What you’ll need . . .

» Sweaters*
» Liner fabric†
» Pencil or marker
» Thread
» Button
» Pattern‡

Step One: Outer Mitten

Important Notes: This example uses a main gray fabric, and a contrasting red fabric. Adjust instructions if needed for your design. All seams are ¼ inch.

1. Lay out your main fabric with the right side down. Trace patterns 1 and 2 on the wrong side and cut out.

2. Lay out your contrasting fabric with the right side down. Trace pattern 3 on the wrong side and cut out.

* You can use up to three colors per mitten or use just one. If you use multiple sweaters, they should be similarly weighted. Make sure they are laundered. If you are using wool, “felt” the wool by turning the sweater inside out and washing the sweater in hot water. Then dry on hot. This will shrink your sweater significantly, make your fabric nice and thick, and produce lots of lint in both the washer and dryer, so be careful.

† This could be a thinner, softer sweater of any fabric type, luxurious like cashmere, or even polar fleece. Keep in mind, thinner fabrics are easier to sew, but thicker fabrics make a warmer mitten.

‡ Before you start, decide if you will use the Size M or Size L patterns. The Size M fits most people, except sometimes in the wrist (especially if you wear a watch). If you use fleece to line your mitten, be aware that there will be no stretch to the mitten since the fleece does not stretch. Another option is to use the size M patterns, but cut the wrist area wider.
Here are all the outer pieces you need for one mitten, cut out, with the pattern piece above.

Pin pieces 2 and 3, right sides together. Sew from green pin to green pin, as shown.

Pin piece 2/3 to piece 1 (right sides together). Sew, leaving only the bottom open (where you will insert your hand). NOTE: It can be hard to catch the curve where the thumb meets the mitten when machine sewing. After you stitch but before you turn your mitten right side out, check your work and restitch if needed. Sometimes hand stitching this area is necessary.

Turn the outer mitten so that the seams are inside, and the right side of the mitten is out.
Step Two: Inner Liner

1. Trace the lining pattern twice so you have a front and a back. Cut out.
2. Pin the two lining pieces together. Sew, leaving only the bottom open (where you will insert your hand).

Step Three: Cuff Options

Most cuffs are between 2 and 3 inches wide, finished. When using cuffs cut off of sweaters, the width is predetermined for you. The length of a cuff should be twice the length of the open edge of the mitten, plus ½ inch.

Using the bottom of a sweater:

1. Cut the ribbing off of the sweater leaving ¼ to ½ inch above the ribbing to allow for joining to the mitten. Then, cut the cuff to the correct length, pin it right sides together and sew.
Using fleece:

Determine how wide you want the finished cuff to be, then double that and add ½ inch for the seam allowance. Fold it, wrong sides together, the long way. Then fold it over, matching the edges to be sewn.

Pin and sew. Please note that the photo shows a cuff that should have been cut about an inch longer than it was.

Step Four: Putting It All Together

1. Slip the liner into the outer mitten, as shown. It is easier to insert your hand into the liner, and then slide your hand and the liner into the outer mitten, fitting the liner’s thumb into the outer mitten thumb.

2. Sew all three layers together at the edge. Decide if you will machine or hand sew. Depending on the thickness of your three layers, machine sewing may be very difficult.
3. Turn the cuff to the outside. Cross your fingers that you did it right!

4. Thread a needle with coordinating thread. Hand sew a couple of stitches to attach the bottom of the cuff to the body of the mitten. This will keep the cuff from turning up while wearing.

Step Five: Repeat!

Repeat all steps for the second mitten. Be sure to lay out your pattern pieces so that you get a left hand mitten this time!
Size M
#1
Size M
#2
Size M
#3
Size M
Liner
Size L
#1
Size L
#2
Size L
#3