

Houndstooth Check Mittens:

by Sarah Arnold (<http://wickedstitches.wordpress.com/>)

I adore graphic patterned mittens knitted with worsted weight wool at a tight gauge. I often make some for teachers and friends for the holidays. They look complicated but are surprisingly simple to make. The small needles create a dense, firm and relatively windproof fabric. There is one chart, and different sizes can be achieved by changing needle size and using a heavier/lighter worsted weight yarn.

Sizes: child large/woman's small (woman's medium).

Finished measurements: small = 6.5 inches around, medium = 8 inches around

Yarn: worsted weight wool in 2 colours (main colour and contrasting colour). A great worsted weight wool is Patons classic wool. A heavier worsted weight wool, like Lamb's Pride worsted will give a larger mitten.

Needles: for small: 3 mm needles for the cuff and 3.5 mm needles for the body of the mitten. For medium: 3.5 mm needles for cuff and 4 mm for the body.

Gauge: 8 stitches per inch for small, 6 stitches per inch for medium

Key:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knit k Knit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Knit 2 Together k2tog Knit 2 stitches together
M	Make One Knitwise m1 Make one by lifting strand in between stitch just worked and the next stitch, knit into back of this thread
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Slip Slip Knit ssk slip, slip, knit slipped sts together
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Stitch x No Stitch

Notes: Try a different sized needle to get a smaller or larger mitten. For example, try knitting the smaller sized mitten using slightly larger needles (3.5 mm for the cuff and 4 mm for the mitten body) to get a less dense, medium sized mitten.

Cuff: Using main colour and smaller needles, cast on 40 stitches. Knit mitten cuff as follows: knit 2, purl 2, repeat to end. Complete 2 inches in rib pattern. Change to larger needles and knit one row while increasing 10 stitches evenly around. (50 stitches now on the needles.)

Mitten body: Begin knitting from chart at Row 1 on the left and join in with contrasting colour as charted. The red line on the chart depicts the placement of the thumb. It is here that you should begin the thumb chart.

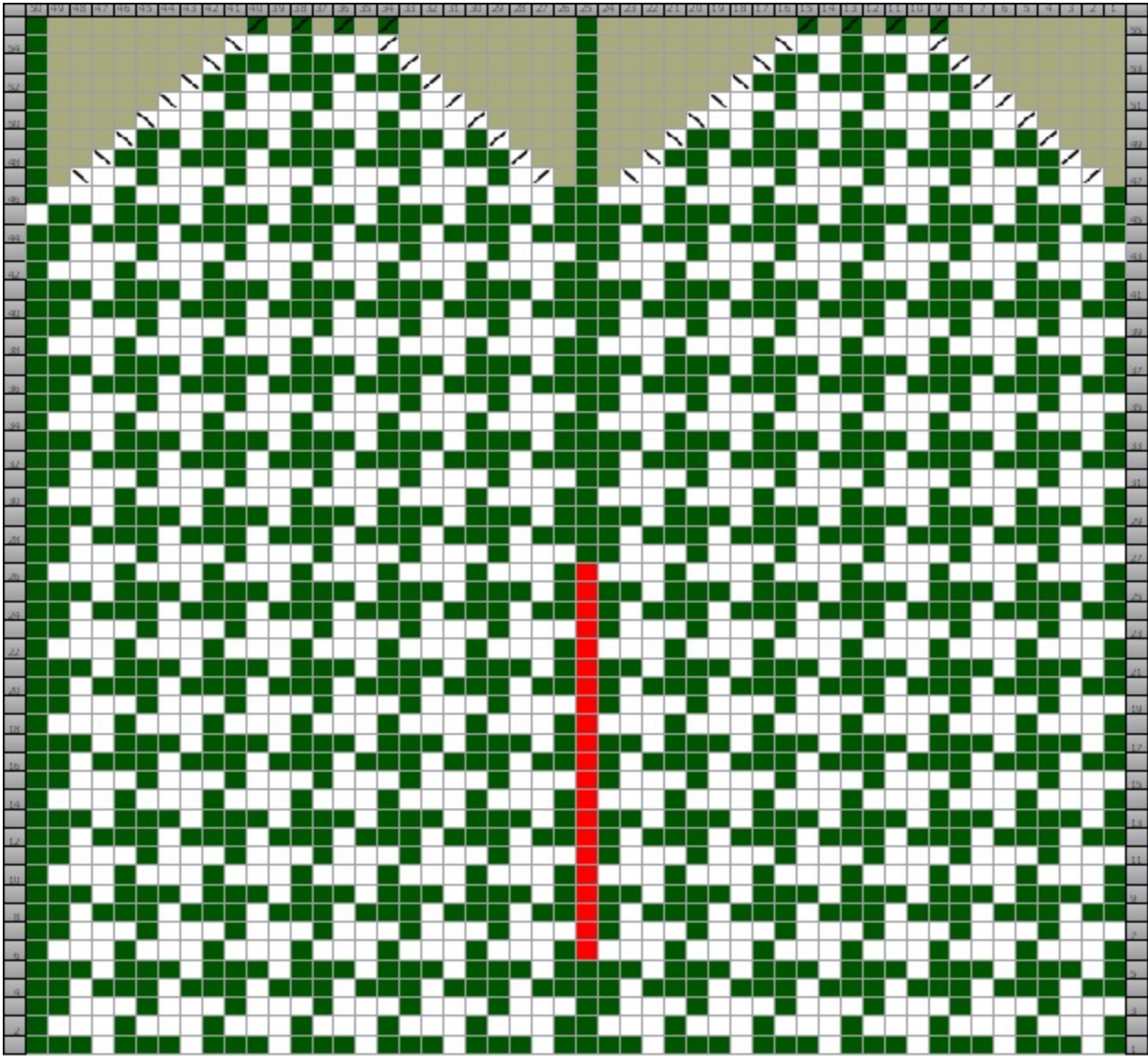
Begin thumb increases as indicated on chart. On row 26, knit in pattern to thumb stitches, take a piece of waste yarn and thread the thumb stitches onto the yarn. Cast on one stitch in the main colour over the gap and continue knitting in pattern.

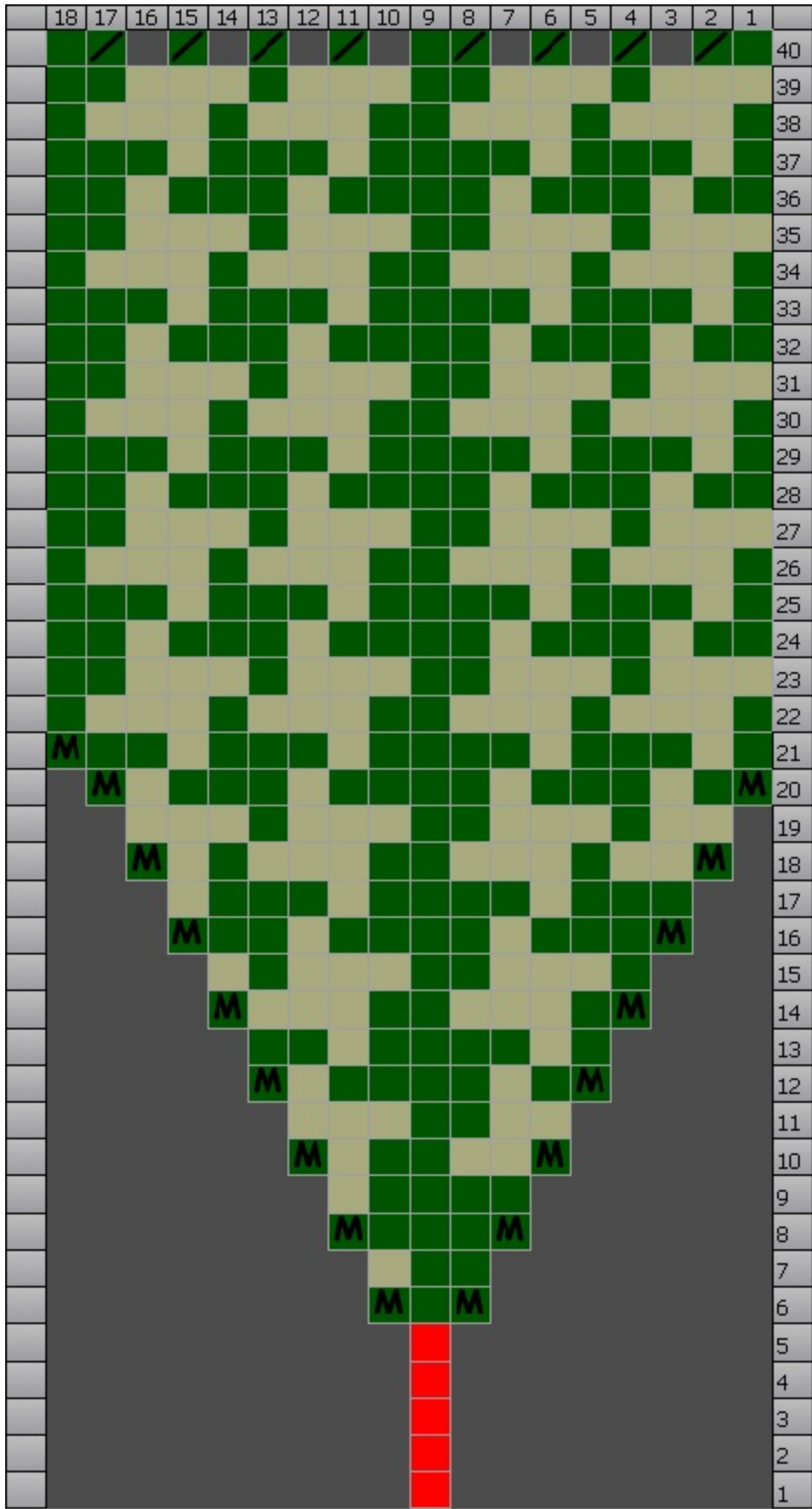
This is the part of the mitten where you may adjust the length by omitting or adding 4 rows of the houndstooth check pattern.

Begin decreases as charted on row 47. After the last row, cut both yarns leaving a 6 to 8 inch tail, and using main colour, thread the main colour through the remaining stitches twice. Turn the mitten inside out and neatly weave in ends.

Thumb: Place thumb stitches onto larger needle (the same needle used for mitten body) and begin thumb chart, picking up one stitch at the base of the thumb in the main colour (as depicted on the chart). Once again, the thumb length may be lengthened or shortened as desired by removing or adding rows of pattern. Once the last row of the thumb chart has been completed, cut both yarns leaving a 6 to 8 inch tail, and using main colour, thread yarn through the remaining stitches twice. Pull tight, then turn mitten inside out and neatly graft in ends and any holes that may exist around the base of the thumb.

Make one more mitten to match.





Blocking: you may choose to wet block your mitten, or simply place the mitten on an ironing board, cover with a clean tea towel and spritz generously with water. Set your iron to "steam" and gently press both side of your mittens.

Enjoy!