



# Fairisle Fingerless Mitts



3mm and 3.25mm (circular or DPNs)

30 sts per 10cm on 3.25mm needles

Yarn: 5x10g JC Rennie miniballs in 5 different colours. (Total weight of gloves about 27g)

Shown in nordic blue, porcelain, lavish, cream and rosebud.

5x10g JC Rennie miniballs in 5 different colours.  
(Total weight of gloves about 27g) Used in this pattern:

A: Nordic blue

B: Porcelain

C: Lavish

D: Cream

E: Rosebud

**MI:** Make one – lift the yarn between the stitch just knit and the next stitch and knit into the back of it.

**RLinc:** with the right needle tip, lift up the right leg of the stitch BELOW the one you are ABOUT to work (that is on the left hand needle), transfer it to the left hand needle and knit into it.

**LLinc:** with the left needle tip, lift up the left leg of the stitch BELOW the one you have JUST worked (that is on the right hand needle), knit into it.

All charts are read from right to left and bottom to top.

With yarn A and 3mm needles cast on 56 sts. Join in the round and knit one round in A.

Join in B and work next round in two colour corrugated ribbing as follows: K2 A, P2 B.

Repeat for 12 rounds.

Change to 3.25mm needles, Knit one round in A (do not break off yarn B)

Starting with two rounds B and joining in C at Round 3, work chart A 7 times in each round.

Pick one of the motifs in Chart B or B2. Switch to colour D, and work Chart B once.

The thumb gusset is worked between the two pattern repeats, half way through the round. The thumb gusset increases start on the first round of Chart B.

#### **Thumb gusset written instructions:**

Round 8, with yarn D K28, place marker, MI, KI, MI, place marker, K27. (58 sts)

Round 9, join in yarn E, K28 from chart, slip marker, K3 in yarn E, Slip marker, K27 from chart.

Round 10, K 28 from chart, slip marker, RLinc in yarn E, KI D, KI E, KI D, LLinc in yarn E, slip marker, K27 from chart. (60 sts)

Round 11, K 28 from chart, slip marker, KI in yarn E, KI D, KI E, KI D, KI in yarn E, slip marker, K27 from chart.

Round 12, K 28 from chart, slip marker, RLinc in yarn E, KI E, KI D, KI E, KI D, KI E, LLinc in yarn E, slip marker, K27 from chart. (62 sts)

Continue increasing in this manner, increasing on even rounds and knitting plain on odd rounds and incorporating new stitches into the pinstripe pattern until there are 23 stitches between the markers. (78 sts in total). This is on round 28 of the chart. Work the plain round (29) after the last increase row.

Round 30; K28 from chart. Remove marker, slip the next 23 stitches onto a length of waste yarn, remove second marker. Cast on one stitch over the gap in the contrast colour (Colour E) – you can do this by either casting on in your preferred manner or by knitting into the front of the next stitch (after the thumb stitches) with the contrast yarn, then knit into the back of the same stitch with colour D. Finish the round by K27 from chart (you will have already knitted the first of these 27 stitches if you do the KFB as suggested rather than casting on). You will now be back to 56 sts. Finish chart B on these 56 sts.

Join in yarn B and work Chart A again 7 times each round.

Join in yarn A and work 6 rounds of garter stitch, starting with a knit round. This will result in 3 ridges. For those, like I, who struggle with garter stitch in the round, this is KI round, PI round, KI round, PI round, KI round, PI round, cast off loosely knitwise.

#### **Thumb:**

Transfer the 23 thumb stitches onto a 3.25mm needle. With right side facing, pick up and knit 3 stitches in Yarn A across the gap where you cast on one stitch. Then knit across the 23 stitches from the thumb gusset, also in Yarn A – 26 sts. KI round, PI round, KI round, PI round, (4 rounds garter stitch) cast off loosely knitwise.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | 7 |
| b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | 6 |
| b | c | c | b | c | c | c | c | 5 |
| b | c | b | b | c | b | c | c | 4 |
| c | c | b | c | c | b | c | c | 3 |
| b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | 2 |
| b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | 1 |

Chart A

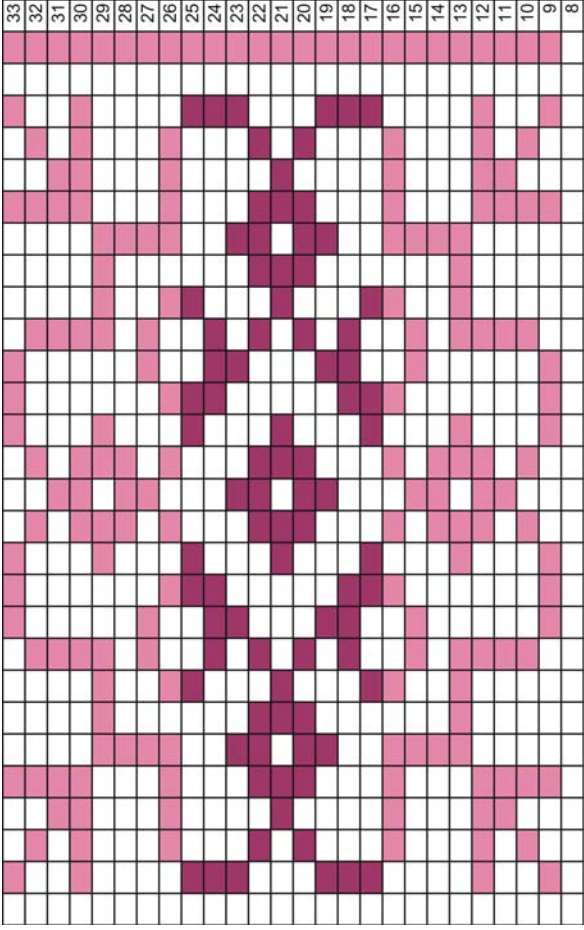


Chart B2

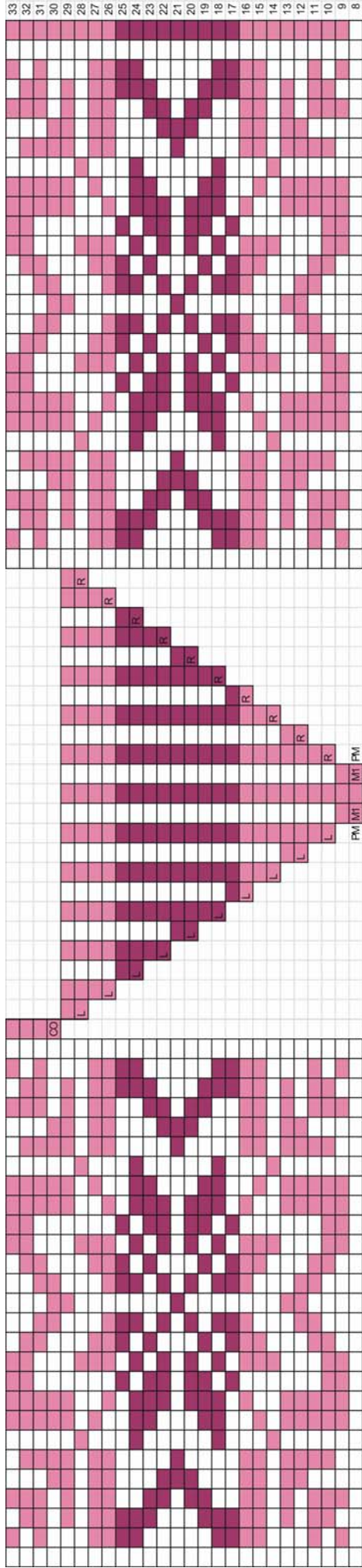


Chart B

## Finishing:

This yarn still has some of the natural lanolin in it (direct from the sheep, hence the sheepy smell) and also some spinning oils that are helpful when machine knitting. It can be knit directly from the balls and then the finished item is washed twice with detergent. To do this just soak the item in hot water with some washing up liquid or wool wash for 10-20 mins, then rinse out (this first rinse removes the oils) then repeat the process to achieve a softer handle. There is no need to dry the item between rinses. Avoid too much agitation or extreme changes in water temperature as this will cause the wool to start felting. After the second rinse just roll it in a towel and squeeze out the excess, then pin out or leave flat to dry. I put the mitts on to make sure they were stretched to the correct size, then took them off and left them on the radiator to dry.

## Tips on working fair isle projects:

Fair Isle uses stranded colourwork, where two strands of different coloured yarns – the contrast and the background – are carried along at the same time and stitches are taken from each one according to the pattern. The yarn not used for a stitch is carried at the back of the work (the float). The two strands can be held both in the same hand, or one in each. This may seem awkward at first but you quickly get the hang of it. The best way to learn

is either for someone to show you, or to put 'fair isle knitting' into YouTube. Sometimes you will have a long stretch of the same colour, in which case the 'float' of unused yarn at the back may get too long. To avoid this you can 'catch' the float every few stitches by switching between taking the working yarn from above or below the floating yarn. This is difficult to describe, but easy to achieve. Again, YouTube will show you how. Usually a float of more than 7 stitches of the same colour will need to be caught at some point. This technique also allows you to weave in ends as you go along, which makes finishing much easier! Fair isle is usually worked in the round, so that you are always on the right side, but it can be worked flat too. All charts are worked from bottom to top and right to left on every row when worked in the round. If you are working the chart flat then work wrong side rows from left to right.



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