

BUGGY MITTS

SIZES

Child's small (medium, large).
Length: 5 (6, 7)" [12.5 (15, 18) cm].

YARN

Small amounts of worsted-weight yarn, approximately 150 yards (137m) total per pair in lots of different colors—bugs come in a variety of colors and color combinations.

The samples are knit with Morehouse Merino 3-Strand.

NEEDLES

Size 4 or 5 (3.5 or 3.75mm); set of 4 or 5 double-pointed. Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

OTHER MATERIALS

Size C/2 or D/3 (2.75 or 3.25mm) crochet hook to make antennae; felt and small beads for eyes; tapestry needle; stitch markers; stitch holder.

GAUGE

20 stitches = 4 inches (10 cm) in stockinette stitch.

For this basic children's mitten pattern, odds and ends of yarn and a child fascinated by bugs are all you need to have some good knitting fun. Use stockinette stitch for a bug with a slithery-smooth body, seed stitch for bugs with bumps and lumps, or a single purl round for the ones with ridges. Bugs are colorful, so use up leftover pieces of bright yarn too small for other projects. Don't worry about darning in yarn ends; just tie them together on the inside of the mitts and leave 1/2" (1.3cm) tails. These little tufts will make the mittens warmer and cozier. The buggy mittens really come to life when you add a pair of felt eyes with a tiny bead in the center and a pair of crochet antennae. It's enough to make you fall in love with bugs.

MITTS

Cast on 26 (30, 34) stitches. Divide stitches evenly between needles. Join and place marker to indicate beginning of rounds. Knit 15 (16, 18) rounds or desired length for cuff. If you want to roll up edge of cuff, add another 10 rounds. Add stripes in different yarn colors or work some rounds in purl instead of knit stitch (see samples on page 56 for ideas on how to combine colors and patterns).

THUMB GUSSET

Knit 1 stitch, place first marker, increase 1 (increase by picking up yarn between stitches and knit into back of loop, so stitch appears to be twisted), knit 1, increase 1, place second marker, knit to end of round. Knit 2 rounds. Repeat these three rounds—increasing in first round after first and before second marker—until you have 7 (9, 11) stitches between markers. End thumb gusset with knit 2 rounds.

Opposite: Isabella holding a black lamb in her Buggy Mitts. In the background, the lamb's mom is keeping an eye on the goings-on.

NEXT ROUND Knit 1, place next 7 (9, 11) stitches on holder (a paper clip will do nicely), knit to end of round—pull yarn tight after that first stitch to avoid a gap where stitches were placed on the holder. You now have 25 (29, 33) stitches.
Knit 12 (15, 18) rounds.

TOP SHAPING

DECREASE ROUND 1 *Knit 3 stitches, knit 2 together; repeat from * to end of round, ending with knit 0 (4, 3) stitches. Knit 3 rounds.

DECREASE ROUND 2 *Knit 2 stitches, knit 2 together; repeat from * to end of round, ending with knit 0 (4, 3) stitches. Knit 2 rounds.

DECREASE ROUND 3 *Knit 1 stitch, knit 2 together; repeat from * to end of round, ending with knit 0 (1, 0) stitch. Knit 1 round.

DECREASE ROUND 4 *Knit 2 together; repeat from * to end of round. Cut yarn leaving a 6" tail. Thread tail into tapestry needle, then draw yarn through remaining stitches. Weave in yarn tail.

THUMB

Put stitches from holder on 3 needles. Pick up 3 stitches between first and last stitch. You now have 10 (12, 14) stitches. Knit 10 (12, 14) rounds.

DECREASES *Knit 2 together; repeat from * to end of round. Draw yarn through remaining stitches as before.

FINISHING

Add the bug antennae to the tips of the mitts: with crochet hook and 2 strands of yarn held together as one, work crochet chain for 1" (2.5cm) to make the feelers. You can also crochet them right onto mitten by inserting crochet hook at tip of mitts, then pulling yarn loop through as your first chain stitch. Add felt eyes with tiny, shiny beads in the middle.



Even the wheels on this old tractor look buggy-eyed.

Opposite: Naming the bug will be the task of the recipient of these colorful mitts.

