Hermine

Notions
3.25 mm circular needles
Stitch marker(s)
Needle for sewing in ends

Gauge
21 sts approximately equals 3 inches
16 rows approximately equals 1.75 inches

Yarn
Any double knitting wool, in four colours. You will require much less than one 50g ball of each, but you will need more of C3 than any of the other colours. (I used leftovers from my basket so unsure of actual requirements).

I used:
C1 = Edging colour - Charcoal
C2 = Complement colour 1 – Peach
C3 = Light colour – Cream
C4 = Complement colour 2 - Blue

The two mittens are knit identically except for the placement of the thumb. Each stripe is eight rows of a given colour, but with some increases and decreases worked in.

These increases and decreases shape the wrist. I knitted the first mitten not long after I started knitting, so my increases and decreases are a bit messy - it would probably give a nice slouch around the wrist if you chose not to work the shaping. I've put the number of stitches on each side of the marker in square brackets throughout to keep track, eg. [25,25].

Cuff
Using a flexible cast on, such as a long tail cast on (or if you have the patience of a saint, a tubular cast on), cast on 54 sts in yarn C1, join in the round and place a marker. Because 54 divides into an uneven number, it might be easier to place a marker so the stitches are split [26,28] to avoid you having to think at all whilst working the rib section.
Rows 1 – 7: *k1tbl, p1*, repeat.
Row 8:
Then k1 round plain. (This is to give a clean break to the next colour). Whilst doing this, fix the markers so that the stitches are split [27,27].

Wrists
Switch to C2
Rows 1 – 3: Knit plain stockinette
Row 4: k2tog, knit to next marker (25 stitches), ssk, k to end. [26,26].
Rows 5 – 8: Knit plain.

Switch to C3
Row 1: Knit plain
Row 2: k2tog, k24, ssk, k24
[25,25]
Row 3 – 6: Knit plain
Row 7: k2tog, k23, ssk, k23
[24,24]
Row 8: Knit plain

Switch to C4
Rows 1 – 4: Knit plain
Row 5: ktog, k22, ssk, k22 [23,23]
Rows 6 – 8: Knit plain

Switch back to C3
Rows 1 – 8: Knit plain [23,23]

In progress!

Switch to C2
Row 1: Knit plain
Row 2: Make 1 stitch by picking up and knitting a stitch in the gap, knit to marker, then make 1 (if you're cleverer than me, you could choose to pair up the increases by doing M1T and M1A, see http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases), knit to end [24,24].
Row 3: As row 2 [25,25]
Row 4: As row 2 [26,26]
Row 5: As row 2 [27,27]
Rows 6 – 8: Knit plain

Switch to C3
Rounds 1 – 8: Knit plain [27,27]

Afterthought thumb
I've used an afterthought thumb technique – you can find tutorials by just googling the name, or there's a good one here.
http://akittenknits.blogspot.com/2006/12/thumb-trick.html
Some tutorials suggest you pick up more stitches in the gap than I do (I only do two on each side, some suggest as many as five) but use your own judgement and decrease the number of stitches you set up with the contrast yarn accordingly.

Thumb – Right hand mitten
Switch to C4
Row 1: Knit to the marker, then knit 2. Using a piece of contrasting coloured yarn, knit 9 stitches. Slip these back onto your left needle, then knit back over them with yarn C4. Knit plain to finish the row. [27,27]

Rows 2 – 7: Knit plain
Row 8: k2tog, k25, ssk, k25 [26,26].

Thumb – Left hand mitten

Switch to C4
Row 1: Knit to the marker, then knit until there are 11 stitches left. Using a piece of contrasting coloured yarn, knit 9 stitches. Slip these back onto your left needle, then knit back over them with yarn C4. k2 to finish the row. [27,27]
Rows 2 – 7: Knit plain
Row 8: k2tog, k25, ssk, k25 [26,26].

Both mittens

Switch to C3
Rows 1 – 4: Knit plain
Row 5: k2tog, k24, ssk, k24 [25,25]
Rows 6 – 8: Knit plain

Switch to C2
Rows 1 – 8: Knit plain

Switch to C1
Row 1: Knit plain, but whilst doing this split the stitches so that they are divided [24,26] to make the rib section easier.
Rows 2 – 7: *k1tbl, p1*, repeat.
Row 8: Turn the knitting so that the wrong side is facing you (turn it inside out if this helps) and cast off knit-wise. This will create a neater edge.

To complete the thumbs

Using yarn C4
Row 1: Pick up the stitches using the afterthought thumb method, picking up two stitches in each gap. (Nobody's perfect - I tend to leave a long tail on the blue yarn for sewing up any unexpected gaps). Using a stitch marker, split into two. This should leave you with [11,11].
Rows 2 – 8: Knit plain

Switch to C1,
Row 1: Knit to two before the marker, k2tog, knit to two before the end, ssk [10,10].
Rows 2 – 6: *k1tbl, p1*, repeat.
Row 8: Turn the knitting so the wrong side is facing you, cast off knit wise.

Finishing

Sew in the many, many ends. Block if desired (this may even out some of the increases/decreases).