

A Yarn Hoarder's
Guide to Organization:

Knitting Storage Solutions,

Simple Knitting Patterns
+ More!



ALLFREEKNITTING 

A Yarn Hoarder's Guide to Organization: Knitting Storage Solutions, Simple Knitting Patterns + More!

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Letter from the Editors

Dear Knitters,

There's no big secret to becoming organized— it's all in the planning. The process begins with going through what you have, getting rid of what you don't need, and holding off on buying anything new until you use up what's left or your remaining stash. Of course, there are tips and tricks for storing yarn and knitting notions that make the journey to organization as painless as possible. With our latest eBook, *A Yarn Hoarder's Guide to Organization: Knitting Storage Solutions, Simple Knitting Patterns + More!*, you'll discover a list of helpful storage tips, useful tips for beginner knitters and a collection of simple knitting patterns that will help you get the most out of your yarn stash.

For more free knitting patterns, videos and tips, visit www.AllFreeKnitting.com.

Happy Knitting,

The Editors of AllFreeKnitting

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Knitting Tips and Tricks

29 Tips for Avoiding Pain

Compiled by Caitlin Eaton, Editor for AllFreeKnitting

Enjoy 29 reader-submitted tips for avoiding joint pain while knitting. From taking regular breaks, stretching and using muscle-relaxing creams, you'll find out all the best tips from the experts: real knitters like you and me.



1. Make sure that you take frequent breaks! - Diana K.
2. Don't rest your arms on a surface, like a table top or the arms of a chair; this puts pressure on the nerves in your arms. - Ann B.
3. When you get to the end of a row of a bigger project, rotate your wrists once counter clockwise and once clockwise. If it is a smaller project, do the same thing after 5 rows. - Becky C.
4. Make sure you take breaks, support your arms and use a hand brace.
5. Keep your back straight and your shoulders down. - Brianna
6. I wear a wrist brace at night to guarantee a pain-free day of knitting when I wake up. - Robin
7. I squeeze and release a small rubber ball a few times to relax and ease the tension in my hands and fingers. - Anna Marie G.
8. Stretch, stretch, stretch. Hold arm straight forward, palm down, pull fingers of hand up and back gently with opposite hand. Repeat with other arm. Then palm up, push hand/arm down and back gently and repeat with other arm. Also make sure to get up and get the blood flowing in your legs and buttocks! Do some stretches while standing. And don't forget to drink plenty of water. Keep hydrated. - Kay
9. Take a break every 30-45 minutes and do some hand/wrist stretches. - Cynthia W.
10. Drape a warm rice bag/heating pad around your neck and shoulders. This relieves tension build up. - Helen
11. Avoid painful fingertips by using flexible thimbles on each index finger while knitting. - Jeannie M.
12. Flex your fingers every so often and make sure to put your knitting down for a few minutes. Make sure your elbows are supported to avoid pain

Take stretching breaks for your fingers, wrists and arms. - Linda R.

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- or too much muscle tension. Free movement of your arms, I think, is crucial. - B.J.M.
13. Keep hands nimble by using a squeeze toy, like a can of very thick putty. - Wil B.
 14. Shake your hands out to loosen them up after knitting awhile. - Jessica K.
 15. Put a pillow or throw on my lap when I settle in for a long knitting session. - Mariann F.
 16. As soon as you feel a tingling in your arms, stop and do something else for a few minutes - change the clothes in the washer to the dryer or do any chore that only takes a few minutes. - Mary T.
 17. Stretch your fingers with a rubber band (fingertips together, rubber band around the outside and push against the band by opening up your hand). - Jennie
 18. Set a timer for every hour and make sure to get up, stretch, get a drink or take a bathroom break! - Becky R.
 19. Support your arms on a pillow to relieve any pull or strain in your shoulders. - Joyce D.
 20. Change the way you hold your needles to reduce tension. For example, avoid knitting with long needles; they can be too heavy and can cause more stress on the hands. If your project requires longer needles, make sure they are interchangeable ones. If you have a lot of stress in your hands, try switching to the Continental knitting method; this is proven to be easier on the hands. Lastly, alter the way you hold your yarn. For knitting: I call my hold the hook / chop stick method. My right hand looks like I am holding a crochet hook in the underhanded position, and my left looks like I am holding chopsticks with the yarn as the top stick and the needle as the bottom stick. For crochet, same thing, except the left hand has the yarn as the top stick and I hold the work in the bottom stick position. - Jessica N.
 21. Cut off the tips of a pair of battery-operated warming gloves and wear them as crafters gloves while knitting to reduce pain. - Merri Orgeman
 22. Work in an area that is warm. Lots of folks have craft areas set up in basements or garages that don't have sufficient heating. Being cold just makes your muscles tense up that much more as you work. - KittenWithAWhiplash
 23. Wear fingerless craft gloves that have a good, supporting wrist band while you're doing your handwork. If your fingers numb or your wrists hurt, use your fave pain relief cream and rub it on your wrists. - Ritainalaska

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24. Before knitting, and as often as you feel necessary, put your fingertips together and push them against each other, as if a spider is doing pushups on a mirror. Also rotate wrists often to loosen them up. Having a comfortable place to rest your arms is also important as well as making sure you maintain good posture. - Beverlee C.
25. Comfortable chair, good lighting, frequent breaks to stretch shoulders, neck, arms and fingers and wooden needles! - Lynda B.
26. Two things that have helped me: concentrating on learning to crochet/knit in a more relaxed way (not keeping tension in my hands and arms and paying attention to position), and using a proper chair that supports my back, neck and arms.- Nancy
27. Do daily exercises using rubber putty and a tension band. - Lena C.
28. I use Voltaren rub. - Diane
29. Tiger Balm muscle rub is very nice to use on your sore spots, even Bengay helps! Also, those Ace wraps for wrists work well. - Joann

22 Tips for Blocking Knitting

Compiled by Caitlin Eaton, Editor for AllFreeKnitting

Learn how to block knitted projects like a pro with this collection of reader-submitted tips. Once the blocking process is complete, you'll have a perfectly shaped garment that lays flat in all the right places.



1. When blocking do not iron. Just press the iron on the piece and be sure to let it cool down before removing from ironing board. - Mary S.
2. I usually soak the item in cool water. Then roll it in a towel to remove excess water. Lay another dry towel on my spare room bed and lay the knit item out onto towel, making sure all edges are flat and even. Then I turn on the ceiling fan and it's amazing how quickly it dries! - Pamela
3. Make sure your spray bottle is easy to squeeze! Learn from my mistake and arthritic hand. – Dawn
4. My mother taught me to soak the item in warm water, pat it down and lay it flat on a dry towel. Then place dressmaker pins in critical areas such as shoulders, neckline and sleeves. Place the towel on a flat surface and allow to air dry. - Barb
5. I like to block cotton dishcloths on thick towels after I have pick out the stitch definitions in the designs. I think the designs pop more than letting them dry on a blocking mat. - Knittingdancer
6. Remember the gauge you knit the item to and don't stretch beyond that gauge when you block the item. - Patricia M.
7. I lay the item flat on a towel and use a spray bottle of water and spray it until it's damp. Then shape the item and let it dry. - Lori L.
8. I've only ever blocked crocheted doilies and snowflakes (cotton thread). I soak the doilies until thoroughly wet, pat it with a towel to remove excess water and use a lot of pins. For snowflakes, which need a bit of stiffening, I use a mixture of starch and water. It's also helpful to have a blocking board with radiating lines so the item is stretched evenly. My mother always used a ceiling tile either covered with an old towel or plastic wrap (so the items aren't touching the tile directly). – Carmen

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9. I bought these great foamy interlocking play mats for the kids years ago and I ended up stealing them. The interlocking blocks are great, because I can move a piece and even set it on its side if I need to for a short time. In addition to the pads, I would not be able to do anything without my stretching rods. They work so well to stretch a piece uniformly at the edges and prevent "pin puckers". - Jessica N.
10. I use a sugar water mix of 4 parts sugar and 1 part water, and boil that until it's clear. Allow it to cool. Dip doilies in the mixture, making sure that they're soaked through. Squeeze well and then pin the doilies on a piece of thick Styrofoam covered in heavy plastic. Let dry. - Terry S.
11. I use blocking wires for lace shawls; they really quicken up the process! - Susan
12. I use rust-proof welding rods as blocking wires and slide them through the edge stitches. After my wet item is spread out on a sewing cutting board covered with a vinyl tablecloth, I pin between the wire and knitting every 2-3 inches and allow it to dry. - Pat
13. Make sure the item you are blocking is damp, but not soaking wet. - Susan
14. I wet the item and lay flat on a towel. Sometimes I pin the edges to a towel. Iron if needed. - Anne
15. All of my items at least get lightly blocked by being washed and laid out to dry. I think it makes the project look a lot better. Lacy items and clothes are sprayed with a water bottle, and laid out on a huge cardboard box I have and pinned into shape and left to dry. - Mary K.
16. Since I live in FL, I just wet my finished pieces, roll in a towel and lay on a flat surface in my outdoor laundry room until dry. I do measure to make sure that it is correct in length and width, etc. - Joan S.
17. I love the set of 8 interlocking foam floor mats I purchased from Costco for \$20. I can configure them any way I want for blocking different items – i.e. all in a row for a stole or scarf, 4 in a square for a sweater, or even all 8 in a large square for a big shawl. With my mats, blocking wires and T-pins, I'm ready for anything! - Mary B.
18. I wet the item slightly, lay flat with another towel on top then place a book on top. - Mary M.
19. I'm a spinner, so to block my yarn after it's spun, I soak it in warm water then sling it around in the air to release excess water, then I hang the skein from a clothes hanger from my paddle fan on the porch (Hey you didn't specify what you were blocking). - Evelyn R.
20. Take damp cotton material (must be cotton), like a piece of a bed sheet, wet it, squeeze out excess water and lay it on top of your item and then iron. It takes every wrinkle out and makes it look like new. If it's a crocheted item, I take thick towels and/or batting and lay it on the iron board, dampen crocheted item, lightly starch then use non-rust T-pins and pin crocheted item where needed to put it back into its original shape. Then lightly spray starch again if needed. - Lynn G.

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21. I've only done a few items that required blocking. I dampened the item, and with a towel on top to absorb any excess water, I pin it to the correct shape. - Jeanette

22. To block, I first wash the item in cold water with a gentle detergent. I then

blot out the excess water with a towel and take another towel out and lay that out on the top of my washer. Then I lay the item out flat without stretching it. Sometimes to make sure the edges don't roll, I will pin to the towel. - Anne

Knitting on a Plane: Tips & Tricks

By Laura Zander from [Jimmy Beans Wool](#)

Are you planning on flying to be with family this holiday season? If you're anything like me, chances are you're still not done knitting up those last-minute gifts, which means knitting on a plane is a must. Thanks to Laura Zander from Jimmy Beans Wool, us knitters-on-the-go will get some thrifty tips and tricks from this article. Read on for Laura's great ideas!



1. Forgot your point protector? Use the cork from last night's bottle of Merlot!
2. Need a handy container for your DPNs? I like to use a traveling toothbrush holder! I find the ones with the smallest drainage hole, and you can find them for little money at most places (Just double check for length!). You can toss the container in you knitting basket/bag when not in use and they come in many colors if you have multiple sets (like a lot of us have!)
3. Scissors are no longer allowed, even my tiny ones, so I just take dental floss for cutting yarn.
4. Last year I left home without my cable needle! Doh! I used a pen to hold the stitches and it worked great!

Knitting 101: Weaving in Ends

By Laura Zander from [Jimmy Beans Wool](#)

We all know weaving in ends can be tedious, but it's such an important step to take if you want your work to last. In this easy tutorial, Laura Zander of, offers great advice for weaving in ends of a knitted project the correct way, so you'll be able to enjoy your creation for years to come!

Weaving in Ends: Knitting 101

1. Cut the end to about 6" long. This will give you enough yarn to work with so it doesn't want to slip out of the eye of the needle, but you won't have to pull a huge length of yarn through each stitch, either.
2. Thread the eye of your needle.
3. On the inside of your piece (usually the 'wrong' side -- the idea is that you're stitching on the side people can't see!) starting with the stitch closest to the yarn end you're working with, push the needle under three or four stitches going up the rows. The trick here is that you only want to stitch through the top stitches so that it won't show on the public side of your garment. Pull the yarn through so that it is taut, but not tight enough to pucker your piece.
4. Move one stitch to the side and slide your needle under three to four more stitches going down the rows (you should now have made a yarn U-turn), pull taut.
5. Repeat once more, going up the rows so you should have made an 'S' shape with your stitches. The more times you change directions when weaving in your ends, the less likely your ends will be to unravel with wear.
6. Carefully cut the rest of the end off close to your garment. You might have a tiny tail that still sticks out a bit, but over time the fibers will 'felt' into the surrounding stitches.

Winding a Center Pull Ball of Yarn

By Laura Zander from [Jimmy Beans Wool](#)

Winding your own ball of yarn can be challenging; if you don't do it correctly it can easily become a pile of knots. Laura Zander from Jimmy Beans Wool shares her tips for winding yarn properly. Learn how to wind a center pull ball of yarn in this free knitting tutorial.

Winding a Center Pull Ball of Yarn:

More often than not, it's the end of the day when I decide on a project and I don't have time to wind the yarn at the store. Here is a great way to wind your yarn into a center pull ball!

1. Uncoil your hank of yarn and hang it over a dining room chair.

2. Find the end of the hank and drape it over your index finger.

3. Using the yarn from the hank, create figure-8s around your index and middle fingers.

4. Continue wrapping the yarn in figure-8s around those 2 fingers - and be careful not to cross the yarn over the original end of the hank.

5. Once you've created a good sized core of figure-8s, you can start to wind the yarn around that core.

6. Now that you've wound the entire hank around the core, tuck in the end and you've got a center pull ball!

So, grab a fresh hank of yarn and give it a shot - you never know when you'll need to wind it yourself!!

Knitting Storage Solutions

61 Ways to Store Knitting Needles

Compiled by Caitlin Eaton, Editor for AllFreeKnitting

Below you will find 61 reader-submitted tips for knitting needle storage. We know that organizing a craft room can be a daunting task, so we hope that these tips will give you a little direction. From old paint cans to empty pretzel containers, you'd be surprised how many inexpensive (and practical) ways there are to organize your knitting needles, whether they're straight, circular or double-pointed needles.



1. I have an old paint can full of my knitting needles. - Joanna W.
2. I use mostly circular needles. I have three sets: Boye interchangeables, Denise interchangeables and bamboo needles. Two I keep in their original cases and the third set I keep in a case made especially made for circular needles where each size needle has its own pocket. I also put spare circs in this case. It just rolls up and ties for easy transport, like a jewelry travel case. - Kay H.
3. I keep my straight needles in fabric needle rolls. I have complete sets of Harmony needles, bamboo needles and metal needles, all in their own "homes". DPN's (double-pointed needles) are kept in their original packages. My four sets of interchangeable needles are kept in their original packages as well. I guess I'm a needle collector! - Suzanne N.
4. I have a quilted duffel bag where I keep some of my yarn. On each end is a huge pocket, so I keep the 16", 24" & 29" circular needles in one and my 32" & 40" circular needles in the other. All my straight bamboo needles I keep in a quilted roll up holder. - Pamela R.
5. I store my DPNs in empty Crystal Light containers. They're the perfect size! - Diana K.
6. I have two hanging organizers for circular needles with sewn pockets along the backing. I also have 2 needle rolls for straight needles and one for doublepoints. - Pat

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7. Sadly they are not very organized. I do have a canvas tote bag that hangs on side of my headboard with most of my needles in it! - DeAnna C.
8. I keep my crochet needles and other necessary items ready to go by sewing an envelope from scrap sewing projects. I sewed in several pockets to fit needles, measuring tape, scissors, stitch markers etc. The envelope simply rolls up and is tied with a crochet ribbon I made from scrap yarn. I often take my current projects with me when traveling, so having my needle envelope ready to go, I always have what I need at home or on the road. - Bonnie
9. I keep my knitting needles, as well as crochet needles, in a duffle bag with handles. - Jacqueline Q.
10. I keep cookie tins (the ones that Sam's Club sells with cookies in packs of four containing shortbread cookies!) and pringle cans. The tins are different colors, have pretty designs on them, and most needles fit nicely inside. They're easy to keep track of and fit nicely under a dresser. - Jolan D.
11. I keep my crochet needles in a crystal lite container. It holds about 20 needles. - Anna G.
12. I use two-gallon Ziplock storage bags. All needles of one size fit in one bag, circular, straight and Double points. I just mark the bag with the size, stack them on a shelf and there they are. If you're working on a project, the yarn and pattern usually fit inside this bag too. - Mary S.
13. I use the decorated cardboard wine bottle tubes from craft stores. I also use plastic page protectors marked with the needle size and cord length (for circular needles) and put all pages in a notebook. - Judy W.
14. I have a large vase and a painted terra cotta pot on my shelf. The knitting needles are in my vase and the crochet hooks in the smaller flower pot. - BearyAnn
15. I store knitting needles in cardboard tubes from paper towel rolls on a shelf with knitting supplies. I can easily see numbers on the ends of the needles. I store crochet hooks in a sewing box given to me for high school graduation in 1964! - Marilyn M.
16. I have a large spool rack that I hang on the wall and I've labeled the pegs with the size and length of my circular needles. - Judi
17. Most of my crochet hooks/knitting needles can be found a box that a pipe that my husband received as a gift. - Nancy

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18. I use mainly circular needles, so I have them in zipper style plastic bags. I have one size in each bag, and the bag labeled with the size.
19. I have wine gift boxes (the rectangular ones work best) without the lids, stacked inside a cabinet. The open ends face out. I can see the needle sizes quickly. I store them by category: small sizes, medium sizes, large sizes, special types (hairpin lace loom, etc.) This way, I'm not searching through all of my needles every time. - Maxine J.
20. I have one of those crochet hook cases with individual space for each hook. Now since I just started knitting I haven't gotten them straighten out. - Cindy
21. My best friend made me a cloth crochet hook holder; love it! Now I can find the size I need at a glance. - Nancy B.
22. I own a lot of needles! My crochet hooks are organized in zippered leather organizers that I purchased at Jo-Ann's. One set carries all the finer steel hooks for delicate crochet work such as doilies. The other has the larger hooks for crocheting with yarn. My knitting needles are stored also by categories; the delicate sizes 0000 to 6 are stored in a firm organizer so there is less threat of breakage or damage, the sizes 7 through 17 are also separated by length-the 14 inches in a rolled storage pouch I created from prequilted fabric, the shorter versions of those sizes I keep in a pouch I received as a free gift from purchasing *Simply Knitting* magazine. I keep all my vintage steel pin double points in a cardboard tube I got in the mail from a needle order. - Marybeth P.
23. I keep my interchangeable needles in their original cases. I keep my bamboo straight knitting needles in a fabric tri-fold needle case. I keep my aluminum straight needles in a tapestry tri-fold needle case. I keep my fixed circulars on a hanging needle case inside a closet door. I only have a couple of crochet hooks and I keep them in my knitting bag pouch will all my other small accessories. - Knittingdancer
24. For my double points I use the cloth roll up holders that artists use for their paint brushes. Each needle set has its own slot. For rest I use a tool boy with a handle. It makes it really easy to take everything when we travel. - Maryswen
25. I just keep them in the package they came in (that helps me know what size) and then put them in a knit little container I made from playing cards. - Sharon

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26. I bought a modular plastic drawer that can be hooked in a unit that I keep my straight needles in. For my circular ones I keep them on the plastic sleeve with the size tag so I know which ones I have quickly.
27. I have clear plastic tackle box style storage boxes that I need mine in. all neatly stacked in the closet. But of course the ones I'm using are all over the place, need to get my WIPs organized next. - Naomi H.
28. I use a cd-case (meant for cars)it holds all my tips and cables in each pocket and zips and snaps close, very handy. For my accessories I use a little makeup bag that nail polish was sold in. It is black and clear vinyl and zips closed. - Brenda
29. Most of my knitting needles are in a cloth rollup holder with pockets for each set of needles. - Diana
30. In pretty vases, they come in different shape and sizes. Great for knitting needles, crochet hooks, and other sewing supplies. - Judy T.
31. I have a zippered crochet hook case with individual pockets that keep them organized and protected. I use one of the pockets to store a yarn needle to weave in the ends. I also store my stitch counter, a pair of folding scissors, and a six inch ruler inside. I attach several different sized safety pins to the zipper pull tab to use as stitch markers. Whenever I want to grab a project to take with me, I just grab yarn and the case. Everything I need to finish the project is inside. - Sandra C.
32. You know those pretty cardboard containers for putting wine bottles in when you're giving a gift? They make an awesome home for straight needles. I can sort by types (bamboo, wood, etc.) or by size. You can also put the needles in the fabric rolls and put them inside the container. Since my knitting tends to be all over the house, having something decorative to stash the needles in is a triumph of form over function! - Deb B.
33. I keep my needles in a mason jar my daughter decorated with tissue paper and glue. - Jennifer
34. I bought a small tool box that I keep my supplies in-my dpn's are kept together with a rubber band, the finer ones I keep in a sock holding tube. The longer needles are in a cardboard container. - Karen
35. An old cigarette case is the perfect container for crochet needles. The little pouch on the outside for the lighter holds my scissors for easy access. Making lemonade out of lemons—smoke free now, but still useful. - Marsha
36. I keep my straights, rubber banded by size, in a small plastic trash can with a lid. It keeps the dust off of them if I don't use them often (like the pair of 000's I have!). My custom made needles (made by my woodworking brother) are in a very tall pewter water pitcher I got at a yard sale. It is heavy enough to handle the large wooden needles. - Michelle
37. I keep mine in a Longaberger ice bucket in the packages. - Debbie

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38. I keep all of my crochet hooks and knitting needles in a clear plastic zipper bag. - Carolyn M.
39. and for my knitting needles, the long ones I put in a wine bottle holder and the dpn ones I keep in a crystal light container! - Patricia M.
40. My mother-in-law gave me a beautiful quilted bag that has several pockets on the inside. I keep my needles, crochet hooks, measuring tape, and scissors in separate pockets. I use circular needles the most and only have one set of straight needles. Those rest nicely on the bottom of the bag. It is a really wonderful gift that has served me perfectly well! - Kerri A.
41. A friend gave me a cloth folder with ribbon handles. In the center are many stitched plastic bags, varying sizes, openings out. You can write sizes on the plastic bags. I sort by size, straight & curved. The folder closes with a couple of 1" velcro tabs. - Anne W.
42. I keep my straight needles in a pretty vase on top of my bookcase and the circulars in a small decorative bin next to the vase. It's functional and decorative at the same time! - Michelle
43. I use several old eyeglass cases—both "closed" and open varieties to keep my hooks together. The long afghan hooks are kept separately in a drawer in my yarn cabinet. - Marge
44. I keep my straight needles (the ones that are not involved in an unfinished project) in an 8" bud vase. My circular needles are threaded through a door handle on a cupboard in my craft room and my dps are kept in the pocket of my knitting bag. I will have to improve on this situation if I get any more needles though. - B.J.M.
45. I keep my straight needles in a tall plastic jar. My Denise interchangeable stay in their case, and my double points stay in a tin can with my crochet hooks. The can had cookies in it and it has a screw on lid. For now this works, but I know it is not ideal! - Fran
46. I store my knitting needles in small decorative gift bags. One for circular needles and one for DPNs. Long paired needles are stored in a wine gift box and crochet hooks in a smaller round box. - Linda
47. Crochet hooks in a veggie can – loom picks in a coin purse, and my yarn needles (tapestry size) in a clear baby's drink cup with styrofoam in the bottom! Sewing needles in the packaging they came in – or a pin cushion. I need them all at hand so they sit on the coffee table. - Jennifer T.
48. I use a recycled travel toiletry organizer with clear pouches. Great for organizing my crochet and knitting needles and my scrap yarn. - Rosa R.

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49. I keep my gold plated needles in a felt lined case, my whale bone in quilted roll up cases, Tunisian hooks in quilted roll up cases, and my regular Boye hooks in their original zippered cases. My steel hooks are also in a protective case. All my needle cases stay in a large bin along with my crochet cotton until I need them. - Dorothy V.
50. I keep my needles in a notebook with elastic loops to hold each size. I got the idea to use it when I was doing ceramics, as I had bought a for of these same notebooks to hold my brushes and tools. - Sandy
51. For my knitting needles, I keep them in a floral silverware organizer designed to hold knives, forks and spoons. It holds them all upright and I can see at a glance what size they are. For my crochet hooks, I either keep them in a zippered crochet hook organizer or my project bag that I am working on, because you never know what size you might want to try next. - Cindy V.
52. I keep all my hooks in a metal candy tin. I keep some of my needles in a zippered pencil pouched the long ones in a plastic storage box. - Dove H.
53. My sister gave me cards in a decorated pail – I converted the pail to hold my needles. Makes for a quick grab. - Teresa
54. My hooks/needles are kept in a recycled pickle jar on the bottom shelf of the table by my chair. - Sarah
55. I keep all my knitting needles in a coffee can in my yarn closet. My circular needles are kept on a hanger in the closet! Not too organized but I know where they are at. - Wendy
56. I have my circular needles in a round tin. My knitting needles in a tin pail. My crochet hooks are in an antique pitcher. My smaller hooks are in a milk glass vase. I love the way they look. - Bethany J.
57. My knitting needles are in a two part sectioned cloth case with slots for each size that folds over and rolls up when not in use. My crochet hooks fit quite nicely in and transport very well in a large size mini M&M container (after the little m's are gone, of course) I can fit quite a few in there, all but the largest sizes. - Carol
58. I use two Bass worm binders for my knitting needles. My circs are sorted according to needle size and separated into plastic bags. My DPNs are in a smaller second worm binder, separated and labeled. Each binder has extra zippered pockets for scissors, stitch markers, cable needles etc. I just tote along whatever bag I need. - L.M.O.
59. I use my husband's emptied barrel from his pretzels and put all my knitting needles in there. I have been collecting them for years and years. All of my crochet hooks are in a plastic pencil box. It closes with a snap, I have about 75 hooks, row markers, scissors, and current pattern in it. These are the easiest to just pick up and go with! - Donna

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60. Hooks and needles are stored in a sewing box my husband found for me at a garage sale. Opens to four shallow drawers perfect for hooks and short needles and notions with a deep long storage space underneath for longer needles. When taking projects on the go, a pretty pencil case holds everything I need in my favorite quilted bag! - Cathy K.

61. I keep my needles and hooks in a wooden box that a bottle of wine came in. - Lynne

13 Tips for Yarn Stash Storage

Compiled by Caitlin Eaton, Editor for AllFreeKnitting

One thing that I'm confident knitters would agree on is this: we love to buy yarn. After buying the yarn, the challenge is figuring out how to neatly store your fiber without it taking over your home. With these reader-submitted tips, together we'll learn how to neatly store yarn when it's not in use.



Photo credit: Adrienne Champagne

1. I have the cube storage system with the canvas totes that are 1 foot square. On each tote I have a post-it note with the weight of the yarn inside as well as samples of the yard attached to the handle of the tote. I can always find exactly what I am looking for, and it's easy to change once I have used that yarn up. My patterns are in 3 ring binders in plastic page protectors and organized into baby, children, adult and then into things like scarves, gloves, shawls etc. - Adrienne C.
2. Get a grip on your yarn stash and try out some of these awesome tips for yarn stash storage below. Learn how to keep current projects organized and accessible, and how to make your yarn collection as neat and tidy as a yarn shop display.
3. Keep your yarn organized by storing it in big scrap booking boxes.
4. Use the nylon mesh netting that onions come in to store yarn.
5. Stash your yarn in clear labeled totes, separated by color. Contrasting colors can go together, e.g., yellows and browns in one tote, black and reds in one, blues and pinks in another, etc).
6. Use plastic bags to group together similar color yarn and store them in large, 35-gallon totes (like Rubbermaid). Keep any leftover yarn or scraps together in another tote, to be used for a future projects or repairs.
7. Keep current projects organized by storing them in separate mesh bags (or produce bags) inside a larger basket.
8. Sort by yarn type (wool, sock, cotton, etc.) and then place them in clear vacuum-sealed bags.

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9. To stay organized without sacrificing style, try keeping yarn stored in a woven basket. For smaller supplies and books, use a wooden keepsake box.
10. Keep WIPs (works in progress) in reusable grocery totes for easy access.
11. If any of your stash yarn was bought for a specific project, staple a hard copy of the pattern onto the yarn label. This way, you'll remember why you bought the yarn.
12. Clear plastic salad boxes are great for storing yarn - they stack well, are transparent, and can easily fit underneath the bed.
13. Decorative hat boxes, hanging sweater organizers and canvas bags are also great for storing yarn. For works in progress, use the clear plastic casing from a comforter to keep them in order and handy.

Simple Knitting Patterns

Yarn Stash Purse

By: Lisa Gentry for [Red Heart Yarn](#)

Choose five of your favorite colors from your yarn stash and whip up this colorful bag. Perfect for carrying everyday essentials, this charming bag is just what you need to add some color to your outfits.



Materials:

- RED HEART® Soft®: 1 ball each of:
 - 9114 Honey A, 4422 Tangerine B
 - 9344 Chocolate C, 9522 Leaf D,
 - 4608 Wine E, and 1882 Toast F
- Susan Bates® Knitting Needles: 5 mm [US 8]
- Wooden purse handles, yarn
- Needle

GAUGE: 19 sts = 4" (10 cm), 22 rows = 4" (10 cm) in fair isle pattern. CHECK YOUR GAUGE. Use any size needles to obtain the gauge.

ABBREVIATIONS

A, B, C, etc = Colors A, B, C, etc; K = knit; mm = millimeter; P = purl; st(s) = stitch(es).

Finished Size: 11¼" wide x 11¼" long (28.6 x 28.6 cm), excluding handles.

Notes:

1. Bag is worked in Stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl one row).
2. Bag is worked in one piece where cast on edge is the top of the Bag.
3. When working color design from chart and working with more than one color on a row, carry color not in use loosely across wrong side of work, picking up next color to be used under color just used to prevent holes.
4. When reading chart, read odd numbered rows (right side or knit rows), from right to left and even numbered rows (wrong side or purl rows) from left to right.

BAG

With A, cast on 109 sts.

Working in stockinette stitch (knit the odd numbered rows and purl the even numbered rows) following the Color Chart.

Repeat Rows 1-36 of Color Chart until piece measures approximately 12½" (30.5 cm) from cast on edge, ending by working a purl or wrong side row. Bind off all sts in knit, leaving a long end for sewing.

Sunday Afternoon Slippers

By Nazanin S. Fard for [Red Heart Yarn](#)

Perfect for relaxing on a Sunday afternoon, these easy to make slippers are truly a treat for your feet. Have fun personalizing them with your own knit Roses.



Materials:

- **RED HEART® With Love®:** 1 skein each of 1401 Pewter A, 1701 Hot Pink, B, 1704 Bubblegum C, and 1601 Lettuce D
- **Susan Bates® Knitting Needles:** 5.5 mm [US 9]
- Stitch markers, yarn needle

Size: Directions are for size Small; changes for size Medium and Large are in parentheses.

Finished Size: 4" (10 cm) deep x 9 (10,11)" [23 (25.5,28) cm] long

GAUGE: 15 sts = 4" (10 cm), 24 rows = 4" (10 cm) in Stockinette Stitch. CHECK YOUR GAUGE. Use any size needles to obtain the gauge.

ABBREVIATIONS

K = knit; mm = millimeter; P = purl; st(s) = stitch(es); tog = together; Yo = yarn over; () = work directions in parentheses as indicated.

Directions are for size Small; changes for size Medium and Large are in parentheses. Finished Size: 4" (10 cm) deep x 9 (10,11)" [23 (25.5,28) cm] long

Special Stitches

SSK = Slip, Slip, Knit – Slip next 2 stitches, knitwise, to right needle, insert point of left needle through the front of stitches, knit these stitches together through the back loop (1 stitch decrease).

PSSO = Pass Slipped Stitch Over – Insert the left needle into the front of the slipped stitch, passing it over the previously worked stitch and off the needle.

SLIPPER (Make 2)

With A, cast on 41 (47,55) sts.

Row 1 (Right side): Knit across.

Rows 2 and 3: Knit across.

Row 4: K 20 (23,27), place marker, K1, place marker, knit across.

Row 5: Knit across to marker, slip marker, Yo, K1, Yo, slip marker, knit across: 43 (49,57) sts.

Row 6 AND ALL WRONG SIDE ROWS: Purl across, slipping markers.

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Row 7: Knit across to marker, slip marker, Yo, K3, Yo, slip marker, knit across: 45 (51,59) sts.

Row 9: Knit across to marker, slip marker, Yo, K5, Yo, slip marker, knit across: 47 (53,61) sts.

Row 11: Knit across to marker, slip marker, Yo, K7, Yo, slip marker, knit across: 49 (55,63) sts.

Row 13: Knit across to marker, slip marker, Yo, K9, Yo, slip marker, knit across: 51 (57,65) sts.

Rows 15-23: Knit across, slipping markers. Bind off all sts in knit, leaving a long end for sewing.

FLOWER (Make 4)

With B, cast on 15 sts.

Row 1 (Right side): Knit across.

Rows 2 and 3: Knit across.

Bind off all sts in knit, leaving a long end for sewing.

FLOWER (Make 2)

With C, cast on 15 sts.

Row 1 (Right side): Knit across.

Rows 2 and 3: Knit across.

Bind off all sts in knit, leaving a long end for sewing.

LEAF (Make 2)

With D, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (Right side): Knit across.

Row 2: (K1, Yo) twice, K1: 5 sts..

Row 3 AND ALL RIGHT SIDE ROWS: Knit across.

Bind off all sts in knit, leaving a long end for sewing.

Row 4: K2, Yo, K1, Yo, K2: 7 sts.

Row 6: K3, Yo, K1, Yl, K3: 9 sts.

Row 8: SSK, K5, K2 tog: 7 sts.

Row 10: SSK, K3, K2 tog: 5 sts.

Row 12: SSK, K1, K2 tog: 3 sts.

Row 14: Slip 1 as if to knit, K2 tog, PSSO: 1 st. Fasten off, leaving a long end for sewing.

FINISHING

Thread a yarn needle with the Slipper's long end. Folding Slipper in half, with right sides together and matching stitches, sewing back and bottom seam.

Thread a yarn needle with the Flower's long end. Using photo as a guide, sew Flowers to Slipper as desired.

Thread a yarn needle with the Leaf's long end.

Using photo as a guide, sew Leaf to Slipper as desired.

Manly Man Slippers

By Nazanin S. Fard for [Red Heart Yarn](#)

Forget the frills and embellishments, these basic slippers are perfect for even the manliest of men. Designed to be snug and comfortable, you'll easily be able to whip up a pair of these this weekend!



Directions are for size Small; changes for size Medium and Large are in parentheses. Finished Size: 5" (12.5 cm) deep x 9½ (10½,11)" [24 (26.5,28 cm) long]

Special Stitches

M1 = Make 1 (Increase) – Lift strand between needles to left-hand needle and knit strand through the back loop, twisting the stitch to prevent a hole in the fabric.

SSK = Slip, Slip, Knit – Slip next 2 stitches, knitwise, to right needle, insert point of left needle through the front of stitches, knit these stitches together through the back loop (1 stitch decrease).

PSSO = Pass Slipped Stitch Over – Insert the left needle into the front of the slipped stitch, passing it over the previously worked stitch and off the needle.

SLIPPER (Make 2)

Cast on 45(51, 53) sts.

Row 1 (Right side): K22 (25, 26), place marker, K1, place marker, knit across.

Row 2 AND ALL WRONG SIDE ROWS THROUGH ROW 34: Knit across, slipping markers.

Row 3: Knit across to marker, slip marker, M1, K1, M1, slip marker, knit across: 47 (53, 55) sts.

Row 5: Knit across to marker, slip marker, M1, K3, M1, slip marker, knit across: 49 (55, 57) sts.

Row 7: Knit across to marker, slip marker, M1, K5, M1, slip marker, knit across: 51 (57, 59) sts.

Row 9: Knit across to marker, slip marker, M1, K7, M1, slip marker, knit across: 53 (59, 61) sts.

Row 11: Knit across to marker, slip marker, M1, K9, M1, slip marker, knit across: 55 (61, 63) sts.

Rows 13-21: Knit across, slipping markers.

Row 23: Knit across to marker, slip marker, SSK, K7, K2 tog, slip marker, knit across: 53 (59, 61) sts.

Row 25: Knit across to marker, slip marker, SSK, K5, K2tog, slip marker, knit across: 51 (57, 59) sts.

Row 27: Knit across to marker, slip marker, SSK, K3, K2tog, slip marker, knit across: 49 (55, 57) sts.

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Row 29: Knit across to marker, slip marker, SSK, K1, K2tog, slip marker, knit across: 47 (53, 55) sts.

Row 31: Knit across to marker, remove marker, slip 1 as if to knit, K2tog, PSSO, remove marker, knit across: 45(53, 55) sts.

Row 33: K1 (P1, K1) across.

Row 34: P1 (K1, P1) across.

Rows 35-37: Repeat Rows 33 and 34 once, then Row 33 once more.
Bind off all sts in pattern, leaving a long end for sewing.

FINISHING

Thread a yarn needle with the Slipper's long end. Folding Slipper in half, with right sides together and matching stitches, sew back and bottom seam.

The Littlest Purse Ever

By Kathy Sasser for [Red Heart Yarn](#)

Whether you're hoping to use up some scrap yarn or if you're looking a great gift to give that knitter who already has everything, these cute keychains are hard to pass up. And with four different designs to choose from, you'll be able to make one for all of your friends.



Mini Purses are 2" by 2".

Materials:

- ALL PURSES USE RED HEART® "Heart & Sole™".
 - DESIGN 1: 1 Ball 3960 Spring Stripe
 - DESIGN 2: 1 Ball 3965 Razzle Dazzle.
 - DESIGN 3: 1 Ball 3970 Faded Jeans.

- DESIGN 4: 1 Ball 3972 Black Jack.

- Knitting Needles: 2.25 mm [US 1].
- 1¼" diameter key ring.
- Yarn needle.

GAUGE: 32 sts = 4"; 44 rows = 4" in Stockinette stitch.

CHECK YOUR GAUGE. Use any size needles to obtain the gauge.

Special Abbreviations:

M1: Make 1 (inc) – Lift strand between needles to lefthand needle and work strand through the back loop, twisting it to prevent a hole, [knit or purl as indicated by pattern st].

Ssk: Slip 2 sts knitwise to right-hand needle, insert point of left-hand needle through front of sts, k2tog through loop.

DESIGN 1

RED HEART® "Heart & Sole™": 1 Ball 3960 Spring Stripe.

FRONT AND BACK (both alike)

Cast on 16 sts.

Beginning with a wrong side row, work in St st for 6 rows.

Next Row (Wrong Side): P1, M1, purl to last st, M1, p1 – 18 sts.

Next Row: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, k1 – 20 sts.

Work even in St st for 13 more rows.

Knit 2 rows.

Bind off.

STRAPS (make 2)

Cast on 35 sts.

Knit one row.

Bind off.

I-CORD

Using double-pointed needles, cast on 2 sts, *do not turn, slide sts to end of needle and k2, pulling yarn tight; repeat from * until I-Cord measures 6¼". Bind off.

FINISHING

Sew Front and Back pieces together along sides and bottom edges.
Leaving last ¼" of I-Cord to make center bud, hold beginning and end of I-Cord at center and fold remaining length into 5 loops for Flowerette and sew together.
Sew Flowerette onto Front of Purse.
Sew end of one Strap to inside ¼" from top edge and ½" from side seam. Insert key ring on Strap and sew opposite end in same manner.

Repeat to sew opposite Strap on opposite side.
Weave in ends

DESIGN 2

RED HEART® "Heart & Sole™": 1 Ball 3965
Razzle
Dazzle.

FRONT AND BACK (both alike)

Cast on 22 sts.
Beginning with a wrong side row, work in St st for 3 rows.
Next Row (Right Side): K2, ssk, knit to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2 – 20 sts.

Repeat last 4 rows 3 more times – 14 sts.

Eyelet Row (Wrong Side): P2, yo, p2tog, p7, yo, p2tog, p1.

Purl 3 rows.

Bind off purlwise.

STRAPS (make 2)

Cast on 45 sts.

Bind off. **FINISHING**

Sew Front and Back pieces together along sides and

bottom edges. Insert one end of Strap through Eyelet holes from inside Purse to outside and tie end into a knot. Insert key ring and repeat for other end. Repeat for opposite strap on opposite side. Weave in ends.

DESIGN 3

RED HEART® "Heart & Sole™": 1 Ball 3970
Faded Jeans.
3/8" diameter button.

PURSE

Cast on 20 sts.

Beginning with a wrong side row, work in St st for 3", end with a wrong side row.

Next Row (Right Side): Bind off 8 sts, k3 more sts, leave remaining 8 sts unworked. Work in St st on 4 sts only for 9 rows, end with a wrong side row.

Buttonhole Row: K1, bind off 2 sts, knit last st

Next Row: P1, cast on 2 sts, p1 – 4 sts.

Next Row: Knit.

Next Row: [P2tog] twice – 2 sts.

Next Row: K2tog.

Fasten off.

Join yarn to remaining 8 sts and bind off.

STRAP

Cast on 45 sts.

Knit 1 row.

Bind off.

FINISHING

Fold Purse in half and sew sides together. Sew one end of Strap along inside of side seam. Insert key

ring and remaining end at opposite side seam.

Sew on button.

Weave in ends.

DESIGN 4

RED HEART® "Heart & Sole™": 1 Ball 3972 Black Jack.

Knitting Needles: 2.25 mm [US 1] set of double-pointed needles. Stitch markers.

BASE

Cast on 18 sts.

Beginning with a wrong side row, work in St st for 5 rows.

Bind off.

BODY

Dividing sts evenly around double-pointed needles, join yarn at center of one long side of Base, pick up 8 sts to corner, pick up 3 sts along side edge, pick up 16 sts along opposite long edge, pick up 3 sts along side edge, pick up 8 sts along remaining edge – 38 sts. Join to work in rounds, place marker for beginning of round. Knit 17 rounds.

Eyelet Round: *Yo, k2tog, k3; repeat from * to last 3 sts, yo, k2tog, k1 – 38 sts.

Knit 5 more rounds.

Bind off.

STRAP

Cast on 45 sts.

Knit 1 row.

Bind off.

I-CORD

Using double-pointed needles, cast on 2 sts, *do not turn, slide sts to end of needle and k2, pulling yarn tight; repeat from * until I-Cord measures 9". Bind off.

FINISHING

Beginning at first Eyelet, weave I-Cord in and out of Eyelets of Eyelet Round. Pull to gather Purse and tie ends together. Tie knot at each end of I-Cord. Sew one end of Strap along inside of side seam. Insert key ring and remaining end at opposite side seam.

Weave in ends.

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Included in this eBook:

- Knitting Storage Solutions
- Simple Knitting Patterns
- Knit Stashbusters
- Organizational Ideas

Sign up for our [free knitting newsletter](#) and receive more low-cost collections, free knitting projects, knitting tips, knitting tutorials and more right in your inbox every week.

Special Thanks:

[Red Heart Yarn](#)

Laura Zander from [Jimmy Beans Wool](#)