

Knitting Supplies for Beginners

One of the reasons knitting is such a great hobby is that the start-up costs are very low. To learn, all you need is yarn and a pair of knitting needles.

Knitting Needles

- Start with a medium sized, straight needle: US 7(4.5 mm) or US 8 (5.0 mm). These are the most comfortable to use when you are a beginner
- Knitting needles can be made of different materials. Here are the pros and cons:

Type of Needle	Pros	Cons
Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light weight• Inexpensive• Often found at the dollar stores	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yarn doesn't slide as smoothly on plastic• Acrylic yarn "squeaks" on plastic needles
Metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inexpensive• Often found at dollar stores• Yarn glides on metal easily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can feel heavy after extended use• Can be too slippery and stitches may fall off
Bamboo/Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer a nice tension (not too slippery, not too sticky)• Light weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More expensive than metal and plastic• Not available at dollar stores (yet)

- Note that all three options can be purchased at Michaels Craft Stores (which offer 40% off coupons in the newspaper and online almost every week)

Yarn

Yarn can range drastically in price. Synthetic yarns (like acrylic) are the cheapest. Natural fibres (like wool, alpaca, mohair, possum, etc...) are more expensive. I have seen skeins of yarn that are \$30 each!

As a beginner, I suggest trying out a synthetic yarn in a WORSTED weight. Worsted yarns are a medium weight yarn. Use this cheaper yarn to practice your stitches and learn the basics. When you are ready to move onto a garment or accessory, then you can experiment with finer yarns.

Suggested Beginners Yarns (many are available at Michaels or discount department stores – all are under \$5 each)

- Impeccable by Loops and Threads
- Red Heart Super Saver
- Vanna's Choice
- Paton's Canadiana