



Well in Hand

A COLLECTION OF
FINGERLESS MITTS
FEATURING 4-PLY
YARNS FROM
GIDDY AUNT YARNS

VICTORIA MARCHANT

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Introduction

IT'S ALL ABOUT HAPPINESS

That sounds a little trite, doesn't it? But it's true: knitting, for me, is about happiness, and there's so much of it to be had. From the spark of inspiration that hits when an idea first forms, to the pride and joy of seeing a finished object I'm truly in love with, creating has always been one of my favourite things.

When I first discovered Giddy Aunt Yarns, I was at the peak of a chunky yarn phase. I traipsed around my local yarn festival lamenting how every dyer seemed to focus on 4-ply, maybe some DK, and wishing I could find some colours that spoke to me on a soft, squishy, *chunky* base.

And then I did. A single hank in an Oddball colourway, it was all my favourite colours together - dark blues, strong pinks, turquoises and teals. I snapped it up without a second thought, took it home, and quickly knitted it up into a pair of fingerless mitts. To this day they live in my coat pocket, on standby lest I get caught with cold hands.

Thus started my love affair with the yarns of Janice & Claire, the artists behind Giddy Aunt Yarns. The chunky base quickly became my favourite hand-dyed yarn; it takes colour with the depth and intensity of singles, is soft in both the silky and the squishy way, and has that near-instant gratification of working with heavy yarns.

It's quite ironic, then, that this collection is based not in my beloved chunky, but in a range of 4-ply yarns - but it is absolutely fitting that it is a collection of fingerless mitts.

I have loved exploring colours and textures as I put these patterns together - each one inspired by something I love.

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------|
| VANILLA | the pleasure of simplicity |
| RAINDROPS | the sound of rain on a conservatory roof |
| PERFORATE | balance and symmetry |
| KEIGHLEY | a favourite place |
| REBEL | being your authentic self |
| HALO | the comfort of soft textures |
| HEARTH | the warmth of home |
| MIDAS | a little luxury and decadence |

Needles & Notions

NEEDLES

The patterns in this collection are "needle neutral", which means that you can knit them with any style of needle you prefer. I used DPNs but there is no reason why you couldn't use short circulars or magic loop. So long as they are suitable for working small circumferences in the round, they'll do the job nicely.

Gauge and the needle size I used to knit the sample is given at the start of each pattern.

NOTIONS

There are a few extra things that you will need for every pattern in the collection:

- A tape measure, to measure your hands and your gauge
- Stitch markers x3, 1 of which you can tell apart from the others to note the beginning of the round, the other 2 to note the beginning and end of the thumb gusset
- Scissors, to break the yarn
- A darning needle, to weave in ends
- Your favourite blocking equipment (see page 7 for blocking instructions)
- A beading needle (see page 12) - *Keighley only*
- Beads - *Keighley only*
- A cable needle (you can also use a spare locking stitch marker or DPN) - *Keighley only*

BEADS

The beads required for Keighley are size 8/0 (pronounced "eight aught") round seed beads. In beading, the smaller the first number, the larger the hole. This is because the first number refers to how many beads fit per inch when lined up, similar to counting stitches per inch when measuring gauge in knitting. So, size 8/0 beads fit 8 per inch, meaning they are approximately 1/8" in size.

Most importantly, size 8/0 round seed beads typically have a hole 1-1.2mm wide.

See page 12 for full beading instructions.

Giddy Aunt Yarns

B F L S O C K

Bluefaced Leicester is a classic for a reason. With almost magical stitch definition, deep colour, and the addition of nylon, this British base is a hardwearing all-rounder.

80% superwash Blue Faced Leicester • 20% nylon | 73m per 20g | available in 20g skeins

H I G H L A N D 4 - P L Y

A proper "woolly wool" that softens beautifully with age and washing, Highland is a "sticky" yarn that's perfect for colourwork.

100% Peruvian Highland Wool | 420m per 100g | available in 20g, 50g, & 100g skeins

M E R I N O S I N G L E S

A single strand yarn that's soft with a slight sheen. Singles give good stitch definition and take colour with wonderful intensity.

100% superwash merino | 366m per 100g | available in 100g skeins

M E R I N O S M O O T H S O C K

The classic! Soft merino, plied with nylon for durability. Merino has a natural loft that traps heat between the fibres, making it warm but lightweight. Perfect for mitts!

75% superwash merino • 25% nylon | 425m per 100g | available in 20g & 100g skeins

S P A R K L E S I N G L E S

All the qualities of merino singles with the added sparkle of a shiny metallic thread. Deep colour and shine are perfect for designs where a little glamour is required.

95% superwash merino • 5% silver stellina | 366m per 100g | available in 100g skeins

K I D M O H A I R S I L K L A C E

A soft and fluffy laceweight yarn with an almost ephemeral look once knitted up thanks to its translucency. The large halo makes it versatile in terms of gauge.

72% kid mohair • 28% silk | 420m per 50g | available in 20g & 50g skeins

Information about yarn bases available from Giddy Aunt Yarns is accurate at time of writing.





Vanilla

M E R I N O S I N G L E S

Size: Large • Amount Used: 128m • Needles: 2mm
Gauge: 38 stitches & 52 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch
Colourway: Oddball #77

A plain stockinette pattern with simple 2x2 ribbing at the wrist and finger cuff, Vanilla reminds us that sometimes, simple is best. Perfect for allowing a busy yarn to shine, or for layering under Rebel to add warmth and interest.

Raindrops



H I G H L A N D

Size: Large • Amount Used: 128m • Needles: 2.25mm, 2.5mm
Gauge: 26 stitches & 42 rows = 4" in raindrop stitch using larger needles
Colourway: Lagoon

The perfect mitts for wet British weather! This whimsical raindrop stitch will take the chill off a cold umbrella handle as you go about your day. (Tip: if you really hate purling, switch every knit and purl stitch and knit them inside out. See page 19.)

Perforate



MERINO SINGLES

Size: Large • Amount Used: 128m • Needles: 2mm
Gauge: 32 stitches & 42 rows = 4" in diagonal eyelet stitch
Colourway: Oddball #115

A handed pair of mitts with opposing diagonal eyelets, Perforate will suit even the most particular of mitt-wearers. They are an exact reflection of each other, with the diagonals lining up perfectly when you put your hands together.



Keighley

B F L S O C K

Size: Medium / Large • Amount Used: 139m • Needles: 2mm

Gauge: 38 stitches & 44 rows = 4" in kiss stitch

Colourway: Ooak Dark Blue • Beads: Miyaki #14 round rocailles (8/0 seed beads)

Pronounced KEITH-LEE, Keighley is a town in Yorkshire. It's home to East Riddlesden Hall, a filming location in the heart of Brontë country. These mitts are so named for those adaptations, which are so often crammed with beautiful examples of handknits.

Rebel



S M O O T H S O C K

Size: Large • Amount Used: 110m • Needles: 2mm
Gauge: 34 stitches & 38 rows = 4" in fishnet
Colourway: Blackcurrant Jam

Who says mitts have to keep your hands warm? Sometimes style takes priority over function. Sometimes the rules are supposed to be broken. (And if your hands get too cold, why not pop a pair of Vanilla mitts underneath?)

Halo



SPARKLE SINGLES, MOHAIR LACE

Size: Large • Amount Used: 128m MC, 128m CC • Needles: 2mm

Gauge: 38 stitches & 52 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

Colourway: Norrie (both) • MC: singles, CC: mohair

I always want to put the softest yarns on my hands, where I can feel it most keenly. Halo, named for the gently sparkling bands of singles and the fuzz around the mohair, is a simple knit that's light as a feather and soft as air.

Hearth



HIGHLAND

Size: Medium / Large • Amount Used: 128m • Needles: 2mm
Gauge: 36 stitches & 50 rows = 4" in stockinette and stranded stockinette
Colourway: OOK Soft Red (42m) • Lagoon (86m)

A simple introduction to stranded colourwork, Hearth uses just two colours and only has a couple of rounds where it's necessary to catch your floats, so they're a great first colourwork project. Change needle size if necessary to maintain gauge between stranded and single-colour sections.

Midas



HIGHLAND

Size: Large • Amount Used: 168m • Needles: 2mm

Gauge: 40 stitches & 48 rows = 4" in stranded stockinette

Colourway: OOK Indigo Blue (84m) • OOK Sunshine Yellow (84m)

Designed to use exactly two mini skeins of Highland 4-ply, Midas is a thick, warm mitt that will keep you interested as you knit them and warm as you wear them. Featuring simple colourwork motifs, it's suitable for confident beginners to stranded knitting.

Pattern Index



VANILLA

Page 9

*Recommended for:
any yarn base*



REBEL

Page 26

*Recommended for:
any yarn base*



RAINDROPS

Page 12

*Recommended for:
any yarn base*



HALO

Page 29

*Recommended for:
any yarn base (MC),
Mohair Lace (CC)*



PERFORATE

Page 16

*Recommended for:
any yarn base*



HEARTH

Page 33

*Recommended for:
BFL Sock, Highland 4-
Ply*



KEIGHLEY

Page 22

*Recommended for:
BFL Sock, Merino
Singles, Smooth Sock,
Sparkle Singles*



MIDAS

Page 36

*Recommended for:
BFL Sock, Highland 4-
Ply*

Quick-Buying Guide

| | BFL SOCK | HIGHLAND 4-PLY | MERINO SINGLES | MERINO SMOOTH SOCK | SPARKLE SINGLES |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| VANILLA | 2 x 20g | 2 x 20g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g |
| RAINDROPS | 2 x 20g | 2 x 20g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g |
| PERFORATE | 2 x 20g | 2 x 20g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g |
| KEIGHLEY | 2 x 20g | NR | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g |
| REBEL | 2 x 20g | 2 x 20g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g | 1 x 100g |
| HALO | 1 x 20g + 1 x 20g mohair lace | 1 x 20g + 1 x 20g mohair lace | 1 x 100g + 1 x 20g mohair lace | 1 x 100g + 1 x 20g mohair lace | 1 x 100g + 1 x 20g mohair lace |
| HEARTH * | 2 (+1) x 20g | 2 (+1) x 20g | NR | NR | NR |
| MIDAS * | 1 (+1) x 20g | 1 (+1) x 20g | NR | NR | NR |

* Where a pattern calls for more than one colour, requirements are shown as follows: MC (+CC) x 20g
NR: this yarn base is not recommended for use with this pattern

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About the Author

SOCIAL MEDIA

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#VanillaMitts
#RaindropsMitts
#PerforateMitts
#KeighleyMitts
#RebelMitts
#HaloMitts
#HearthMitts
#MidasMitts



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