—24 sts.

Work as established until Rnd 24 of chart has been completed. If necessary, cont working all sts in alternating colors as established until finger measures 2¾ inches (7.0 cm) or just before desired length. Work 2

dec rnds as for ring finger—6 sts rem. Close fingertip as for little finger.

#### **Thumb**

Place 20 held thumb sts on needles. Rejoin A and B in center of 4 sts CO at top of thumb gap.

Set-Up Rnd: Use alternating colors to pick up and k 2 sts from base of thumb gap CO, use A to pick up and k 1 st from top of 1-st A column, work 20 held sts as established, use A to pick up and k 1 st from top of 1-st A column, then use alternating colors to pick up and k 2 sts from base of thumb gap CO—26 sts.

Keeping 1-st columns of A as established, work in patt until thumb measures 2 inches (5.1 cm) or just before desired length.

Next Rnd: Cont in patt, [k3tog, k1] 6 times, k2—14 sts rem.

Next Rnd: Cont in patt, [k3tog, k1] 3 times, k2—8 sts rem.

Close fingertip as for little finger.

**Left Glove** 

## Cuff

Work as for right glove—64 sts.

#### Hand

*Note:* Rounds begin at the little-finger side of the hand, at the start of the palm stitches.

Next Rnd: With A, k1f&b, k30, pm, k2, pm, k30,

k1f&b—66 sts; 2 thumb gusset sts between m, 32 sts each side of marked gusset sts.

Work Left Hand Chart as foll.

Rnd 1: Work 32 sts in patt by working indicated 2-st rep 16 times, sl m, k1 A, M1 with B, k1 A, sl m, work 32 sts in patt—3 sts between gusset m.

Left Middle Finger

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Left Little Finger

Rnds 2–20: Cont chart patt as established, inc as shown—86 sts; 22 sts between gusset m and 32 sts each side of marked gusset sts.

Rnd 21: Work 32 sts in patt, sl m, k1 A, place next 20 sts on holder for thumb gusset, CO 4 sts alternating A and B as shown, k1 A, sl m, work 32 sts in patt—70 sts rem; 6 sts between m and 32 sts each side of marked sts.

*Rnds 22–37:* Work in patt to end of chart. Do not break yarns.

## Little Finger

Charts may be photocopied for personal use.

Set-Up Rnd: Work first 9 sts of rnd in established patt, place next 52 sts on holder, CO 4 sts in alternating colors, work Rnd 1 of Left Little Finger Chart over last 9 sts of rnd—22 sts.

Complete as for right little finger.

# Ring Finger

With the palm of the hand facing, transfer first 9 held hand sts to needle, and rejoin A and B at beg of needle.

Set-Up Rnd: Work 9 sts in established patt, CO 3 sts in alternating colors, transfer last 8 held hand sts to needle and work the first 8 sts from Rnd 1 of Right or Left Ring Finger Chart over these 8 sts, use B to pick up and k 1 st from base of 1-st B column at beg of Left Little Finger Chart (counts as last st of Ring Finger Chart), use alternating colors to pick up and k 3 sts from base of little-finger CO—24 sts on needles; 35 sts rem on holder.

Complete as for right ring finger.

# Middle Finger

With the palm of the hand facing, transfer last 8 held hand sts to needle, and rejoin A and B at beg of needle.

Set-Up Rnd: Work 8 sts in established patt, CO 4 sts in alternating colors, transfer last 8 held hand sts to needle and work first 8 sts from Rnd 1 of Left Middle Finger Chart over these 8 sts, use B to pick up and k 1 st from base of 1-st B column at beg of Ring Finger Chart (counts as last st of Left Middle Finger Chart), use alternating colors to pick up and k 3 sts from base of ring-finger CO—24 sts on needles; 19 sts rem on holder.

Complete as for right middle finger.

# **Index Finger**

Place rem 19 held sts on needles. Rejoin A and B at beg of sts with palm facing.

Set-Up Rnd: Work 11 sts in established patt maintaining the 1-st A column, work first 8 sts from Rnd 1 of Left Index Finger Chart over next 8 sts, use B to pick up and k 1 st from base of 1-st B column at beg of Left Middle Finger Chart (counts as last st of Left Index Finger Chart), use alternating colors to pick up and k 4 sts from base of middle finger CO—24 sts.

Complete as for right index finger.

#### **Thumb**

Work as for right thumb.

# **Finishing**

Weave in ends. If necessary, neaten any loose stitches at the base of the fingers. Wash gently in tepid water with a no-rinse wool soap such as Eucalan. Squeeze out excess water with a clean, dry towel, and lay flat to dry. Steam-press lightly, pinning out fingers if desired.