



# THREE PINES MITTS

By Brynn Riordan

(ItsBrynn on Ravelry)

In the southern part of Quebec, Canada, just over the border from Vermont, USA, lies the fictional village of Three Pines. This idyllic hamlet, created by author Louise Penny, is home to the most wonderful, complex and engaging characters I've ever read...or rather, listened to via audiobook. The adventures of Armand Gamache have kept me company through many, many knitting projects. The motif of three pine trees on the face of the mitts will always keep me longing to return. Visit [louispenny.com](http://louispenny.com) to start your own love affair with Three Pines.

## YARN:



100-150g Worsted Weight yarn; these mitts are very dense to hold up to snowy Quebec winters!

## EXPERIENCE LEVEL:



Intermediate

## SIZES:

Women's Small (Medium, Large)

## GAUGE:

20 Stitches and 28 Rows over 4" in Stockinette

## NEEDLES AND NOTIONS:

S5 – 3.75mm Needles – Or size needed to obtain gauge for working in the round in preferred method.

*Sample was worked Two-at-a-Time on a 40" Circular using the Magic Loop Method*

US5 – 3.75mm Needles – Double Pointed Needles (dpns) (in addition to the needles used above)

Removable Stitch Markers

Darning Needle

Tape Measure

Waste Yarn (for holding stitches)

Refer to the “Special Techniques and Definitions” section after the pattern for abbreviations and additional instructions.



## INSTRUCTIONS:

To minimize confusion in the following instructions, the face of the mitt (where the chart is worked) will be called the Pines side and the under side will be called the Palm side.

If you plan to knit these two-at-a-time, arrange yarn so that you have one center pull cake for each mitten. It doesn't matter from which end you use the yarn, but you will need both ends available to you.

### Cast on

Using the German Twisted Cast On (GTCO) or any stretchy cast on, CO 44 (48, 52) stitches. If using Magic Loop or 2 circulars, divide with 22 (24, 26) sts on 2 sides. If using dpns, divide with 11 (12, 13) sts on each needle. Join in the round being careful not to twist the sts.

### Cuff

Pines side (Front): Small: \*p4, k2; rep from \*, p4  
Medium: K1, \*p4, k2; rep from \*, p4, k1  
Large: K2, \*p4, k2; rep from \*, p4, k2  
Palm side (Back): Small: \*K2, p2; rep from \*, k2  
Medium: K1, \*p2, k2; rep from \*, p2, k1  
Large: K2, \*p2, k2; rep from \*, p2, k2  
Repeat Pines and Palm sides until there are 24 rows (3") in cuff

### Wrist

Pines: Work Chart rows 1-9 one time  
Palm: K all sts

### Thumb Gusset

Pines: Continue to repeat Chart rows 4-9 throughout Thumb Gusset increases  
Palm (Left Hand):  
1<sup>st</sup> Round: K6 (8, 10), M1R, pm, k to end of Palm  
Next Rounds: K to marker, M1R, sm, k to end of Palm  
Continue until there are 22 (24, 26) sts before marker and 16 sts after marker  
Place 16 sts after marker on holder and remove marker  
Join 22 (24, 26) Palm sts with Pines sts and cont knitting in the round  
Palm (Right Hand):  
1<sup>st</sup> Rnd: K16, pm, M1L, k to end of Palm  
Next Rnds: k to marker, sm, M1L, k to end of Palm  
Cont until there are 16 sts before marker and 21 (23, 25) sts after marker  
Place 16 sts before marker on holder and remove marker, M1L, k to end of Palm  
Work Pines sts then Join 22 (24, 26) Palm sts and cont knitting in the round

### Hand

Pines: Cont rep Chart rows 4-9 throughout Hand  
Palm: (Both Hands): Knit 4 (5, 6) rnds  
On the next rnd, place a removeable stitch marker on the yarn bar **before** the first Palm st and **after** the last Palm st. These gutter sts will mark the point where the Flap will eventually be attached.  
Knit 10 rnds (cont rep Chart rows 4-9 on Pines)





Hand  
Cont.

Next 8 rnds: Pines: Cont rep Chart rows 4-9  
Palm: Small: \*K2, p2 rep from \*, k2  
Medium: K1, \*p2, k2; rep from \*, p2, k1  
Large: \*P2, k2 rep from \*, p2

Next round: Pines: Cont rep Chart rows 4-9.  
Palm: Bind off Palm sts only, in pattern. Pass the yarn ball through the last st to lock it, but DO NOT cut yarn.  
Pines: Using bound off yarn, cont rep Chart across Pines side. Stop at end of Pines side. DO NOT cut yarn. Set mitts aside.

Using the other end of the yarn from the skein, CO 24 (26, 28) sts using GTCO onto a dpn. Make sure you have at least a 12" tail from the cast on.

Row 1 (WS): Small and Large: P1, \*p2, k2; rep from \*, p3

Medium: \*P2, k2; rep from \*, p2

Row 2 (RS): Small and Large: k1, \*k2, p2; rep from \*, k3

Medium: \*K2, p2; rep from \*, k2

Rows 3-8: Rep Rows 1 and 2.

Row 9: P all sts

Row 10: K all sts

Rows 11-16: Rep Rows 9 and 10

Row 17: P all sts. Cut yarn leaving 12" tail



Hand Flap

Lay the Flap on top of the Palm, RS up, with the live sts at the top. Work across the Flap sts using the working yarn from the Pines side: K2tog, k to 2 sts rem on Palm, ssk. STOP

Using the Mattress Stitch, sew the Flap to the Palm with the 12" tails from the earlier CO and BO sts using a darning needle. Start on the right side where the yarn tail is at the top. **Flap:** Pick up gutter after the first st and before the last st. **Palm:** pick up gutter before the first st and after the last st. The right seam of the Flap will be worked from the top down to the CO edge. The left seam of the Flap will be worked bottom up from the CO edge. Use the removable stitch markers you placed earlier as a guideline for starting and stopping. Be sure to reinforce the point where the bottom edge of the Flap joins the Hand, as this will see much use throughout the life of the mitt. Make some duplicate sts on the WS of the mitt to help strengthen this area.

RED line shows the gutter of the Flap.  
BLUE line shows the gutter of the Palm.



Sew several sts then pull the tail to draw them together.



Pines: Cont working Chart rows 4-9 until 2" remain before end of middle finger. Then work Chart rows 10-21.

Palm: K all sts, matching decreases to the Pines side as indicated below.

Decrease:

Top

Pines: Small: (Row 13) P2tog, cont Chart, p2tog

Medium: (Row 12) Ssk, cont Chart, k2tog

Large: (Row 11) K1, ssk, cont Chart, k2tog, k1

Palm: Small and Medium: Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog

Large: K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1

Cont dec until 8 (4 per side) sts remain

Cut yarn leaving a 12" tail. Run through remaining sts to close.



Pick up 16 Thumb sts plus 2 sts from the body above the Thumb opening. Position sts on two or three needles so that there are 8 sts on the Pines side and the picked up sts are on the same needle as the Palm sts.

Leaving a 12" tail, knit 5 (6, 7) rnds.

Thumb

On the next rnd, place a removeable stitch marker on the yarn bar before and after the Pines sts. This will mark the point where the Thumb Flap will eventually be attached.

Knit 3 more rnds above the markers.

On the next rnd: Pines: K all sts. Palm: \*P2, k2; rep from \*, p2.

Rep for a total of 4 rnds.

On the next rnd: Pines: K all sts. Palm: Bind off in pattern. Pass the yarn ball through the last st to lock it, but DO NOT cut yarn. Pines: K all sts. Set Mitts aside.



Using the other end of the yarn from the skein, CO 12 sts using GTCO onto a dpn. Make sure you have at least a 12" tail from the cast on.

Row 1 (WS): K3, p2, k2, p2, k3

Row 2 (RS): P3, k2, p2, k2, p3

Rows 3-4: Rep Rows 1 and 2.

Row 5: P all sts

Row 6: K all sts

Row 7: P all sts. Cut yarn leaving 12" tail

Thumb Flap

Lay the Flap on top of the Palm side Thumb, RS up, with the live sts at the top. Work across the Flap sts using the working yarn from the Pines side: Palm: K2tog, k to 2 sts remain on Palm, ssk. STOP

Sew the Flap to the Thumb using the same method as the Hand Flap.

Decrease:

Set up round: Pines: K all sts

Palm: Ssk, k until last 2 sts, k2tog

Pines: Ssk, k until last 2 sts, k2tog.

Continue decreases until 4 sts (2 per side) remain. Break yarn leaving a 12" tail and run through remaining sts to close.

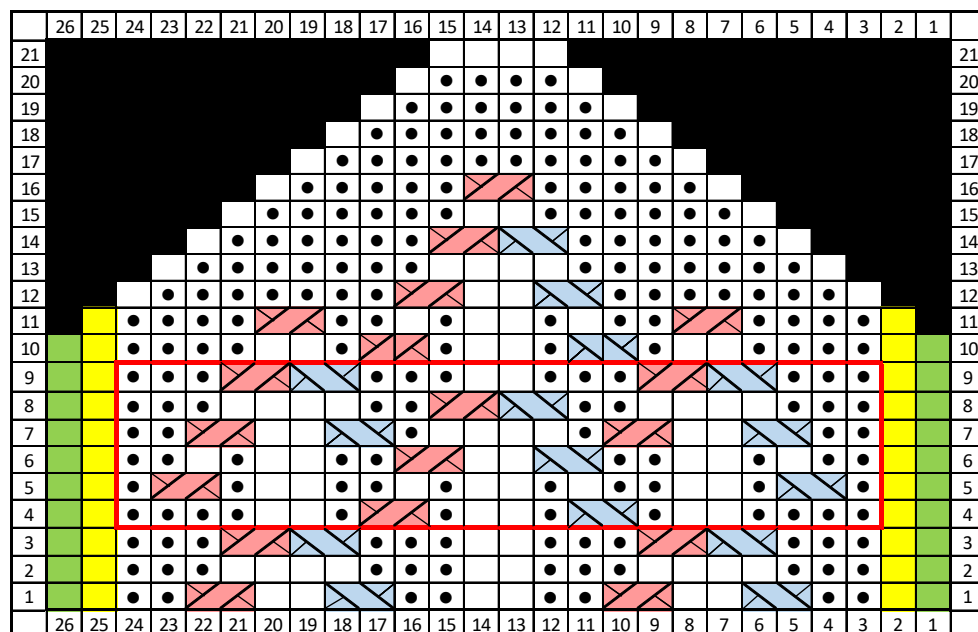
Thumb Top



Finish by weaving in all ends. You can fashion some blockers using wire coat hangers if you like!

## THREE PINES CHART:

### Three Pines Mitts Chart



#### LEGEND:

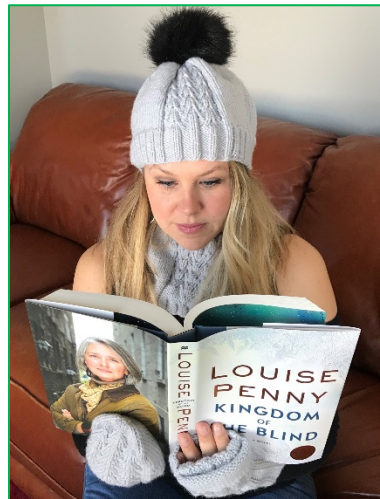
- Knit
- Purl
- RT (Right Twist)
- LT (Left Twist)
- Repeat Rows
- Include sts for Size Medium
- Include sts for Size Large
- No stitch due to decrease

## SPECIAL TECHNIQUES AND DEFINITIONS:

**Duplicate Stitch:** Using a second strand of yarn to knit or purl over an existing st, mimicking the st underneath. <https://purlsandpixels.com/binding-off-mittens/>

**GTCO - German Twisted Cast On:** Using the same “slingshot” set up of the Long Tail Cast on, move needle under thumb leg closest to you and scoop the thumb leg furthest from you from underneath and bring it back toward you. Now scoop the leg closest to you on the index finger over the top and bring it back toward you. Bending your thumb slightly, put the needle through the loop on your thumb, going under the leg closest to you and over the leg furthest from you. Bring your needle under both legs, drop the loop off the thumb and snug up sts. The first knit row of sts are twisted and will be tight, but this gives a firm edge that’s surprisingly stretchy. <https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/german-twisted-cast-on/>

**Gutter:** The horizontal bar between two knit stitches. It usually lies somewhat underneath the knit sts.



**K2tog:** knit 2 stitches together

**LT - Left Twist:** Slip 1<sup>st</sup> st as if to knit, sl 2<sup>nd</sup> st as if to knit. Move both sts back onto left needle. K through the back leg of the 2<sup>nd</sup> st without removing the sts from the left needle. K both sts together through the back loops and remove sts from the left needle. <https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/left-twist-mirror-image-to-right-twist/>

**M1L - Make One Left:** Insert the tip of the left needle under the bar between the stitch you just worked and the stitch you are about to work from **front to back**. Knit the **back leg** of the stitch. <https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/make-one-increase/>



**M1R - Make One Right:** Insert the tip of the left needle under the bar between the stitch you just worked and the stitch you are about to work from **back to front**. Knit the **front leg** of the stitch.

<https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/make-one-increase/>

**Magic Loop:** The process of using one long cord doubled to facilitate knitting in the round.

<https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/magic-loop/>

**Mattress Stitch (Vertically Seaming Stockinette):** Using yarn on a darning needle, alternate stitches between two fabrics by picking up each bar individually between specified stitches.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AVx8uSMXIU>

**pm - Place Marker:** Put a removable stitch marker on the needle or cord where indicated

**RS:** Right Side (usually the knit side)

**RT - Right Twist:** Knit both sts together without removing sts from the left needle. Knit 1<sup>st</sup> st again and remove sts from the left needle. <https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/right-twist/>

**sm - Slip Marker:** After working the stitch before, move the marker from the left needle to the right needle. Continue working sts after marker.

**Ssk:** Slip 2 stitches knitwise, one at a time. Knit these 2 stitches together through back loops

**WS:** Wrong Side (usually the purl side)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

How can I ever thank **Louise Penny** enough for the countless hours I've spent in Three Pines, Quebec? There are no words. Her delightful novels, brought to me through the exquisite and dearly missed Ralph Cosham and the charming Robert Bathurst, have kept me company through the years. Every word spoken is a stitch knitted. Thank you for the hours passed and the hours yet to come.



No matter what I create, **Michelle (Knit Purl) Hunter** is always with me. Thanks for that amazing LT!

**PurlSoho's** innovative Arched Thumb Gusset was modified for use on these mitts, as was **Mimi Codd's** Pine Tree Cable. **Wendy Poush** exploded my brain with her fold over flaps. Such inspiration abounds! Big shout outs to my Family and knitting buds – You complete me!

Download ALL THREE Three Pines patterns for FREE on Ravelry!

Mitts: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/three-pines-mitts>

Hat: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/three-pines-hat>

Cowl: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/three-pines-cowl>



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