

Sharp Diamond Mitties

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These mitties are a warm and cozy colorwork project intended for all levels of skill (as long as you like to read directions, first!). The pattern repeat is 25x50 stitches while the color repeat is 50x100, which makes this pattern kind of neat and allows a little think-work as you go.

I used Cascade 220 and needed a little over half a skein of each color. You can use any yarn you want, but the two colors should be very close to the same weight as each other in order to have even-looking mitties. In working the color chart, pick one color (I chose the lighter color (CC)) and consistently carry that strand of yarn below the other, trying not to cross them. It will cause the color carried below to "pop" out a little more than the other, making the pattern more visible.

These mitties may look or seem too small as you're knitting them, but they do stretch a little once they're off the needles and the thumb is attached. These are sized for an adult female, but all hands are different. To change the size without breaking in pattern, you might use a larger or smaller yarn or needles. To change the length, you could also remove a few of the rows at the end (or add), but you will have to do decreases earlier (or later), keeping in pattern.

Gauge:

26 stitches/26 rows = 4inches (in stockinette in colorwork pattern)

You will need:

Four or five size 6 (4mm) dpns (to gauge)
~120yds worsted yarn (to gauge) in Main Color
~120yds worsted yarn (to gauge) in Contrast Color

Definitions:

MC: Main Color
CC: Contrast Color

Note:

This chart is interesting because its full color repeat is 50 stitches horizontally and 100 vertically, but its diamond shaped pattern repeat is half of that: 25x50. Because of this neat feature, for chart purposes, in each row the colors in the second 25 stitches are an exact reversal (a "negative" in photo-speak) of the first 25. The same is true of the vertical: the first 50 rows are an exact negative of the next 50. Using the 25x50 chart provided, the full 50x100 color and pattern repeat would look like:

AB
BA

where A is the provided 25x50 chart and B is the "negative" image of the provided chart with the MC and CC swapped. The complete chart used in these mitties is the full 50x100 repeat (well, really only 50x55). For shorthand purposes with this pattern (and because I can't even imagine trying to figure out what stitch I'm on in a 50x100 grid), though, **only chart A is provided**. Chart B is just its color negative, and can be figured out in your head for the second 25 stitches (and for the first 25 stitches in rows over 50) in each round or can be easily written out by reversing the coloring in the grid.

Pattern:

CO 48 in MC and split evenly between 3 or 4 dpns

Wrist Ribbing, rounds 1-12:

K2, P2, *K2, P2* to end

Round 13:

K2, P2,*K2, P2* to last 4, K2, M1, P1, M1, P1

Body:

For the body of the mittie, you will work the palm in the first 25 stitches and the top in the next 25 of a round.

Rounds 1-19:

25 stitches of chart twice; for the second working of the chart in each round (chart B, the "negative", as described above), the MC becomes the CC and vice versa. For consistency's sake, the very first stitch of Round 1 is MC.

Round 20 (thumb hole):

Right hand:

Knit 9 stitches onto selvage (waste) yarn then transfer those knitted stitches back to left needle; Knit row 20 of chart (and its "negative")

Left hand:

Knit 16 stitches of chart; Knit 9 stitches onto selvage (waste) yarn then transfer those knitted stitches back to left needle; continue in chart where you left off (start at 17th stitch) then repeat chart as instructed above (the "negative")

Rounds 21-50:

Continue in chart, as directed above

Rounds 51-55:

Work rounds 1-5 from decrease chart (these are rows 1-3 of the regular chart plus 2 decrease rows), but **this time work in the "negative" chart first** (chart B, as described above) followed by the given chart.

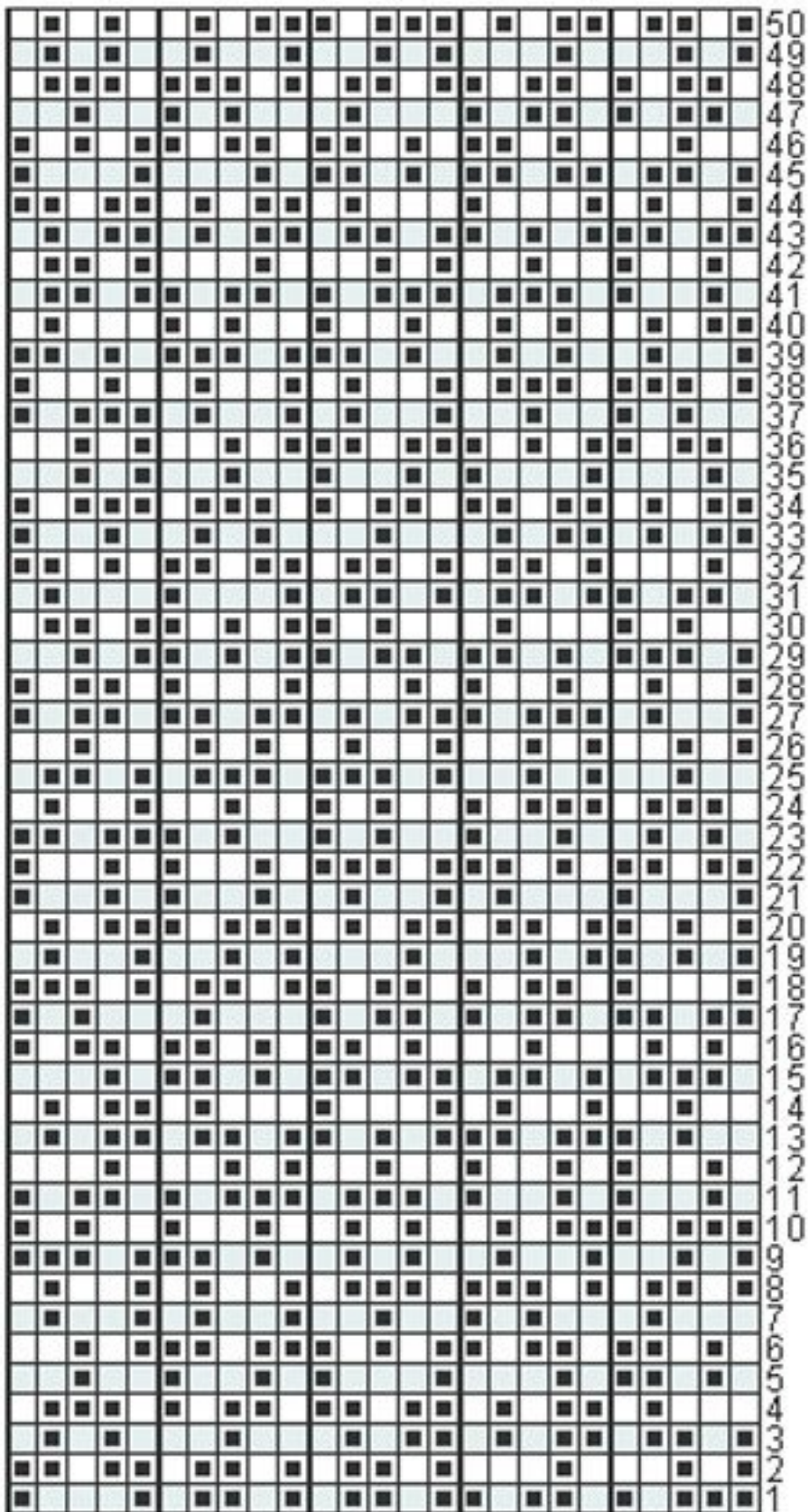
Finishing (30 stitches remain):

Divide stitches evenly on 2 needles, one for top, one for palm, turn mittie inside out and weave stitches together, alternating one stitch from each needle. Pull tight and weave in ends tightly (maybe making a knot to hold it).

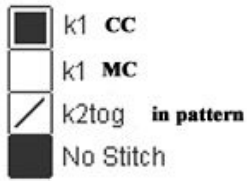
Thumb:

Remove selvage stitching, and find 9 stitches from selvage on bottom of thumb hole. Find 8 on top and pull down a 9th to the rightmost side. Pick up 2 stitches on each side of the thumb hole (22 total). Starting at the right-most bottom stitch of the thumb hole, work thumb chart to align with pattern. The thumb chart is intended to grow the pattern on the front side of the thumb. Since there are only 22 stitches in thumb there is no need to work the "negative" side of the pattern. Just work the pattern as listed for 17 rows. If you need more length, follow the set pattern as necessary. To close the thumb, use the same technique as you used for the top of the mittie, no decreases necessary.

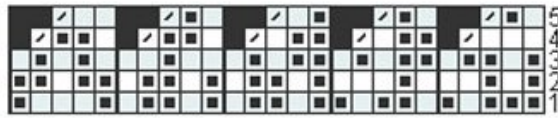




Key



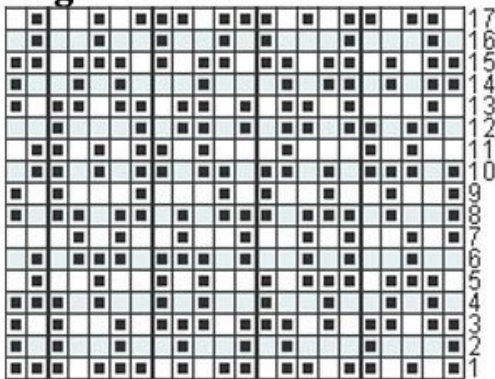
Rows 51-55 (and decreases)



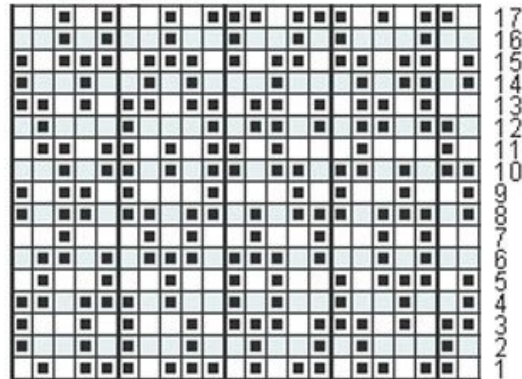
For rows 51-55, don't forget to start with the "negative" part of this repeat, first, then work as stated.

For the thumbs, do not work in "negative" at all; follow pattern as stated.

Right Thumb



Left Thumb



Thanks to Jacquie for her Knitting Chart Maker, which, at print time, can be found at: <http://jacquie.typepad.com/Charts/knitChart.htm>