

WOMEN'S MITTENS KNITTED BY GJERTINE (USTPÅ) BÅRD SGÅRD



Gjertine Bårdsgård (1907–88) was the daughter of John Larssen Bårdsgård and his second wife, Mali Bardosdatter Roldset. She was born on Bårdsgård's farm, Markåen Østre (Ustpå), where she lived her entire life and worked with her brothers, Baro and Martin. She supported herself as a sheep farmer, shepherd, and as a cleaner at the Hyttbakken community hall in Øverbygda. Great-Aunt Gjertine could easily tell who had drunk one too many coffee royals (brandy and coffee) on the weekend by seeing whose mittens had been left behind at the party. Gjertine was generous enough to put the mittens in her bag and take a spark (kick sled) or cycle tour around the village to return the forgotten mittens with cheer. She had full knowledge of all the local knitters, and a good idea of who was likely to be the owner of each pair. Gjertine was an ace at bingo, too, and won many bus tour tickets for travels around Europe.

Gjertine was enchanted by two-color stranded mittens, and knitted colorful experiments in her old age. She loved colors. The examples on the next overleaf (page 286) have the same color richness as hers.



Skill Level: Experienced

Measurements:

Length: 11½ in / 29 cm

Width: 4¼ in / 10.5 cm

Gauge: 15 sts in 2 in / 5 cm. Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

Materials

Yarn:

CYCA #3 (DK, light worsted) 3-ply Strikkegarn from Rauma (100% Norwegian wool, 118 yd/108 m / 50 g), colors 101 natural white and 116 dark brown-black

OR CYCA #1 (fingering) Gammel Selbu 2-ply from Selbu Spinneri (100% Norwegian wool, 361 yd/330 m / 100 g), black and white

Needles: U.S. size 1.5-2.5 / 2.5-3 mm: set of 5 dpn

Instructions: With white, CO 52 sts. Divide sts onto 4 dpn and join. Following the chart, work 30 rnds k2, p2 ribbing, working stripes as indicated on chart. After completing ribbing, knit 2 rnds white, the checkerboard pattern, and then 2 rnds white, increasing 4 sts evenly spaced around on last rnd.

Continue charted rows, shaping thumb gusset as shown. Place the 13 thumb sts on a holder and CO 17 sts over gap. Complete mitten following chart.

Thumb: Place 13 held sts onto dpn and pick up and knit 17 sts across top of thumbhole = 30 sts total. Work following thumb chart.

Make the second mitten the same way, reversing shaping and thumb placement to correspond.

Finishing: Weave in all ends neatly on WS. Block by gently steam pressing under a damp pressing cloth.