



# Knit Wits

Monthly Newsletter



## From the Owners

We hope that you were able to experience all the joy, hope, and love that the Christmas season brings! As we begin the New Year, we are eager to begin our class schedules and the Breakfast Club. We look forward to beginning this new year with you!

## A Fun Activity

J.J.'s Knitting Knook has very exciting opportunities to help host different group activities, and we are eager to help with the planning. A "group" should consist of at least 4 people and no more than 12. With each activity, we will supply all materials, patterns, and use of needles. Some great ideas are:

- Birth Party: We provide the decorations and even a knitting lesson to those attending!
- Blanket Bash: Have your group knit a granny-square style blanket for a special event. For example, you can create a unique baby shower gift for someone very special. We will provide assistance with putting the finished project together.
- Group Gathering: Host your group of friends and family for the evening, and enjoy a hot beverage while you visit.
- Church Activities: Host church and youth group activities. Learn to knit while making a project together to donate to a special cause.

These activities are fun for people of all skill levels! For example, the Blanket Party baby blanket could include beginner to experienced knitters. The "host" of the group can choose the project and quality of the materials to be used.

All you need to do is schedule the special date with us. For your next special occasion contact us, we will be happy to help!

## Day at the Knook

Our featured project is a felted Market Bag! Made with your choice of wool, this bag is a perfect size for toting around all your goodies! Join us on January 19 to knit on this enjoyable project!



Featured Yarn  
In January  
Is...  
Wool

## About Wool :

- Sheep are usually shorn twice a year: in the spring and fall.
- The fiber length can be 2 to 12 inches.
- Sheep produce lanolin, which helps repel water. Finer fleeces tend to have more lanolin.
- The sheared fleece of Shetland and Icelandic sheep is so clean that they can be spun "in the grease" (i.e. without washing).

## Wool Benefits

- Wool is hygroscopic; it can absorb up to 30% of its weight in moisture while still feeling warm and dry to the skin.
- It is used for firemen's blankets and industrial fabrics because it is naturally flame-retardant.
- A constant level of moisture keeps wool from conducting static electricity and reduces static cling.
- Wool is very resilient. It can stretch for 1/3 of its length, or 2/3 when wet, and will return to original shape. No man-made fiber has been able to capture all of these properties.

## Wool Fiber

- Most commercial wools are a blend of fibers. However, you can find some 100% specific, such as Merino and Icelandic.
- Most wool is purchased by fiber diameter, fiber length, and cleanliness.
- Words such as superfine, fine, and lamb's wool indicate finer and more highly valued fibers – let your hand be the guide!
- Fineness = softness
- Long fiber (staple) length = long wearing and durable
- Superwash wool is machine washable and dryable. In the 1950-60's manufacturers carbonized the scales by burning producing scratchy yarn. Now the yarn is treated with enzymes that eat away the scales, making the yarn denser and have a more lustrous appearance.

## Wool Sensitivity

If you are sensitive to wearing wool, before giving up, try these tips:

1. Wear superfine (such as Merino): thinner fiber = softness
2. Use yarn with no lanolin – most superfines have been completely processed and the lanolin has been removed
3. Wash the skein in mild soapy water (such as Unicorn Fibre Wash) before working it to remove any matter, dyestuff, spinning oil, or the soap used to clean the fleece

### Tips and Tricks

Here are some Blocking Tips:

*Cashmere:* Pin to dimension desired, spritz with water until damp, and let dry.

*Merino Wool:* With less dense work, pin, spritz, and let dry. With heavy cabling, wet garment, pin, and let dry completely.

*Alpaca:* Pin, spritz, and let dry.

*Mohair:* Pin, spritz, and let dry. Brush when dry to pull up the fibers.

*Cotton:* Pin piece to dimensions. Wet an old pillow case or sheet, place on fabric, iron until dry. Or, if you have a steam iron, float iron over the surface of the garment (without touching) forcing the steam through. Dry completely.

*Silk:* Pin, spritz, and let dry. Silk has no memory, so you should never wet block.

### Instructional Class Information

The beginning knitting and crocheting classes are starting this month. No pre-registration needed, just come to the class you are interested in! Here is a summary of what will be covered in each lesson:

#### Beginning Knitting : \$15/class or \$50/4 sessions

Beginning Knitting 1 (January 8 & 10):

Fundamentals of knitting, purling, and ribbing.

Prerequisites: none

Beginning Knitting 2 (January 15 & 17):

Fundamentals of casting on, binding off, increasing and decreasing.

Prerequisite: Beginning Knitting 1 or equivalent skills

Beginning Knitting 3 (January 22 & 24):

Fundamentals of checking your gauge, learn various stitches, and how to read patterns.

Prerequisite: Beginning Knitting 1 and 2, or equivalent skills

Beginning Knitting 4 (January 29 & 31):

Learn how to pick up stitches and finishing techniques.

Prerequisites: Beginning Knitting 1, 2, 3, or equivalent skills

#### Beginning Crochet : \$12/class or \$40/4 sessions

Beginning Crochet 1 (January 8 & 10):

Fundamentals of chaining and single crochet.

No prerequisites or experience needed

Beginning Crochet 2 (January 15 & 17):

Expand your stitch base knowledge. We will cover double, half-double, and triple crochet stitches.

Prerequisite: Beginning Crochet 1, or equivalent skills

Beginning Crochet 3 (January 22 & 24):

Learn how to read patterns.

Prerequisite: Beginning Crochet 1,2, or equivalent skills

Beginning Crochet 4 (January 29 & 31):

Come to learn some common stitch combinations (such as shells and waves) and we will also be covering finishing techniques.

Prerequisite: Beginning Crochet 1,2, or equivalent skills

### Specialty Class Information

Specialty Knitting Classes will be held each Saturday throughout the month. Each class is \$10/person.

How To Measure Beautiful You (January 5):

What fun this class will be! We will teach you how to accurately take measurements to ensure your finished garments will fit! Come prepared to have fun!

A notebook will be provided to you.

How To Alter Patterns (January 12):

In this class, you will learn how to alter the pattern(s) that you love to fit your body, or the body of the loved one for whom you are making a garment. This is information you can't do without!

Finishing Techniques (January 19):

Not sure on how to finish up your garment? This class is for you! We will go over techniques such as finishing a hat with double pointed needles, review the best way to sew up seams, and much more. Feel free to bring the project that you are working to finish!

Conquering Cables (January 26):

Daunted by those beautiful curved and twisted stitches? After this class, you will fear no more! Come learn a variety of stitch patterns that will create beautiful work!

### Product Spotlight

The Gauge Wizard™ from Knitting Software is a perfect ruler to make checking your gauge effortless. It has a built in magnifier that makes your stitches easy to see and count. Simply press the ruler on your knitted swatch, and count your magnified stitches over a 4" segment. (\$6.50)



“Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all who hope in the Lord.” Psalm 31:24