

Women in Leadership ~ Knit & Network

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Knitting photos - <http://spinnity.com/photo/>

Our goal today: A Blanket Square

- Cast on 35 stitches - page 30 - 32
- Knit 5 rows - page 36
- Purl one row - page 49. Repeat until you have 9" rectangle.
- Bind off - page 40

Warm Up America (7" x 9") and Project Linus (7" x 7") accept individual blanket squares in any stitch, any washable yarn. Today's square is 100% wool and not washable, but good practice anyway. Stitch patterns online.

On your own : practice, practice, practice

- Knit first, purl later.
- Practice on small pieces - scarves, washcloths, blanket squares.
- Knit things you enjoy making. Give yourself permission to stop.
- Learn to manage the working yarn. Consistent motions make smooth fabric. Dropping and picking up the yarn every stitch breaks the flow.
- Pay attention to dropped, split and twisted stitches. Try to make every stitch look exactly the same.
- **Do not hurt your hands** - take breaks. Stop if you are hurt.

Choosing a Real Project

- Match yarn to desired stitch pattern. Fluffy, fuzzy yarn hides unevenness -- good for scarves and beginner projects. Smooth yarns show your stitches -- good for texture patterns and practice. Some fancy yarns are hard to knit with - ask Tracey about Fun Fur!
- Beyond scarves... when gauge matters. The label on the yarn (ball band) suggests needle size and tension, a.k.a. gauge. The manufacturer will try to hide this information. Be a detective. Look for 2 numbers, like this: 20 sts x 24 rows = 10 cm.

The Internet

- *Knitty*
www.knitty.com - Free online knitting magazine. 4 issues per year, each with a theme. Pattern difficulty ranges from mellow to piquant.
- *Communities: Knitting Meetup, Yahoo groups, Knitter's Review Forums*
Chat with knitters online or in person. Google for "knitting blog" or "yarn harlot" to join the conversation. **Nortel Knitters meet every Wednesday, 12 - 1:30, 3rd floor Think Tank.**

Magazines, \$5 - \$6 each

- *Family Circle Easy Knitting and Crochet Too*
Simple, chic patterns. Easy to make. About 30% of each magazine is crochet. Found at grocery stores, drug stores.
- *Knitter's*
Each issue has a theme - buying on the newsstand means you can see the theme before you buy. Many women's patterns, not so many kids' & men's patterns. Found at bookstores, knitting stores.

Knitting books

- *Stitch 'n Bitch*, by Debbie Stoller
Take back the knit! Feminist, funky approach to knitting with very good diagrams and technique descriptions, as well as cool patterns.
- *The Knitting Experience*, by Sally Melville
Three books so far: The Knit Stitch, The Purl Stitch, and Color. Learn a technique, make a project. Photos of all hand motions & knitting

Stores

- Commuknity, San Jose
New in 2005. Just 15 minute drive from Nortel. Lots of community building events every month.
- Knitting Arts, Big Basin Way, Saratoga
Lively shop, lots of staff, friendly. "Let the yarn do the work."
- The Knitting Room, Branham Lane at Almaden Expressway, San Jose
Not quite as expensive as the other two. More plain yarns.
- Knitpicks and Elann
Online stores can offer lower prices. Sweater prices down to \$35.
- **Stitches West, February 16 - 19**, Santa Clara Convention Center
250 vendors under one roof. Entry fee of \$5 to the market.