

# Tea Mitten

by Elisabeth Kleven

The tea cozy has enjoyed a healthy relationship with knitting for generations. I came up with this because I was tired of my tea getting cold during long Latin study sessions, but I didn't want to obscure my teapot's lovely curves.

The ribbing and negative ease holds the fabric snugly against the side of the teapot, and a little button flap inspired by the mug and thermos cardigans at Second Cup keeps the whole thing secured. The lid remains uncovered for easy tea-making access, and the "thumb" gusset for the spout—the inspiration for this mitten-inspired cozy—ensures that the tea isn't rudely frozen on the way out.

Due to the fitted nature of this pattern, my numbers are not likely to be perfect for all teapots. Indeed, one could make this out of just about any yarn, and get a completely different effect! Please feel free to modify the pattern as much as you like to fit your personality and your teapot! I look forward to the different incarnations of this idea!

This pattern is yet **untestknit**. Please report to me all confusions and discrepancies you spot in the pattern!



## The Particulars...

### Yarn:

Approx. 80m/87.5yds of DK weight yarn

### Recommended:

Alafoss Lett Lopi

(100% pure new wool; 100m/50g skein)

### Needles:

1 set 3.5mm/US4 double-pointed needles  
(or size to obtain gauge)

### Notions:

Tapestry needle

Measuring tape

3 buttons to match yarn (approx. 1.5cm/.5" wide)

### Gauge:

32 sts/34 rows = 10cm (4") in 3x1 ribbing, unstretched.

### Sizes: one size fits most (adjustments indicated)

### Measurements:

*Width:* Fits teapots at least 30.5cm/12" – 39.5cm/15.5" around, no more than 53cm/20.5" at widest (including covered area of spout).

*Height (when relaxed):* 13cm/5.25"

## Pattern Notes

**Casting on/off:** Since the cozy must stretch over the teapot's handle and spout, then spring into shape to grip the top and bottom of the teapot, the caston and castoff must be fairly elastic. I found that using the **long-tail cast on** worked best, and I used the "**regular**" (k2 in patt, pass first st over second) **castoff** to give me a look similar to the long-tail. I went up a needle size to make it a little more stretchy, too. I always put the cozy on the teapot by stretching the bottom (cast-on edge), and though it's a tight fit over the handle, as long as you don't take it off a lot it shouldn't stretch out.



### Abbreviations:

*m1*: pick up and knit the horizontal bar between stitches, twisting it to avoid holes

*m1p*: pick up and purl the horizontal bar between stitches, twisting to avoid holes

\*...\*: repeat the stitch pattern between the asterisks as specified in the row directions.

\*\* : Repeat pattern between asterisks earlier in the line.

For all other abbreviations, see Knitty's standard abbreviations list.

## Casting On...

**Bottom Ribbing** (to cover the area from the base of the teapot to the beginning of the handle and/or spout, whichever comes first—they are simultaneous here.)

CO 78sts and join in the round.

Rows 1-8: \*k2, p1\* all around.

**Midsection A** (includes the spout gusset and the split for the handle )

Row 9 (RS): k2, \*p1, k1, m1, k1\* twelve times, m1p, pm, \*\*, m1p, pm, \*\* twelve more times, p1, k first stitch from next needle, turn.

Row 10 (WS): sl1, k1, \*p3, k1\* to marker, sl marker, k1, p3, k1, slip marker, \*k1, p3\* to last 2sts, k1, p1.

Row 11 (RS): sl1, k in patt to stitch marker, sl marker, m1, k in patt to marker, m1, sl marker, work in patt to end.

Row 12 (WS): sl1, work in patt to end.

Rows 13-17: Alternate rows 11 and 12 for the next five rows. You will end on a RS row.

(Continue to increase the gusset in established k3p1 pattern).

### Midsection B (adding the button flap)

Row 18 (WS): sl1, work in patt to end, turn, CO 8 more sts with the cable cast-on. This will be the button flap that extends through the handle of the teapot.

Row 19 (RS): k1, p1, k3, p1, k3, work in pattern to end, continuing to increase at the markers as in Row 11.

Row 20 (WS): sl1, work in patt to last 5 sts, BO 3 sts, k1, p1.

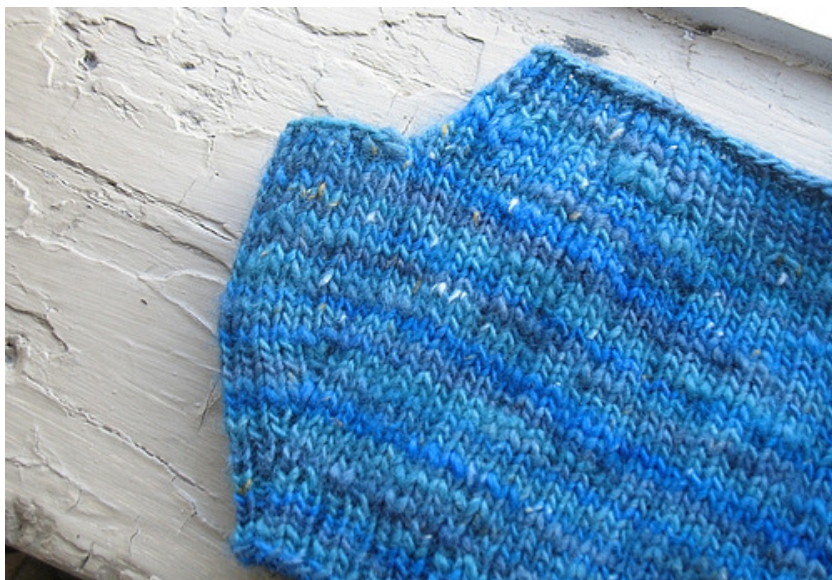
Row 21 (RS): sl1, p1, CO 3 sts using the backwards-loop cast-on, work in patt to end.

Row 22 (WS): sl1, work in patt to last 5 sts, p3, k1, p1.

Row 23 (RS): sl1, work in patt to end, increasing at the markers as in Row 11.

Rows 24-30: Repeat rows 20-23, then 20-22 again.

Row 31 (RS): bind off 8 sts, knit in patt to end.



*At the same time:* When you have made your gusset large enough (mine was five ribs, achieved on row 23), stop increasing and simply continue the ribbing in pattern.



### Midsection C (finishing the gusset and decreasing for the top)

Row 32 (WS): sl1, work in patt to marker, loosely bind off all sts between markers, work in patt to end.

Row 33 (RS): sl1, \*p1, k3\* twelve times, p2tog (this joins the fabric on either side of the spout gusset), work in patt to end.

Rows 34-40: sl1, work in patt to end.

### Top Ribbing (to ensure a snug fit around the lid of the teapot)

Row 41 (RS): sl1, \*p1, k1, k2tog\* to last two sts, p1, k1, knit first slipped stitch to join and work in the round again.

Rows 42-50: \*k2, p1\* all around  
Bind off all sts, not too loosely.

## Finishing

Weave in all ends. Sew three buttons to corresponding side of the handle slit opposite buttonholes.

No blocking required, simply slip it onto your teapot and have a celebratory cuppa!



## Schematic

Relaxed measurements. Allow for negative ease.

