



Knitting Illini



Welcome to the Knitting Illini! We are a social group that meets weekly to knit, chat and eat brownies. We welcome any skill level, from the absolute beginner to seasoned knitters with super-knitting skills. If you have any knitting supplies of your own such as yarn and knitting needles, please bring them with you to meetings as our club supply is low. Last year, club members worked on many personal knitting projects including hats, baby sweaters, blankets, scarves and more scarves!

This handout lists important resources for knitters such as **local yarn stores**, must-have **knitting books**, cool **web sites** and **online knitting forums** and info about our **charity projects**. We've also listed common **knitting terms**, attached an illustrated guide on **how to knit** and included a simple **scarf pattern** for beginners.

Contact and club info:

If you have any knitting or club related questions, please feel free to contact Ariel, club president, at neff@uiuc.edu. Our web site www.geocities.com/knittingillini lists upcoming events and meeting times. If you would like to add a picture of a project you've knitted to the photos page, please send it to Susan at sdittric@uiuc.edu. So don't just sit there, knit something!

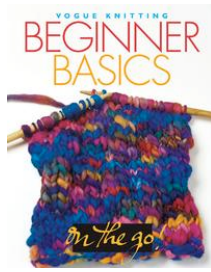
Local Yarn Stores:

- **Needleworks** (24 E. Green St., Champaign 352-1340)
This store carries specialty yarns, lots of knitting needles (circular, bamboo, double pointed, etc.), patterns and books, and they're within walking distance from campus. The staff is also really friendly and will answer any knitting questions you may have. Knit nights every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.
- **Michaels** (2109 N. Prospect Ave., Champaign 378-8716) Close to Best Buy.
A huge craft store with basic brands of yarn (Lion Brand, Red Heart, Bernat), some knitting needles, books and other craft supplies.
- **Hancock Fabrics** (115 Convenience Center Road, Champaign 398-1598) Across from Market Place Mall. A great selection of Lion Brand yarns, some knitting needles and sewing supplies.
- **Hobby Lobby** (2018 Glen Park Dr., Champaign 355-2924)
Two aisles of yarn (Lion Brand, Red Heart, Bernat, and novelty yarn) plus some knitting needles and craft supplies.

Knitting books to get you started:

Here are some books the KI recommends to all knitters. Some contain more advanced projects than others, but all are worth their weight in yarn! But before you dash off to the bookstore to buy these great books, it should be mentioned that Champaign-Urbana has two FABULOUS public libraries, the Urbana Free Library and the Champaign Public Library. They each have huge collections of knitting books and even some knitting videos and magazines you can check out.





Vogue Knitting on the Go: Beginner Basics by Trisha Malcolm

This book is one of a series of Vogue *On the Go* knitting books. Contains simple patterns and techniques for the novice knitter.



Stitch 'N Bitch: The Knitter's Handbook by Debbie Stoller

Includes knitting history, patterns, and personal knitting stories (with a feminist twist) from the author. If for no other reason, get this book for its title!



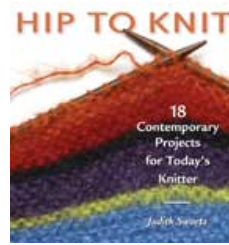
The Yarn Girls' Guide to Simple Knits by Jordana Jacobs and Julie Carles

This book covers all the basics and is perfect for novice knitters. If you are in a hurry to knit something fun and fast, this is the book to buy!



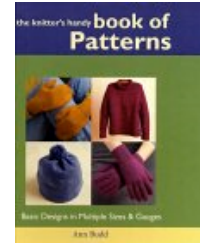
Vogue Knitting: The Ultimate Knitting Book by Vogue Knitting Magazine Editors

This book is the “first and last word on knitting.” It includes the history of knitting, knitting supplies, basic techniques, a stitch dictionary and much more.



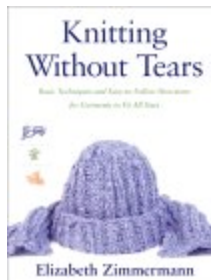
Hip to Knit: 18 Contemporary Projects for Today's Knitter by Judith L. Swartz

This book contains creative, hip designs including a boyfriend's sweater, chunky scarf, halter top, color block tote bag, mismatched striped socks, and much more.



The Knitter's Handy Book of Patterns: Basic Designs in Multiple Sizes & Gauges by Ann Budd

For the more advanced knitter, this book provides basic instructions for creating your own patterns- from preemie to adult sizes.



Knitting Without Tears : Basic Techniques and Easy-to-Follow Directions for Garments to Fit All Sizes by Elizabeth Zimmermann

Elizabeth Zimmermann, considered to be the grandmother of American knitting, wrote this influential book that revolutionized the art of knitting. This book contains clever solutions to frustrating knitting problems and step-by-step instructions for timeless designs.

Knitting Web sites and online forums:

There are thousands of knitting web sites on the Internet, so we've picked out some of the most interesting, useful and fun sites around. If you know of any great sites, let us know about them!

- *Knitting Illini* www.geocities.com/knittingillini
The official U of I club Web site.
- *Knitty online magazine* www.knitty.com
Knitty contains patterns, articles, links and an AWESOME forum (click the coffeeshop link at the top). The forum welcomes all kinds of knitting questions or comments, and is a great resource for knitters of ANY skill level.
- *Patternworks* www.patternworks.com/
An online catalog offering everything for the handknitter including yarn, needles, patterns, books, etc...
- *Knitting About* www.knitting.about.com
This site contains links to other knitting sites, free patterns, and general knitting resources.
- *Woolworks* www.woolworks.org
"Listings of more than 2000 knitting suppliers worldwide, free patterns, reference material, and lots more."
- *Free Knitting Patterns* www.knitting-and.com/knitting/allpatterns.htm
Hundreds of free knitting patterns including everything from antique lace doilies to quick chunky knit scarves.
- *Knit List Gifts* www.knitlist.com/ListGifts.htm
Page contains links to hundreds of free knitting patterns sent to the Knitlist from 1995 through 2004. Some patterns include pictures.
- *Schoolhouse Press* www.schoolhousepress.com
The online version of the Schoolhouse Press's catalogue, founded in 1959 by Elizabeth Zimmermann. Offers knitting books, kits, videos, yarn, etc...

Our Charity Project:

This year, KI members will have the opportunity to knit for charity. Over the summer, KI members chose *Warm Up America!* as the official KI charity. However, if you are interested in knitting for another charity, please feel free to work on whatever projects you like.

Warm Up America! www.warmupamerica.com

Volunteers donate their time to knit or crochet a 7" x 9" rectangle (or more). Sections are either joined by individuals or groups in a community and donated locally or sent to Foundation headquarters for joining and distribution. These afghans will be distributed to battered women's shelters, nursing homes, teenage pregnancy homes, hospitals and clinics, daycare centers, hospice care facilities, churches, AIDS facilities and/or homeless shelters.

The reason we chose *Warm Up America!* for our charity is to incorporate the various skill levels of knitters in the club. This will be a project everyone can work on and enjoy! We will keep a running tally of the number of blocks knitted or crocheted and post it on the web site!

How to read a knitting pattern:

Here is a list of common knitting terms you will encounter when reading a knitting pattern.

alt	alternate	p	purl
approx	approximately	p2tog	purl two together
beg	begin[ning]	patt[s]	pattern[s]
BO	bind off [cast off]	psso	pass slipped stitch[es] over
cab	cable	rem	remaining
CC	contrasting color	rep	repeat
cn	cable needle	rev St st	reverse stockinette stitch
CO	cast on	RS	right side[s]
cont	continue[ing]	rnd[s]	round[s]
dec	decrease[ing]	sc	single crochet
dpn	double pointed needles[s]	SSK	slip 2 stitches as if to knit, knit 2 stitches together
fol	follow[s][ing]	SSP	slip 2 stitches as if to purl, purl together
g	grams	sl	slip
inc	increase[ing]	slp	slip one as if to purl
incl	including	sl st	slip stitch
inst	instructions	st[s]	stitch[es]
k	knit	St st	stockinette stitch
k tbl	knit through back of loop	tbl	through back of loop[s]
k2tog	knit two together	tog	together
m	meter[s]	WS	wrong side[s]
MC	main color	YO	yarn over
m1	make one stitch	**	repeat directions between ** as many times as indicated
mm	millimeters		
mult	multiple		
opp	opposite		
oz	ounces		

LOPPY GARTER STITCH SKINNY SCARF



This pattern is for worsted weight yarn. Since size isn't a real issue when you're dealing with scarves, feel free to try a different yarn with a similar gauge. *Or for a quick knit, try some bulky yarn and follow the numbers in italics.*

Materials:

Approx. 150-300 yds. Worsted weight yarn depending on scarf length
(a little less if you're using bulky yarn)

Circular or straight needles size US 10, 11, or 13 *(US 13 or 15 for bulky yarn)*

Crochet hook if making fringe

Tapestry needle for weaving in ends

Measurements:

Approx. 3 _" wide

Instructions:

Using large needles, (the bigger, the loopier) CO 12 sts. *(for bulky yarn, CO 8 sts.)* Work in garter stitch (k all stitches) until scarf is desired length. BO stitches. Weave in ends. Add fringe if desired. Wrap around your neck and be hip!

This pattern was taken from *The Blue Blog Patterns Website* http://alison.knitsmiths.us/pattern_beginners_scarves.html

This page contains 4 other scarf patterns.

Learn to Knit!

Making a Slip Knot:



The slip knot becomes the first stitch. Hold the tail end of the yarn in your palm with your thumb. Wrap the yarn from the ball twice around your index and middle fingers.



Pull the strand attached to the ball through the loop between your two fingers, forming a new loop.



Place the new loop on the needle. Tighten it by pulling on both ends of the yarn to form the slip knot. To prepare for casting on, leave an extra long tail when making the slip knot.

Casting On:



With a slip knot on the needle in your right hand, wind the tail end around your left thumb. Wrap yarn from the ball over left index finger. Hold both ends in your palm.



Insert the needle upwards in the loop on your thumb, then behind the loop on your index finger. Use the needle to draw the yarn up from the ball through the loop to form a stitch.



Take your thumb out of the loop and pull the tail end to tighten the stitch on the needle. Repeat steps 1 to 3 until the desired number of stitches is cast on.

Making a Knit Stitch:



The needle with the stitches is in your left hand, the first stitch near the tip. With the empty needle in your right hand, wrap the yarn around your fingers as shown.



Insert the right needle from front to back into the first stitch on the left needle. Keep the right needle under the left needle and the yarn at the back.

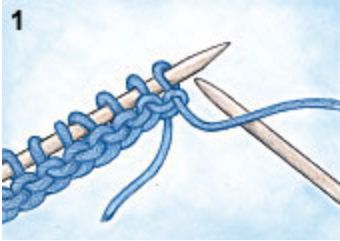


Bring the yarn under and over the right needle, and pull it gently between the two needles. Use your right index finger to manipulate the yarn.

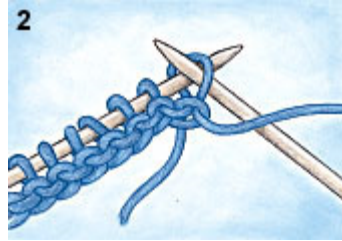


With the right needle, catch the yarn and pull it through the stitch on the left needle. Slip the stitch off the left needle, leaving the new stitch on the right. Repeat steps 2 to 4 until all the new stitches are on the right needle.

Making a Purl Stitch:



Hold the needle with the stitches in your left hand and the empty needle in your right hand. For the purl stitch, the yarn is held to the front of the work.



Insert the right needle from back to front into the first stitch. The right needle is in front of the left needle, and the yarn is at the front of your work.



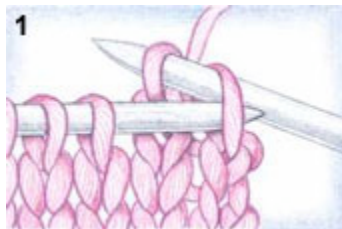
With your right index finger, wrap the yarn counter-clockwise around the right needle in a downward direction as shown.



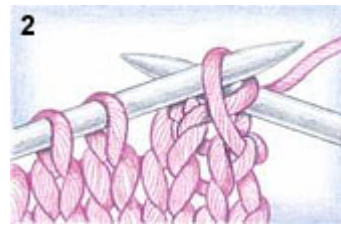
Draw the right needle and yarn backwards through the stitch on the left needle, forming a loop on the right needle. Slip the stitch off the left needle. Repeat steps 2 to 4 until all the new stitches are on the right needle.

Binding Off:

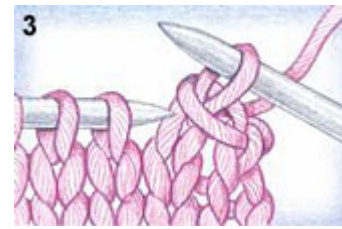
Binding off is the process of finishing off the edges of a garment to prevent it from unraveling. The most popular bind-off method for finishing knitting is: Knit two stitches. *Insert the point of the left-hand needle (LHN) into the first stitch on the right-hand needle (RHN). With the point of the LHN, pull this stitch over the second stitch on the RHN. You have completed one bind-off and one stitch remains on the RHN. Knit the next stitch. Repeat from the * until you have bound off the required number of stitches. When one stitch remains on the RHN, pull the yarn through the loop to fasten off.



Knit two stitches. *Insert the left-hand (LH) needle into the first stitch on the right needle.



Pull this stitch over the second stitch and off the right-hand (RH) needle.



One stitch remains on the right needle as shown. Knit the next stitch. Repeat from the * in step 1 until you have bound off the required number of stitches. When one stitch remains on RHN, pull the yarn through the loop to fasten off.

The Gauge:

Knitting gauge—the number of stitches and rows per inch—determines the size of the garment you are making. Every knitting pattern states the gauge, or “tension,” on which the sizing is based. For successful results, it is essential to test your knitting against this measurement before you start a project. Make a test swatch at least 4”/10cm square, using the yarn and needle size called for in the pattern. Then measure your swatch using a ruler or knit gauge tool. If the number of stitches and rows do not match the pattern’s gauge, you must change your needle size. An easy rule to follow is: TO GET FEWER STITCHES TO THE INCH/CM, USE A LARGER NEEDLE; TO GET MORE STITCHES TO THE INCH/CM, USE A SMALLER NEEDLE. Try different needle sizes until you get the proper gauge.