

Bernie's Mittens – Mittens inspired by those Bernie Sanders wore at Joe Biden's Inauguration on January 20, 2021. These mittens repeat the same bold colorwork motif around the hand. Sanders' mittens feature a contrasting thumb and black fabric across the palm.

Knitting Pattern by Alyssa Coffey of Al Co Knits.

Bernie's own mittens were made by Jen Ellis, a Vermont schoolteacher. She sewed them from scraps of old wool sweaters and lined them with fleece. My pattern does not aim to subtract from her work, it is inspired by the eye-catching pattern on the front. Thank you kindly to all who brought Ellis' name and work to my attention since the first draft of this pattern was released.

It is important to me that this pattern remains free to all and that it does not serve as a sign of complacency. Bernie's mittens are a joke that underscore much more serious issues. People are dying unnecessarily. This is nothing short of an emergency. No change of administration can solve the worst and most pervasive evils in our country. If you are able and feel so moved, I encourage you to donate what a pattern would have cost (\$3) to local mutual aid funds.

Pattern Information

Needles: US Size 4 needles (3.5 mm), or size to obtain gauge.

Gauge: 4.5 stitches & 5.5 rows per inch. (18 stitches and 22 rows = 4"/10cm).

Yarn: Worsted weight in four colors: 1 skein Color A (medium brown) and 3 Contrast Colors (white, beige, and dark brown on chart).

Note on sizing: this pattern is adapted from my personal mitten recipe. It fits a small-to-average women's hand. To make smaller or larger mittens, consider adjusting needle size and gauge. This free pattern has not been tested.

Instructions – make two mittens

With Color A, cast on 36 stitches on double-pointed needles. Join to work in the round.

For the cuff, work twelve (12) rounds of k2, p2 ribbing, or until cuff measures desired length.

Ribbed Cuff and Thumb Gusset

Round 1: (m1r, k12) x3 (39 stitches).

Round 2: knit all stitches.

Round 3: place marker, m1r, k1, m1l, place marker, k19, m1r, k19 (42 stitches).

Rounds 4-5: knit all stitches.

Round 6: slip marker, m1r, k to marker, m1l, slip marker, k19, m1r, k to end (45 stitches).

Round 7-8: knit all stitches.

Round 9: slip marker, m1r, k to marker, m1l, slip marker, k to end.

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Rounds 10-18: repeat Rounds 7-9 three (3) additional times. (53 stitches).
There will be 13 sts between markers. Place these sts on hold. 40 sts remain on main needles.

Colorwork

Follow the chart provided (see Page 3), beginning on Round 1 and working all stitches from right to left. You will work the chart twice on every round.

Rounds 1-26 are worked without decreases. On Round 26, place a marker after 20 stitches.

Rounds 27-33 decrease as follows:

Round 27: ssk, work until 2 before marker, k2tog. (4 decreases, 36 stitches).

Round 28: work chart with no decreases.

Rounds 29-33: work decreases as Round 27, knitting intermediate stitches according to chart.

Each decrease round subtracts 4 stitches.

After Round 33, you will have 16 stitches remaining.

Finishing the hand

Option A: graft both sides together with a darning needle.

Option B: work k2tog around, draw tail through 8 remaining stitches.

Thumb

With Color A, place 13 stitches on hold onto main needles. Pick up 2 stitches from the hand.
You will have 15 thumb stitches.

Join in the round and work in stockinette for 15 rounds, or until desired thumb length is reached. The fabric should reach just beyond the tip of your thumb.

Next Round: (k2tog, k1) x5. (10 stitches).

Final round: k2tog around. (5 stitches). Cut tail and pull through the remaining stitches.

Finishing

Weave in and trim all ends. Soak or spray gently with water to block. Dry flat.

Be in Touch!

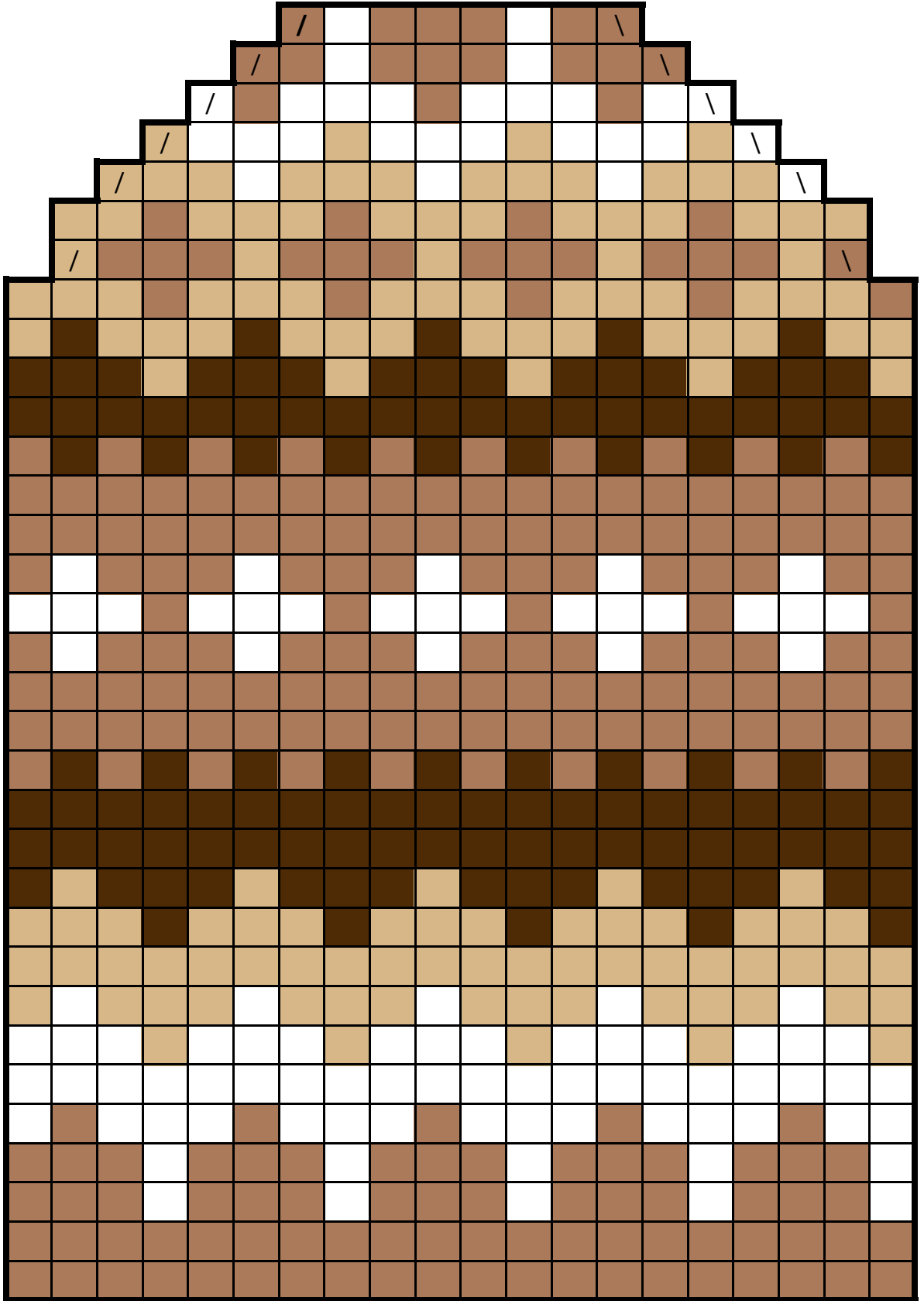
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