

Fall Leaves Wrist Warmers



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Every fall, nature puts on an extravagant show as the trees--maple, birch, dogwood, aspen--burst into bright, warm hues. These leaf-patterned hand warmers honor and celebrate these trees. As the leaves in your neighborhood change color--yellow to orange to red--you can knit and wear the particular pair of warmers that mimic the current color of the trees. If you like, you can even choose just one particular tree to keep an eye on. Optional: knit these while leaning against a tree trunk or sitting up in the branches!

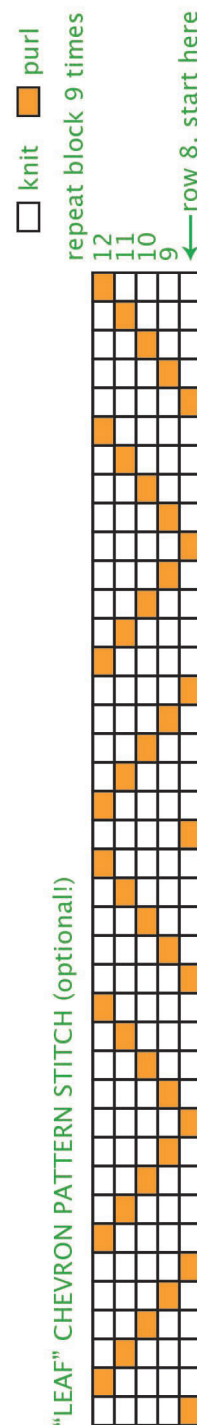
Yarn: 45% wool, 35% silk, 20% nylon, 50g (175m) each of yellow, orange, and red.

Needles & Gauge: Size 5 circular needles, 9 inches long (or double-pointed needles if you prefer.) You should have a gauge of 5.5 stitches per inch. Make a swatch (using the pattern block) to test your gauge and adjust your needle size if necessary. Finished hand warmer size is 3½ inches wide by about 7 inches long.

Instructions:

- 1) Begin the first hand warmer by loosely casting on 40 stitches. Insert a stitch marker after stitch 20 and another at the end. (The stitch markers divide the front and back of the hand warmer, which are identical).
- 2) Knit (in the round) 6 rows of 1X1 ribbing.
- 3) Knit one round.
- 4) Begin leaf patterning. The chevron pattern is made with simple knits and purls. Follow the pattern at right. Knit the white grid squares, purl the orange squares, and continue to transfer the stitch markers. Be sure to move the yarn to the back before each knit stitch, and to the front before each purl. Knit the leaf pattern block 9 times or until the hand warmer is about 6 inches long, measured from the cast-on edge. (If you prefer to skip the pattern block, instead, simply knit 45 rows in stockinette, ribbing, seed stitch, etc..)
- 5) Knit one round. (You may remove the stitch marker after stitch 20 at this point, but leave the other marker.)
- 6) Knit 6 rows of 1X1 ribbing.
- 7) Cast off loosely and weave in loose ends.
- 8) Make 6 hand warmers total, one pair in each color.
- 9) Wear them to match the changing fall colors in your town!

Tip #1: If you pay special attention to how the chevron texture works in the pattern block, you might find that you don't have to refer to the paper pattern after the first few blocks. Keep an eye on the stitches and they will tell you whether to knit or purl the next stitch. Just remember, every time you purl, you will get one little corresponding bump on the right side. Simply purl whenever necessary so that the diagonal lines continue toward the edges. And remember to begin a new "V" in the middle of each side every 5 rows.



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