

Karesuando Mittens to Knit

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LAURA RICKETTS



Knit these glorious mittens for a special man. He will love their cheer and warmth, whether he'll lead the Reindeer Parade or not!

This mitten pattern is based on a pair of Sami mittens I saw in Lulea, Sweden, at the Norrbottens Museum. It is a typical mitten from Karesuando, which is at the farthest northern tip of Sweden. These mittens were originally meant for men. Both Per and Dagny Kuhmunen come from this area.

Unlike many of the other Sami mittens I have seen, these Karesuando mittens have a staggered mitten-tip decrease. That is, instead of decreasing at the edges of the mitten, which creates flat mitten fronts, the knitter staggers decreases evenly across the rounds up to the red tips. At that point, regular decreases create a slightly swirled tip.

The Karesuando mittens I observed at the museum had patterned thumbs, but Per Kuhmunen's Karesuando mittens have a thumb in solid blue. This is not only easier, but eliminates the constriction that can occur much more readily in small-circumference stranded work.

MATERIALS

- ♦ Rauma Finullgarn, 100% wool yarn, fingering weight, 191 yards (174.7 m)/50 gram (1.8 oz) ball, 1 ball each of #437 Bright Royal Blue (MC), #418 Red (CC1), #4405 Bright Lemon Yellow (CC2), and #401 Off White (CC3); www.theyarnguys.com
- ♦ Needles, size 1 (2.25 mm) or size needed to obtain gauge
- ♦ Waste yarn, smooth
- ♦ Marker
- ♦ Tapestry needle
- ♦ Cardboard, 3½ inches (8.9 cm), 1 piece for making tassels

Finished size: 8 inches (20.3 cm) hand circumference and 10 inches (25.4 cm) long, excluding braid and tassel

Gauge: 32 sts and 43 rnds = 4 inches (10.2 cm) in stranded patt

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: See page 5 for Abbreviations.

Mittens

Cuff

With MC and using the long-tail method, CO 64 sts. Pm and join in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts.

Work in k2, p2 rib until cuff measures 2¾ inches (7.0 cm).

Body

Work Rows 1–12 of Karesuando Chart.

Thumbhole

Right mitten only,

Rnd 13: Work 34 sts in patt, with waste yarn, k14, sl these 14 sts to left needle, work in patt to end.

Left mitten only,

Rnd 13: Work 16 sts in patt, with waste yarn, k14, sl these 14 sts to left needle, work in patt to end.

Both mittens,

Cont in patt through end of chart, working chart Rows 61, 63, 65, 68, 69, and 71 as foll,

Rows 61, 68, and 69: *Work 1 rep of chart, dec 1 st randomly placed; rep from * once more—2 sts dec'd.

Rows 63, 65, and 71: *Work 1 rep of chart, dec 2 sts randomly placed; rep from * once more—4 sts dec'd.

Eight sts rem when chart is complete.

Break yarn, thread through rem sts, and pull tight to close.

Thumb

Remove waste yarn and place 28 live sts onto needles.

Next Rnd: With MC, *k14, pick up and k 1 st; rep from * once more—30 sts.

Pm and join in the rnd.

Next Rnd: *K13, ssk; rep from * once more—28 sts rem.

Work even until thumb measures about 3 inches (8 cm), or to the tip of the wearer's thumb.

Shape tip,

Rnd 1: *K2, k2tog; rep from * around—21 sts rem.

Rnd 2: *K1, k2tog; rep from * around—14 sts rem.

Rnd 3: *K2tog; rep from * around—7 sts rem.

Break yarn, thread through rem sts, and pull tight to close.

Finishing

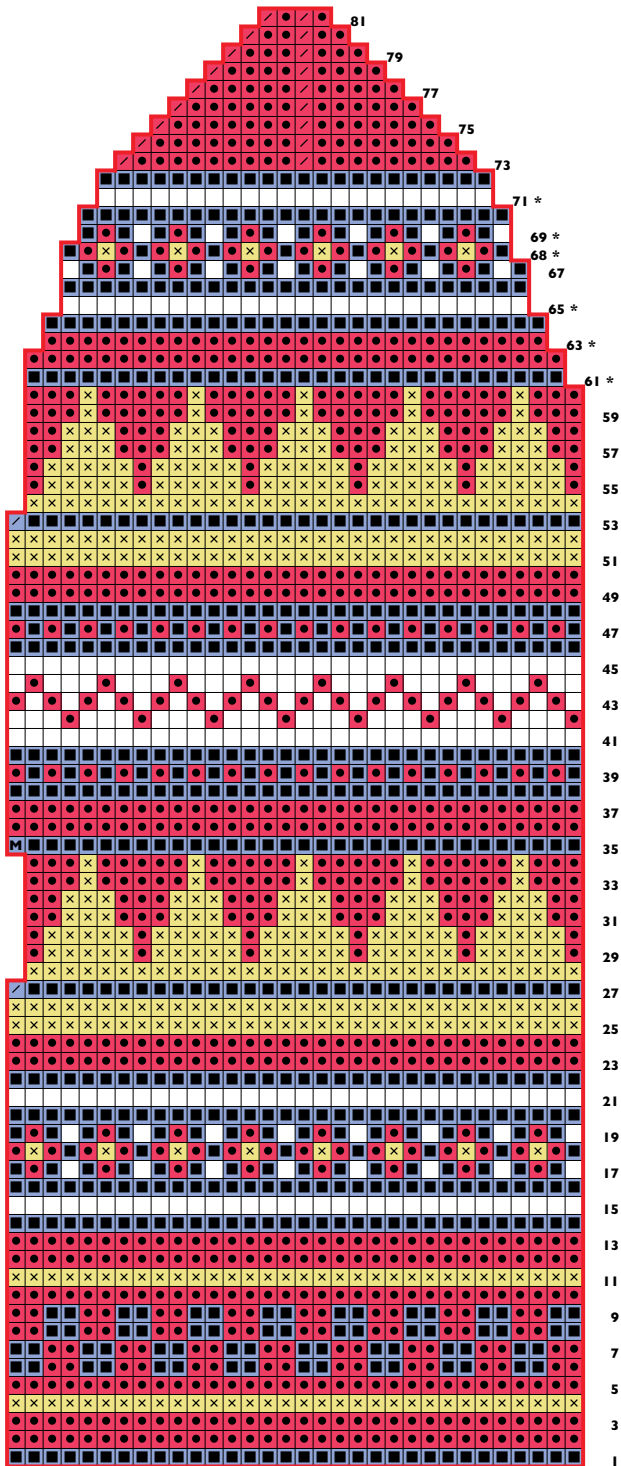
Tighten any loose ends at the thumb joins. Weave in loose ends. Block.

Braid

Cut 2 strands of CC1 and 2 strands of CC2, each about 36 inches (91 cm) long. Using the tapestry needle, pull each strand of yarn through a separate st on the pinky side of the mitten body just above rib. Pull strands until both sides of the yarn are equal (each about 18 inches [46 cm] long). Treat both sides of the yarn as one yarn.

Position CC1 strands on one side and CC2 strands on other side and make a round, 4-strand

Karesuando



Key

- MC
- CC1
- x CC2
- CC3
- / k2tog with MC
- / k2tog with CC1
- M MI with MC
- patt rep

braided. *With the right-most yarn, cross under both center yarns to the left and then up and back over one yarn to the right. With the left-most yarn, cross under both center yarns to the right and then up and back over the farther center yarn to the left; rep from *, taking time to tighten the base of the braid before progressing. After 8 inches (20.3 cm), make a half-knot with 4 strands in one hand and 4 in the other, leaving ends long.

Tassel

Wrap yarn around cardboard as foll: Wrap CC3 three or four times, MC 5 or 6 times, and CC2 and CC1 about 14 times each. Thread 4 strands of the braid end onto the tapestry needle and slip them under the tassel wraps. Tie the tassel tight with the braid ends, centering the tassel top. Slide the tassel off of the cardboard. Thread a long piece of CC3 on the tapestry needle and wind it around the tassel tightly, about 3/4 inch (2 cm) from the top, pulling the end into the center of the tassel and down. Cut the bottom loops, trimming the ends of tassel even.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Here are some web-based tutorials that may help with the four-strand braid:
www.seekyee.com/Slings/howtos/4strand.htm and www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuSHJ5j9Bg4.

* Work as given in directions

32-st to 4-st rep

Chart may be photocopied for personal use.
 The chart for this project is available in PDF format at needleworktraditions.com/charts-and-illustrations.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg	beginning; begin; begins	M1R (L)	make one right (left)	sl st	slip stitch (sl 1 st pwise unless otherwise indicated)
bet	between	p	purl	ssk	slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, k2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
BO	bind off	p1f&b	purl into front and back of same st	ssp	slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, p2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
CC	contrasting color	p2tog	purl two stitches together	st(s)	stitch(es)
cm	centimeter(s)	patt(s)	pattern(s)	St st	stockinette stitch
cn	cable needle	pm	place marker	tbl	through back loop
CO	cast on	psso	pass slipped stitch over	tog	together
cont	continue(s); continuing	p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over	WS	wrong side
dec(s)	decrease(s); decreasing	pwise	purlwise	wyb	with yarn in back
dpn	double-pointed needle(s)	RC	right cross	wyf	with yarn in front
foll	following; follows	rem	remain(s); remaining	yo	yarn over
g	gram(s)	rep	repeat; repeating	*	repeat starting point (i.e., repeat from *)
inc	increase(s); increasing	rev St st	reverse stockinette stitch	**	repeat all instructions between asterisks
k	knit	rib	ribbing	()	alternate measurements and/or instructions
k1f&b	knit into front and back of same st	rnd(s)	round(s)	[]	instructions that are to be worked as a group a specified number of times
k2tog	knit two stitches together	RS	right side		
kwise	knitwise	rev sc	reverse single crochet		
LC	left cross	sc	single crochet		
m(s)	marker(s)	sk	skip		
MC	main color	sl	slip		
mm	millimeter(s)				
M1	make one (increase)				