

Hand Made

by Rebecca Kemp Brent

Gloves are the epitome of classic elegance. While they aren't the fashion staple they used to be, embroidered gloves finish off a holiday look with glamour.

Getting Started

- Gloves are constructed from stretch fabrics. Look for stretch satin, velvet or lace for lightweight gloves appropriate for formal evenings, weddings and formal occasions. Choose stretchy synthetic leather or suede for casual or sporty gloves. Non-stretch specialty fabrics like fur can be used for cuffs and trimmed if the glove body is stitched from stretch fabric.
- While size 75/11 embroidery needles are appropriate for most stretch fabrics, micro-point needles can be substituted to avoid snags in glossy satins and to minimize needle holes in synthetic leathers and suedes. True ballpoint needles are designed to stitch stretch knits without skipped stitches and yarn breakage; use them to assemble the gloves.

- Stabilizer choices for glove embroidery follow the general practices for stitching on stretchy fabrics. Choose an iron-on or adhesive stabilizer to lock the fabric yarns in place and prevent stretch during embroidery. Use a topper to control the nap on velvet or other pile fabrics. Heat-soluble toppers are a good choice for non-washable or delicate glove fabrics, such as satins subject to water spots. Make sure the gloves can withstand the heat needed for removal.

Construction

- Sew gloves using very small seam allowances: $\frac{1}{4}$ " for side seams, and $\frac{1}{8}$ " for finger and gusset construction. Accuracy in cutting and stitching is very important.
- Secure the pattern to the fabric with fine pins that won't snag

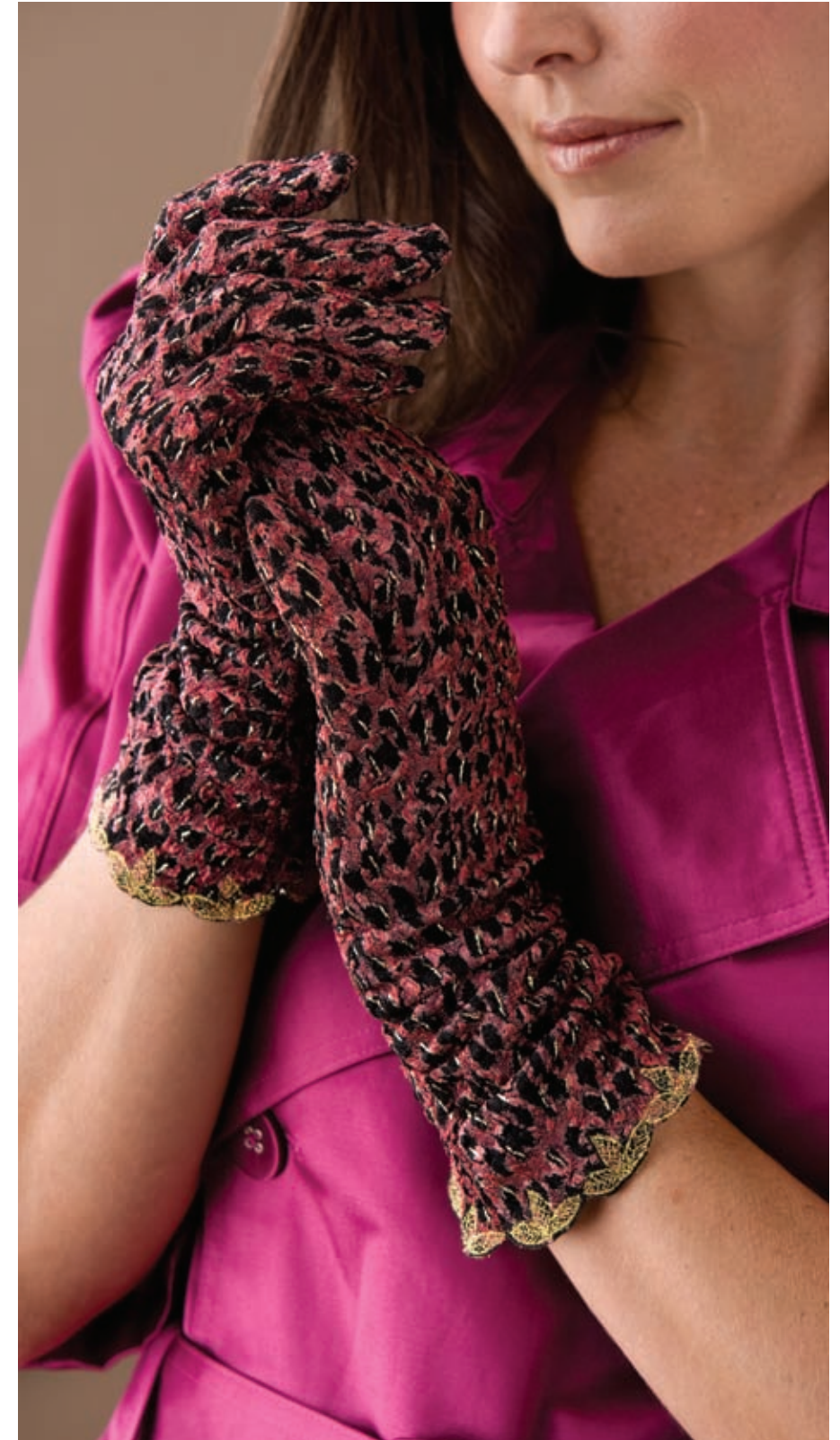
the fabric, especially when working with lightweight knits and satin finishes.

- Use plenty of pins when cutting and sewing to keep the fabric layers from shifting. If pinning will leave permanent holes or marks in the fabric, substitute tape to hold the layers together. Ordinary clear tape is fine; the seam perforates the tape for easy removal.
- Choose a straight stretch stitch or narrow, open zigzag for a seam that elongates under stress rather than breaking. Set the machine for a 2.0mm stitch length.
- The $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowances around the fingers leave little room for staystitching. Where the pattern calls for a "V" of reinforcement stitches between each pair of fingers, substitute a dot of seam sealant. Test first to be sure the seam sealant won't stain the fabric.

On the Edge ▶

An embroidered border in metallic thread finishes the glove's edge with the sparkle of a bracelet.

- Cut out the gloves as directed by the pattern. Leave 1" of extra fabric at the lower edge and $\frac{1}{2}$ " extra along the side seams at the lower edge.
- Mark the seamlines and the hem foldline on the roughly cut glove pieces. The hem foldline is the baseline for the embroidered border.
- Hoop adhesive stabilizer and attach one of the glove pieces.
- Choose an embroidery motif. Use on-screen editing or customizing software to create a continuous motif that spans the glove between the side seams.
- Stitch the border. Remove the glove piece from the stabilizer, and then trim away the excess fabric close to the embroidery stitches.
- Repeat for the other glove pieces. More design repeats may be required to fill the wider glove front.
- Finish assembling the gloves as directed by the pattern, skipping any reference to hemming the gloves.





Off the Cuff ◈

Cuffed gloves have a sporty air. Stitch a pair in faux leather for cold weather fun.

- Choose a slightly curved embroidery motif that mirrors the cuff's lower edge.
- Mark the embroidery location on the cuff, centering the design from upper to lower edge and on the cuff portion that will lie across the back of the hand **(A)**.
- Hoop adhesive stabilizer and attach the first cuff with its embroidery location centered in the hoop. Embroider the design.
- Hoop more stabilizer and attach the second cuff.

If the embroidery design is asymmetric, mirror image the motif before stitching.

- Embroider the design on the second cuff; remove the excess stabilizer. Assemble the gloves as directed by the pattern.

A Mark embroidery location on cuff.



Hit the Spot ◈

Substitute an embroidered motif for the buckle adorning the featured pleated gloves.

- Cut out the gloves as directed in the pattern. Mark the pleat location on each glove. Fold and baste the pleat.
- Hoop adhesive stabilizer and attach the pleated glove fabric to the hoop with the pleat centered. Arrange the glove fabric neatly above and below the basted pleat. Cover the pleated glove with a water- or heat-soluble topper to keep the pleats flat during embroidery.
- Embroider the design so it's centered on the basted pleat. Repeat the hooping and embroidery for the second glove. When the embroidery is complete, remove the excess stabilizer and any basting stitches that extend beyond the embroidery motif.
- Assemble the gloves as directed in the pattern.



Fringe Element ◈

Embroider a tassel or fringe design over the glove's hemmed edge for a unique design element.

- Cut out and assemble the gloves as directed in the pattern instructions.
- Mark the embroidery location, centering it on the glove back along the hem. Hoop adhesive stabilizer. Turn the glove wrong side out, and attach it to the stabilizer so the embroidery location is within the stitching area. Tape or pin outside the embroidery area to help keep the additional fabric away from the needle.
- Use a full-size template to double check the embroidery location. The upper tassel or fringe portion should fall on the glove fabric, while the dangling portion stitches through the removable stabilizer only.
- Fill the bobbin with matching embroidery thread; stitch the tassel or fringe motif. Turn the machine's automatic thread

cutter off before stitching the tassel. Otherwise, the machine may read each long tassel stitch as a jump and will clip the threads at each end. Repeat for the second glove.

- When stitching is complete, carefully cut away as much stabilizer as possible. Follow the digitizer's instructions to complete the fringe by soaking away the stabilizer and cutting the fringing threads. An alternative look can be accomplished by leaving the thread loops intact. ■

DESIGNS

Fringe Element: My Fair Lady Designs, Wedding Pendants 4x4, MFL-WP-TASSEL1, www.myfairladydesigns.com or www.secretsof.com; Vogue 8311

Hit the Spot: Brother, Card 59, design 7 (also available on Card 61, design 7), www.brother-usa.com, (877) 276-8437; Vogue 7949, view E

Off the Cuff: Brother, Card 75, design 28, www.brother-usa.com, (877) 276-8437; Vogue 7949, view G

On the Edge: Baby Lock, Border Collection 1, design 205, www.babylock.com; Vogue 8311, view D

SOURCES

Coats & Clark supplied the metallic embroidery thread: www.coatsandclark.com, (800) 648-1479.