

Curriculum & Materials for Beginner Knitting Classes

(6 weeks)

Class Objectives:

Learn basic knitting techniques. Make simple projects to practice techniques.

Materials Needed:

Materials needed for each lesson are listed below. Students should bring the required materials to each class.

Lesson Plans:

Week 1

Discussion of materials list for all classes. Discussion of needle sizes, stitch sizes & types of yarn (weight, texture). Discussion of American style knitting vs. Continental style. Learn slip knots, casting-on, knit stitch, joining new ball of yarn. Practice knit stitch. Begin knit-stitch scarf. Discuss materials needed for Week 2.

Materials Needed: #10, 14” Knitting needles (your choice of metal, wood or plastic), 2 skeins worsted-weight yarn (i.e. Red Heart Super Saver or Caron Perfect Match)

It should be a smooth yarn, **not textured**, and can be any color that isn't too dark (**no black or navy blue**, for example).

Handouts: List of yarn stores in the Santa Monica area, Class Curriculum & Materials.

Homework: Finish knitting knit-stitch scarf.

Week 2

Learn casting-off and finishing. Learn fringe application & knotting. Learn purl stitch & stockinette stitch. Discuss mistakes: dropped stitch, added stitches, inconsistent stitches, etc. Practice purl stitch. Begin stockinette-stitch scarf or add stockinette stitch to work in progress.

Materials Needed: Metal yarn needle, #H or #I crochet hook, scissors, #10, 14” knitting needles, 2 skeins worsted weight yarn, cardboard for making fringe (supplied by teacher).

Homework: Finish stockinette-stitch scarf.

Week 3

Learn how to read stitch patterns. Learn basic patterns: ribbing, checkerboard, basket weave, ladder stitch, moss and others. Practice following pattern stitch instructions. Begin pattern stitch sampler or pattern stitch sampler scarf. Learn about blocking.

Discuss next week's project & materials needed. (See options listed below.)

Materials Needed: #10, 14” knitting needle, 1-2 skeins worsted weight yarn.

Handout: Blocking Instructions. Instructions for some Simple Knitted Pattern Stitches.

Homework: Work on pattern stitch sampler or pattern stitch sampler scarf.

Week 4

Discuss any questions regarding pattern sampler and continue working on it. Continue discussion of mistake correction. Choose remaining projects & discuss materials needed. (See below.)

Homework: Finish pattern sampler/scarf and work on new project chosen.

Weeks 4 through 6 - Choose from the following lesson possibilities (to be discussed and agreed upon by entire class):

Option 1

Learn about working with textured yarns. Practice knitting with assorted yarns. Begin textured yarn scarf . Discuss effect of different needle sizes.

Materials Needed: Appropriate size knitting needles, assorted textured yarns.

Homework: Knit textured-yarn scarf.

Option 2

Begin knitting pig. Begin to learn shaping and learn to decrease. Learn to cast on in the middle of a project. Practice reading a pattern.

Materials Needed: #10, 14” knitting needles, 1 skein Lion Brand Jiffy yarn.

Handout: Pig pattern.

Homework: Finish knitting pig.

If making pig, continue following week....

Learn to sew and stuff pig, complete pig.

Materials Needed: yarn needle, ½ bag of polyester fiberfill stuffing material.

Option 3

Begin knitting hat on straight needles. Begin to learn shaping and learn to decrease. Practice reading a pattern.

Materials Needed: #10, 14” knitting needles, 1 skein worsted weight yarn.

Handout: Hat pattern for straight needles.

Homework: Finish knitting hat.

If making straight-needle hat, continue following week....

Learn to sew hat.

Materials Needed: yarn needle.

Option 4

Combine ribbing & stockinette stitch to make handwarmers. Practice reading a pattern.

Materials Needed: #10, 14” knitting needles, 1 skein worsted weight yarn.

Handout: Handwarmer pattern.

Homework: Finish knitting handwarmers.

If making handwarmers, continue following week....

Learn to sew handwarmers.

Materials Needed: yarn needle.

Option 5, (For advanced students):

Begin knitting hat on circular needles. Learn to use circular needles.

Materials needed: #10, 16" circular needle, 5 #10 double-pointed needles, 1 skein worsted weight yarn.

Handout: Circular-needle hat pattern.

Homework: Finish knitting circular-needle hat.

If making circular-needle hat, continue following week....

Learn to end off hat.

Materials Needed: yarn needle.

Option 6, (For advanced students):

Make a simple, felted purse. Learn basic felting technique. Learn to cast-off and cast-on in the middle of a row.

Materials needed: #10, 14" needles, 2 skeins thick, "feltable" yarn (To be "feltable", yarn must have a high wool content so it will shrink when washed in hot water. A couple of suggested yarns found at Joann's are: *Landscapes* or *Sensations Bellissimo*).

Handout: Felted purse pattern.

Homework: Finish knitting purse and do felting.

If making felted purse, continue following week....

Learn to sew purse.

Materials Needed: yarn needle.