

YOUR VERY FIRST PROJECT?

An Anti-Craft Tip Sheet

Getting started on your first project can be a bit daunting. How do you decide what to knit when there are so many choices?

First I will outline a couple of basic facts about knitting - and then, based on these - my recommendations for your first two knitting projects.

Knitting stitches

One of the best things about knitting is that there are actually only TWO basic stitches to learn:

- **knit**
- **purl**

Everything else, even the most complex of patterns is a combination of these two (with a few fancy tweaks thrown in).

Starting and stopping

To **START** knitting you have to **cast on** - that means you have to turn that piece of yarn into a set of stitches on your needle.

To **STOP** knitting you have to **cast off** - that means you have to turn those stitches into a firm piece of fabric that won't come undone.

Knitting 'Fabric'

The two basic knitting fabrics (or finishes) are:

- **garter stitch** (knit every row)

- **stocking stitch** - also called stockinette stitch (knit every right side row and purl every wrong side row)

I am not going to try to 'teach' you these stitches and techniques as there are so many great books available and loads of videos on YouTube - having the words to search for (words in bold) should be all you need to get started)

Project #1

For your first project I recommend a **garter stitch scarf**.

Scarves are great starter projects because there is no shaping involved. You cast on the required number of stitches and work back and forth until your scarf is as long as you want it to be, then cast off.

Starting with a garter stitch scarf means you only have to remember one stitch - knit - and you don't have to worry about keeping track of which side you are on as you will be knitting every stitch the same on the right side and the wrong side.

Project #2

For your second project, I recommend making a **stocking stitch scarf**.

Like your garter stitch scarf, there is no shaping and no complex pattern to remember.

This time you will be doing a knit stitch on the right side rows, and a purl stitch on the wrong side rows.

#1 Tip:

Before you start, watch a few different videos. There are lots of different ways of explaining (and doing) even the most simple techniques, so keep looking until you find one that is easy to follow and fun to do

