

# Fleece Mitten Sewing Tutorial

*by Diana Romero*



**A sewn fleece mitten that will keep small hands warm and allow them to tie their laces or open & zip their jackets without having to take them off.**

**Mittens have elasticated wrist and a cozy flip-top design.**

**One size**, to fit children ages approximately 6 to 9, with instructions on how to make them wider and/or longer.

**Finished Measurements:**

Hand Circumference: 6" / 15cm.

Hand Length: 6" / 15cm (not including wrist and cuff).

**Materials Used:**

10"(25cm) of 51" (1.30m wide) fleece. Note: whole width wasn't used; only about 40"(1m) width needed.

**Supplies:**

Paper to trace pattern

Tailor's chalk or preferred pattern marking tools

Sewing thread

Elastic sewing thread

Pins, scissors, seam ripper (just in case)

## NOTES

Seam allowance not included in pattern pieces. Please add 1/4" (7mm) seam allowance to all seams.

The fleece I used had a bit of stretch width-wise. I have made the mittens to take advantage of this, so they're a bit stretchy width-wise.

To lengthen the mittens: draw a line across the

palm, perpendicular to the sides, and above the dashed line, cut along and add as much as needed. Do the same for the thumb.

To widen the mittens: draw a vertical line across the middle of the palm, cut and add as much as needed, you might have to redraw the curve. Do the same for the thumb.

Test square on pattern measures 1" (2.5cm) square.

## PATTERN PIECES

The pattern has three pieces (see page 5):

1. Back of Hand
2. Top of Palm of Hand (from now on: Top of Palm)
3. Bottom of Palm & Wrist (from now on: Bottom of Palm)

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Trace pattern** and markings on paper three times (copier paper is fine). Cut all three around solid line, adding 1/4"(7mm) seam allowance. Cut one of them across dash-and-dotted line and discard bottom half, the top part is the Top of Palm pattern. Cut second one across dashed line and discard top half; the bottom section with thumb becomes the Bottom of Palm pattern. Note that Top of Palm and Bottom of Palm overlap for 1/2"(1.2 cm). Leave the third pattern as is, for Back of Hand pattern.

2. **Cut pattern pieces:** fold fabric in half width-wise, pin pattern pieces in place, mark and cut. You now have two of each for Back of Hand, Top of Palm and Bottom of Palm.



**3. Prepare to shirr:** Wind elastic thread around your sewing machine bobbin with a very light tension (not floppy, but not too tight either). Adjust the bobbin case tension to work with elastic thread; it should be looser than for normal thread. Thread your machine with regular sewing thread. Make sure to sew a couple of parallel rows on a scrap of fleece to make sure the tension is right.



**3a. Shirr** the cuffs, Bottom of Palm pieces: sew three rows, 1/4" (7 mm) apart, starting 1" (2.5 cm) from the cuff bottom. You may need to pull on the elastic thread a bit to make sure the wrist fits closely; it should scrunch down to half the original width. Finish each row of shirring by tying normal thread and elastic thread together, to make sure it doesn't stretch out. Make sure that you sew both Bottom of Palm pieces with the elastic on the wrong side.



**4. Pin together:** Pin Top of Palm to Back of Hand, matching the top curve, right sides together. Then pin Bottom of Palm to Back of Hand, making sure that the elastic thread is on the outside and that it overlaps Top of Palm. You might find it's easier if you don't pin both sides of the wrist from the beginning, pinning the other side after sewing the first.



**5. Sew up:** change bobbin thread to regular sewing thread and sew around the mitten. When working the thumb top, go slowly to be able to turn the curve properly. At the pivot point between thumb and palm, make sure the sewing needle is down, lift the presser foot and turn mitten to change seam direction. Lower presser foot and continue sewing.



**6. Trim** all sew allowances to 1/16" (1.5mm), as close as possible to the seam, to reduce bulk and make the mittens more comfortable to wear.



**7. Clip** threads, wash and dry, and turn right side out; elastic is inside.

