

MITTEN-END SCARF

WITH CHARACTER (OR WITHOUT)



Materials and more: 54 slot cylinder, largest stitch setting, Red Hart Super Soft yarn (white and body color or others as needed for character). May want to knit complete item using tension spring or else manually pull back at ends of rows in shaping section for character since those stitches will be smaller. (It's okay if you have smaller ones there.)

1. Leave long tail for closing at initial end. Knit 1 round and your favorite type of toe if you want the end rounded. Skip shaping toe if you want it square. (I like it rounded because the lining fits in more easily that way.)
2. Knit 50 rounds (60 if leaving it square on the end). Use more rows if you use a thin yarn (however many you add will be doubled in step 3). You will need to match this in step 12 so keep track of what you use. Raise rear half of needles out of work. If you want a different colored lining in your mitt than on the outside, change colors now. Otherwise just continue.
3. Attach tension spring. Use pulldown at each edge of your piece so stitches stay in contact with cylinder edge. Knit 100 rows (remembering to add twice as many

as you added in step #2 if you used thin yarn) on front needles putting rear needles back into work on last round. If your tension spring is real tight or you used small stitches, you might want as many as 150. If you changed colors for the lining, change back to outside mitt color now. Release the tension spring.

4. Knit 5 more rounds in mitt color. If the mitt and body of scarf are to be different colors, change now to main color.
5. Knit 50-60 rounds. Raise rear needles if you want to add a character here.
6. Choose character to insert here or go to step 7.

Monkey Character: 1st 2 passes in main body color; change to white for 7 passes of heel; change to red and continue decreases to hash marks. Start increases in red and end when red row ends. Change to white for 7 passes. 2 passes in body color. Return rear needles to work.

7. Knit 200 to 300 rows in body color (depends on yarn used and for whom scarf is intended and if you added a character). Test for length by folding your scarf in half and estimating length from neck to where you want your hand to rest in the mitt portion.
8. Knit 5 rounds in mitt color if it is different than your main color.
9. Raise rear needles out of work. Change color now if you used a different color for inside the mitt. Otherwise go to step 10.
10. Attach tension spring; knit 100 rows on front needles or whatever matches what you did in step 3.
11. Put rear needles back into work and switch to outside mitt color. Knit 50 rounds (or whatever you did in step 2).
12. Knit toe or knit additional 10 rounds if leaving ends square as in step 2.
13. Remove on scrap yarn. Turn ends back over body of scarf and sew side seams of inner pocket down the edges.
14. You may want to hang edge of piece with a number of stitches appropriate for the ear size and knit them right onto the scarf. It is a bit easier to knit them separately and sew them on later for ease of sizing and shaping. Experience will tell you how wide they need to be as it depends on what type of character you create. Or,

you may want to make felt ears instead of knitted ones.

15. Stuff head appropriately (don't overdo it) trying to leave rear flat. Tack around shape of head. For monkey face, I sewed the center of the mouth to the back of the scarf to leave an open mouth. See notes at end for other options. I used buttons for eyes, but you could embroider them.
16. Before closing the ends, turn back the knitted toe and sew down the side seams of the inner lining piece on all four edges leaving it down to the inside of the mitt.
17. It is easiest to close the ends by putting the stitches onto thin needles to kitchener so that the scrap yarn can be removed before you sew. Otherwise it's hard to get it out of the inside of the scarf.

Other characters:

If you want a pointed nosed character, continue past the heel hash marks to the last three or four stitches on your decreases. For something like an elephant, you may want to use lcord for the nose and of course huge ears. For a pig, you might want to knit a separate piece using half of the cylinder and sewing the sides together, gather and flatten the ends, and put a piece of plastic inside the end before stuffing to keep it flat. A raccoon would be really cute too, remembering to add the mask color after your initial decreases for the face when you are putting needles back into work. For some of these scarves, you might want the mittens in the paw color. Or, add felt paws to your critter. One end mitt could be knitted in tail colors (especially cute for a raccoon). Once you play around with shaping, you can design almost any character to place in your scarf. For some, you might want to experiment with the face before knitting it into the scarf to be sure you have the proportions the way you want them. If you have a crazy yarn you want to exaggerate or emphasize or want to make an extra long scarf that wraps, just make it long enough so it can go around the neck once and still be long enough for the hands to go into the mitt portion easily.

And, lastly:

On yarns that want to skew, it may help to tack a few places along the center of the scarf to keep it from twisting. Or, you can hit it in several places with a felting needle. Be sure to take notes as you go so you can make appropriate changes to the length and shaping for future pieces. There are as many ways to alter and embellish as there are people who knit.