

DIY Infant, Toddler & Child Wool Mittens

Quick and easy to make out of old wool sweaters!

Materials and Items Needed

- Sewing machine
- At least 80% wool sweaters
- Thin sweater or lightweight Fleece for lining
- Embroidery floss for embellishing.
- Needle and thread.



Prepare your wool sweaters by washing in very hot water. This will shrink and tighten the fibers, making it nice and dense and very warm. Dry the sweaters in the dryer on the hottest setting. You can wash and dry them with a pair of gym shoes or tennis balls to help agitate and tighten the fibers.

Cutting Out

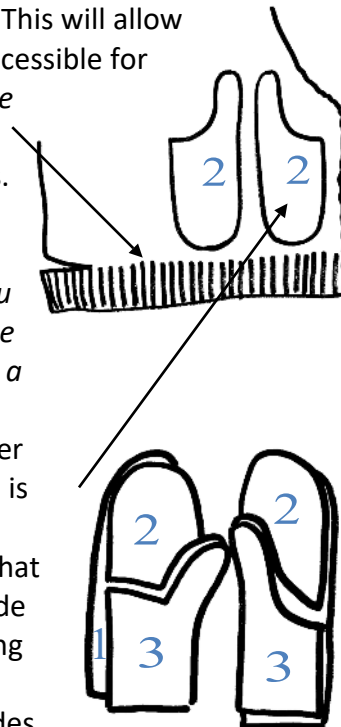
To get the optimal use out of the sweaters, I like to cut down the side seam and up the one arm hole to the neck. This will allow you to open up the sweater and make it more accessible for cutting. Another thing I like to do is *cut off the bottom 4" of the sweaters to use on cuffs.*

Decide what sweaters you want for which pieces. I like to mix mine up and use different sweaters and colors on the same mitten. *Just make sure the stretch in the fabric pieces is consistent or you may have one part of your mitten tighter than the other. Note too, that a tighter wool piece may fit a little more snug.*

If your sweaters still have a stretch to them after shrinking, you will want to make sure the stretch is going across as indicated on the pattern piece. Make sure when you are cutting out the pieces that you flip the pattern over so you have the right side up for a left and a right. Now cut out your lining pieces in the same way.

Once cut out, place pieces together with right sides together (RST), so there is no confusion when it's time to sew them all together. Do this with the lining as well.

Now you are ready to sew!

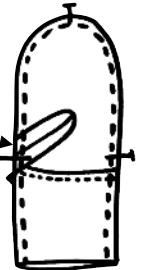


Sewing Together (1/4 inch seam allowance)

- 1 Take the palm pieces, 2 & 3 and place thumbs (RST) and sew around thumb from notch to the side as indicated. Take time to ease around curves. Clip and trim seam.
- 2 Open up the two pieces you just sewed together and place on piece 1 with (RST). Thumb seam will match up with the notch on the top piece. **note: The top piece is intended to be a little larger. This allows for the nice fit. Pin where indicated and ease in as you sew.*

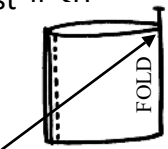


- 3 Sew all the way around. Pull the thumb piece slightly up and to the side while sewing over it. Clip excess seam allowance and turn inside out.



- 4 Follow steps 1-4 now for the lining **except use a 3/8 inch seam allowance**, do not turn inside out. (I don't like to line the infant and toddler mittens, it makes them just too bulky)

- 5 *This is my favorite part!* Slip your hands inside the lining and slide into corresponding side of mitten outer shell. Adjust it so everything is aligned and cuff edges are even.



- 6 Find a cute sweater cuff to use. You can use an existing sleeve cuff or cut the bottom cuff off the sweater. If using the bottom cuff, cut it to be 3 1/2" x 6 1/4" Wide for Child & Toddler sizes. (Infant cuff measurements are indicated on infant pattern instruction sheet). Fold that piece in half and sew down the side backstitching at each end. Mark the half-way mark with a pin.

- 7 Stick the cuff inside the mitten with raw edges even. Match up the seam of the cuff with the inside seam of the mitten and pin in place through all three layers. (The right side of the cuff will be against the lining.) Pin the half-way mark of the cuff to the other mitten seam.



- 8 Sew around through all layers, making sure to keep edges even as you sew. Flip cuff out and over the top of the mitten. Ta-dah!
You can embellish your mittens with a cute embroidered flower. Or sew a cute button on top. With a needle and thread you can sew around the bottom of the cuff to help keep the cuff in place.



↑ To make sure your pattern is printing the correct size, this square should measure 1" square. Make sure page scaling is turned off on your printer!

To make the infant mittens:

The infant mitten has no thumbs. Just a simple covering for those wee little hands.

Use a soft thinner wool piece for these mittens.

1. Place pattern piece 4 on folded fabric edge where indicated. Cut out 2 on the fold.
2. Open up the mitten piece. (Using the existing cuff from a sweater for the mitten cuff works really nicely and saves a lot of bulk). However, if you want to add a cuff, then you will need to cut out a cuff and sew it on at this point.

If using an existing cuff, simply skip to instruction number 4.

3. Measure the length of your mitten opening and cut a piece of cuff or ribbing a half inch smaller. Line up the raw edges and sew to mitten (Right Sides Together).

Stretching and easing in as you sew.

Zig Zag the edges to prevent fraying.

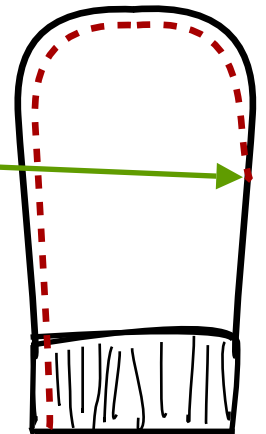
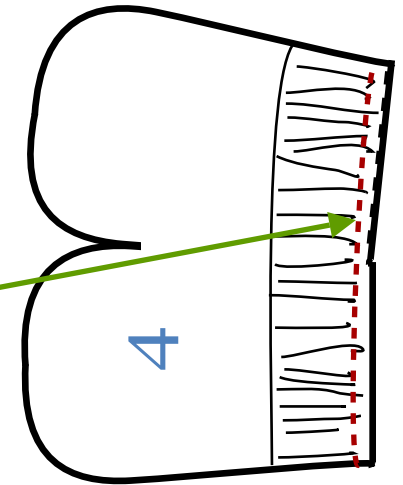
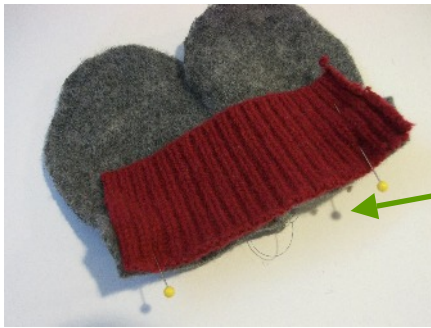
Do this for both mittens.

4. Fold the mitten in half (RST). Sew around and taper off on the fold to make a smooth corner.

Backstitch at the beginning and end of your seam.

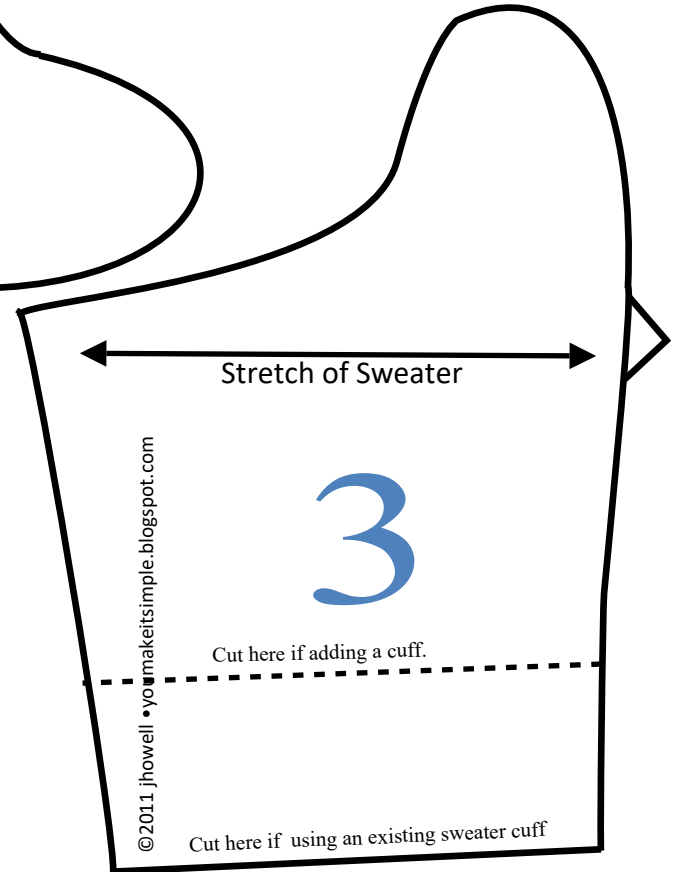
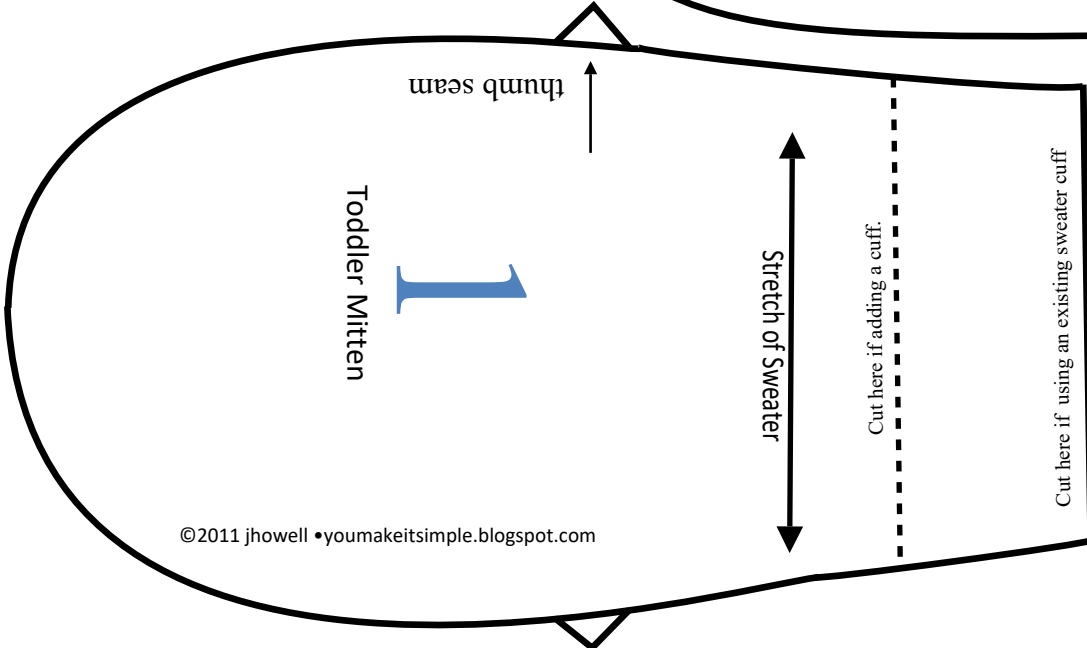
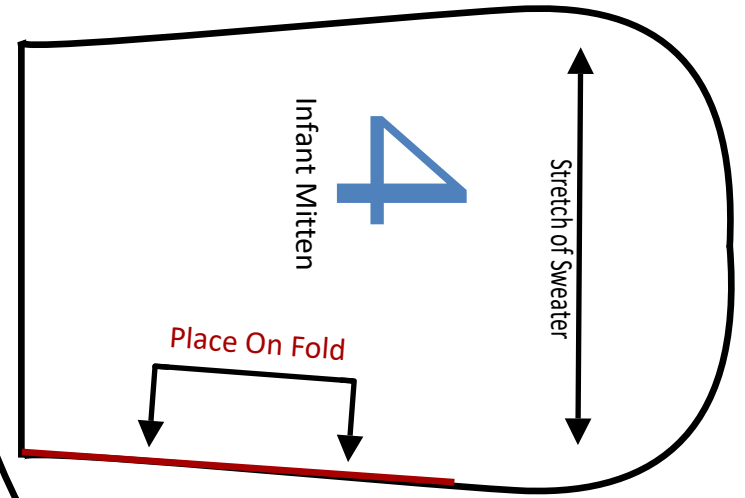
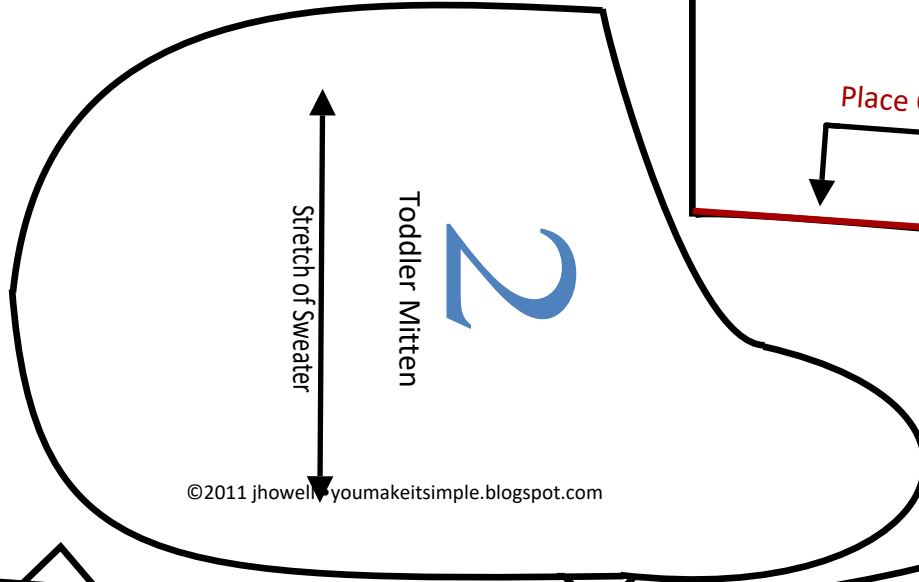
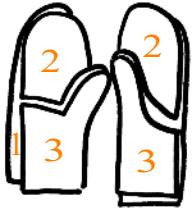
5. Clip seam to remove any bulk and turn inside out.

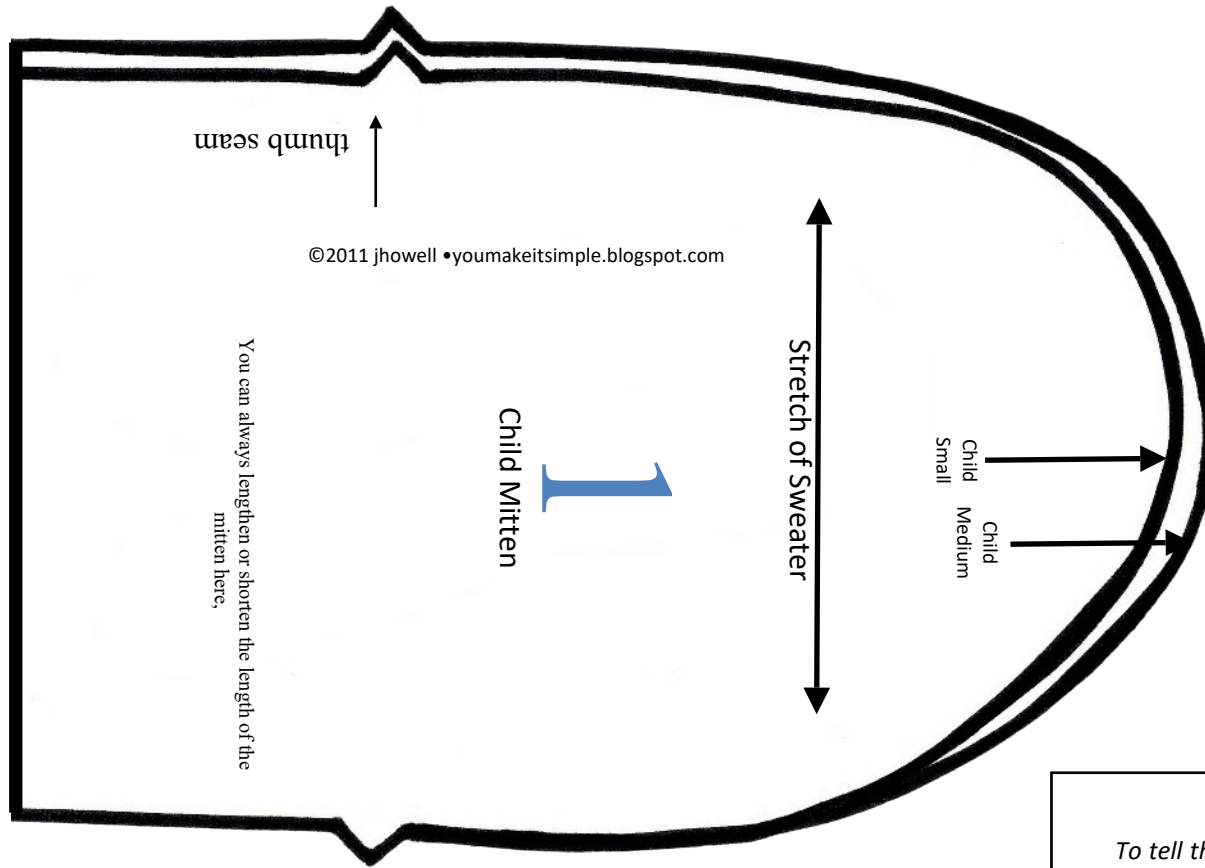
I don't like to line the infant mittens, as it makes them way too bulky.



Tip

To tell the difference between the right and wrong side of your sweater, place a safety pin on the right side of each piece that you have cut out. This will help when you are putting things together and to assure that you have a right and a left side.





Tip

To tell the difference between the right and wrong side of your sweater, place a safety pin on the right side of each piece that you have cut out. This will help when you are putting things together and to assure that you have a right and a left side.

