

# Telemark Rose Gloves

Inspired by the embroidered gloves of Telemark,  
a county in southeastern Norway

BY KATE LARSON

The embroidery motif used for this pattern is a typical, albeit simplified, version of what is often associated with gloves from the Telemark region. Telemark *rosesaum* and *rosemaling* patterns have C-shaped, stylized vines and often at least one small asymmetrical element. This is a composite and interpretation of extant patterns and not a direct copy of any single pair.

## SPINNING

Spin the black Norwegian top into a sportweight worsted two-ply yarn. Be sure to spin and wash a quick sample first. The finer, shorter fibers in this preparation will bloom once washed, which changes the yarn significantly. The three-ply embroidery yarns should be spun with a worsted draw. These yarns







need to be smooth and durable to withstand the embroidery process. Spinning these fine yarns with low to moderate twist makes them more fragile but gives the finished piece the flat, even appearance necessary for this style of motif.

**FIBER** *Gloves:* 4 oz Louet Norwegian wool top in black (MC). *Embroidery:* Small amounts of combed tops in dark red, medium red, light red, dark green, and light green.

**YARN** *Gloves:* 2-ply; 210 yd; 1,500 ypp; 14 wpi. *Embroidery:* 3-ply; 10 yd dark red, 5 yd medium red, 5 yd light red, 3 yd dark green, 3 yd light green; 2,450 ypp; 17 wpi.

**NEEDLES** U.S. size 1 (2.25 mm): set of 5 double-pointed (dppn). Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

**GAUGE** 28 sts and 35 rnds = 4" in St st before felting; 30 sts and 38 rnds = 4" in St st after felting.

**NOTIONS** Markers (m); tapestry needle; waste yarn for thumb opening and to be used as a stitch holder; water-soluble embroidery stabilizer (such as Sulky Super Solvy); crewel needle; cardboard; sewing thread.

**FINISHED SIZE** 8½" hand circumference and 8¾" tall, after felting.

See [spinoffmagazine.com/spin-off-abbreviations/](http://spinoffmagazine.com/spin-off-abbreviations/) for terms you don't know.

## NOTE

- As indicated in the pattern, the right glove begins with the palm side; the left glove begins with the back of the hand. The body of each glove is worked on 4 needles and the fingers and thumb on 3 nee-

dles. When the knitting is complete, the gloves are lightly felted and then embroidered.

## RIGHT GLOVE

### Cuff:

With MC, CO 56 sts. Divide sts evenly onto 4 needles, place marker (pm), and join for working in the rnd. Knit 1 rnd, purl 1 rnd, knit 1 rnd. *Next rnd* \*K1tbl, p1; rep from \* to end of rnd. Rep this rnd 11 more times.

### Gusset:

*Set-up rnd* K1, p1, pm, k3, pm, p1, knit to end of rnd.

*Rnds 1–3* K1, p1, sl m, knit to m, sl m, p1, knit to end of rnd.

*Rnd 4* K1, p1, sl m, k1, M1, knit to 1 st before m, M1, k1, sl m, p1, knit to end of rnd—2 sts inc'd.

Rep these 4 rnds 3 more times—64 sts. Rep Rnd 1 until gusset measures 2¾". *Next rnd* K2, remove m, k11 gusset sts with waste yarn, remove m, transfer waste yarn sts to left needle and resume working with MC (knitting waste yarn sts), knit to end of rnd. *Note:* Waste yarn is removed later to create thumb opening. Knit every rnd until piece measures 1½" from waste yarn.

### First finger:

K9, sl next 46 sts onto another piece of waste yarn, leaving 9 rem sts on needle—18 sts for finger. With working yarn, CO 3 sts onto a third needle, k9 from end of rnd, redistributing sts evenly on these 3 needles—21 sts. Knit in the rnd until finger measures 2½", or is the same length as your first finger. *Dec rnd* \*K2tog, knit to end of needle; rep from \* to end of rnd—3 sts dec'd. Rep Dec Rnd every rnd 4 more times—6 sts rem. Cut yarn and thread tail through rem sts. Pull tight and secure.

### Middle finger:

With RS facing, reattach yarn, then pick up and knit 3 sts along CO sts of previous finger, k7 from beg of waste yarn, CO 4 sts, k7 from end of waste yarn—21 sts total. Knit in the rnd until finger measures 2¾" or is the same length as your middle finger. Shape fingertip as for first finger.

### Ring finger:

With RS facing, reattach yarn, then pick up and knit 4 sts along CO sts of previous finger, k7 from beg of waste yarn, CO 3 sts, k7 from end of waste yarn—21

sts total. Knit in the rnd until finger measures 2½", or is the same length as your ring finger. Shape fingertip as for first finger.

#### *Pinky finger:*

With RS facing, reattach yarn, then pick up and knit 3 sts along CO sts of previous finger, k18 from waste yarn—21 sts total. Knit in the rnd until finger measures 1¾", or is the same length as your pinky finger. Shape fingertip as for first finger.

#### *Thumb:*

Remove waste yarn and place 22 sts on needles (11 sts from below waste yarn and 11 sts above). Pick up and knit 1 st on right side of thumb opening, k11, pick up and knit 1 st on left side of thumb opening, k11—24 sts total. Divide sts evenly on 3 needles and join for working in the rnd. Knit every rnd until thumb measures 2", or is as long as your thumb. Shape tip as for first finger, dec to 6 sts before finishing.

## LEFT GLOVE

#### *Cuff:*

Work as for right glove.

#### *Gusset:*

*Set-up rnd* K50, p1, pm, k3, pm, p1, k1.

*Rnds 1–3* K50, p1, sl m, knit to m, sl m, p1, k1.

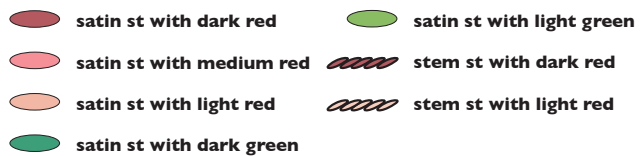
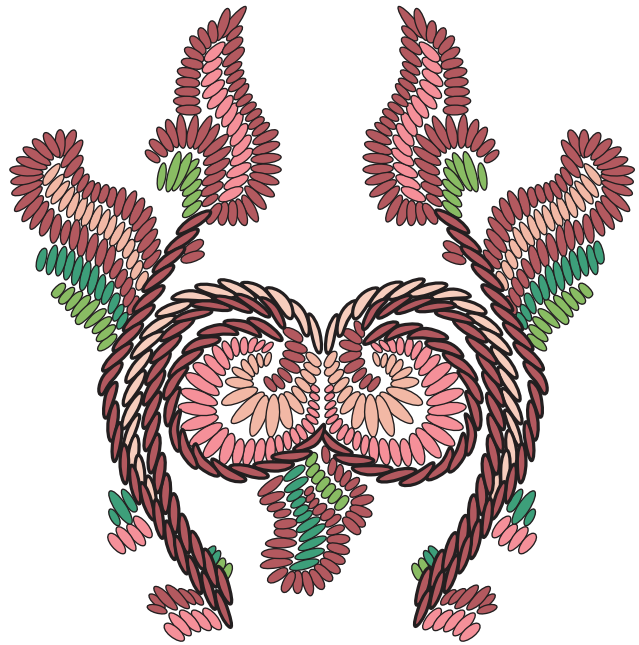
*Rnd 4* K50, p1, sl m, k1, M1, knit to 1 st before m, M1, k1, sl m, p1, k1—2 sts inc'd.

Rep last 4 rnds 3 more times—64 sts. Rep Rnd 1 until gusset measures 2¾". *Next rnd* K51, remove m, k11 gusset sts with waste yarn, transfer waste yarn sts to left needle and resume working with MC (knitting waste yarn sts), knit to end of rnd. Knit every rnd until piece measures 1½" from waste yarn. Work fingers and thumb as for right glove.

## FELTING

Fulling (lightly felting) the handcoverings tightens the stitches a bit and thickens the fabric. The black Norwegian top used in this project contains a variety of fiber types and staple lengths, so fulling allows the finer, shorter fibers to bloom and fill the spaces in between stitches, making these gloves warmer and creating a smoother surface to apply embroidery.

I full my handcoverings in the sink with warm to hot water and a little soap. I suggest weaving in the loose ends and turning the gloves WS out for best results. Begin rubbing the gloves between your hands in the hot, slightly soapy water. Work each finger and thumb and make sure to rub the fabric in multiple directions for even fulling. Rinse under cold water and roll in a towel. Block and allow to dry completely before embroidering.



## EMBROIDERY

Embroidering onto a knitted surface can be more challenging than a woven one, but there are a few tricks to make it easier. Cut a piece of thin cardboard so it will slip inside the glove, providing a smooth working surface and separating the front and back of the glove. The cardboard should hold the glove taut, but not stretch the fabric.

While many of the extant nineteenth-century handcoverings appear to have been embroidered freehand (without a pattern on the surface of the work), we can use water-soluble stabilizer or waste canvas. Trace the embroidery motif onto the clear stabilizer with a permanent marker and baste the stabilizer to the glove with sewing thread. This embroidery pattern is worked in stem and satin stitches. The motif, typical of handcoverings from the Telemark region, is asymmetrical. To reverse the image for the other hand, trace onto clear stabilizer and cut out. Place the stabilizer facedown onto the glove to create a mirror image of the motif. After embroidery is applied, soak piece in warm water to dissolve stabilizer, and shape gloves to dry. 🐏

When **Kate Larson** isn't traveling, writing, or teaching spinning and knitting classes, she can be found in the barn with her flock of Border Leicester sheep.