ALAN DART designer of knitted & fabric toys

How to knit fingered hands

Although the number of stitches and rows will differ from one pattern to another, the method for knitting hands with separate fingers from any of my patterns always remains the same.

If you follow these instructions exactly your knitted hands will turn out perfectly. Should it seem to you that the fingers are in the wrong place at the beginning, just trust the pattern instructions and continue to follow them to the letter and you will find that they are correct.

For the purposes of this tutorial you will need to cast on 14 sts and ss 4 rows.

Cast on 6 sts at beg of next 2 rows for thumb [26 sts].

Ss 2 rows.

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows [18 sts]. Ss 2 rows.



The instructions written in red underneath each photograph are an unabbreviated version of those written in black, which is how they will appear in the pattern.

Step I

Inc for fingers, next row: K2, inc I, (K1, inc I) twice, K3, inc I, turn and work on these I5 sts only.



Knit 2, knit into front and back of next stitch, knit I, knit into front and back of next stitch, knit I, knit into front and back of next stitch, knit 3, knit into front and back of next stitch. You should now have 15 stitches on the right-hand needle and 7 stitches remaining on the left-hand needle. Now turn the work so the purl side is facing you.

FINGERED HANDS TUTORIAL Page 1 of 6

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Step 2 Work little finger, next row: P6, turn



Purl 6, then turn the work so the knit side is facing you.

Step 3

Ss 3 rows.

Break yarn leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle,



Stocking stitch 3 rows, beginning with a knit row. Break yarn, leaving a long end, then use a large needle to sew this yarn through the 6 stitches on the needle.

Step 4

..... draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.



Draw up the sewing yarn tightly to gather the stitches, then secure by working a small backstitch. Now join the finger seam, making sure to use mattress stitch, sewing one knitted stitch in from each edge, as this seam turning has been added to the pattern. If you are unsure of how to work mattress stitch you will find this online tutorial useful: http://mochimochiland.com/2008/03/mattress -stitch-tutorial-for-toys/

FINGERED HANDS TUTORIAL Page 2 of 6

Step 5

Work ring finger, next row: With 9 sts on right-hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and KI, inc I from the 7 sts on left-hand needle. Turn and work on these I2 sts only.



Join the knitting yarn to the sewing yarn, by knotting together at back of work and at base of finger seam, then trim ends to 1/2in (12mm).

With the knit side of work facing you, work on the first 2 sts of the 7 stitches on the left-hand needle by knitting the first stitch and then knitting into the front and back of the second stitch. You will have increased one stitch, so will now have 12 stitches on the right-hand needle and 5 stitches remaining on the left-hand needle. Turn the work so the purl side is facing you.

Step 6

Next row: P6, turn and work on these sts only.



Purl 6, then turn the work so the knit side is facing you.

Step 7

Ss 5 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle,



Stocking stitch 5 rows, beginning with a knit row. Break yarn, leaving a long end, then use a large needle to sew this yarn through the 6 stitches on the needle.

FINGERED HANDS TUTORIAL Page 3 of 6

Step 8

..... draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.



Draw up the sewing yarn tightly to gather the stitches, then secure by working a small backstitch. Now join the finger seam as before.

Step 9

Work middle finger, next row: With 6 sts on right-hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and KI, inc I from the 5 sts on left-hand needle. Turn and work on these 9 sts only.



Join the knitting yarn to the sewing yarn, and trim, as before.

With the knit side of work facing you, work on the first 2 sts of the 5 stitches on the left-hand needle by knitting the first stitch and then knitting into the front and back of the second stitch. You will have increased one stitch, so will now have 9 stitches on the right-hand needle and 3 stitches remaining on the left-hand needle. Turn the work so the purl side is facing you.

Step 10

Next row: P6, turn and work on these sts only.



Purl 6, then turn the work so the knit side is facing you.

FINGERED HANDS TUTORIAL Page 4 of 6

Step II

Ss 6 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle,



Stocking stitch 6 rows, beginning with a knit row. Break yarn, leaving a long end, then use a large needle to sew this yarn through the 6 stitches on the needle.

Step 12

..... draw up tightly and fasten off, then join finger seam.



Draw up the sewing yarn tightly to gather the stitches, then secure by working a small backstitch. Now join the finger seam as before.

Step 13

Work index finger, next row: With 3 sts on right hand needle, rejoin yarn to work and K remaining 3 sts from left hand needle [6 sts].



Join the knitting yarn to the sewing yarn, and trim, as before.

With the knit side of work facing you, knit the remaining 3 stitches from the left-hand needle so you will have 6 stitches altogether on the right-hand needle. Turn the work so the purl side is facing you.

FINGERED HANDS TUTORIAL Page 5 of 6

Step 14

Ss 6 rows.

Break yarn, leaving a long end. Thread through sts on needle,



Stocking stitch 6 rows, beginning with a purl row. Break yarn, leaving a long end, then use a large needle to sew this yarn through the 6 stitches on the needle.

Step 15 draw up tightly and fasten off, then join index finger seam



Draw up the sewing yarn tightly to gather the stitches, then secure this and join the finger seam as before.

Step 16..... and round thumb, stopping at wrist.



And finally, join thumb pieces and sew down to wrist.

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FINGERED HANDS TUTORIAL Page 6 of 6