

# Here's How to Knit With a Spool

RP Photo

LAST ISSUE, reader MaryLou Bridge shared memories of homemade fun and knitting with an old spool, which resulted in several letters from readers.

"I did this as a child but don't remember how to get started," writes Jo Ann Conley of Grove City, Ohio. "It would be great if I could show my granddaughters how."

Meanwhile, Jeanne Harris of Las Vegas, Nevada has a whole group of girls interested. "I have 60 ladies in a craft club here who would like to do this...they are all older ladies, 60 to 90 years old. We would appreciate your help."

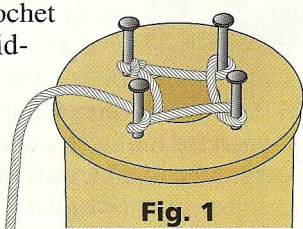
## MAKING A SPOOL

Nail four evenly spaced 5/8-inch brads or escutcheon pins around the hole of an empty wooden spool of thread. If you don't have an old wooden spool, cut a 2-inch length of 1-inch wooden dowel and drill a 1/4-inch hole through the center of the dowel before adding the brads or pins.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPOOL KNITTING

- Make a slip knot several inches from end of yarn. Place the slip knot around one peg or nail on knitting spool. Use a crochet hook to pull the short end of yarn through the middle of the spool.

- Loosely wind the yarn counterclockwise around the next peg or nail to the right, creating a loop. Wind the yarn around each of the remaining pegs or nails in the same way (see Fig. 1).



- Working clockwise throughout, bring the yarn outside the next peg or nail so yarn is positioned between loop and top of the peg or nail. Working from the outside, use either the tool that came with the knitting spool or a steel crochet hook to lift the bottom loop up over the yarn and over the peg or nail toward the center of the spool.

- Bring the yarn outside the next peg or nail, lift the bottom loop up over the yarn and over the peg or nail in the same way. Continue around the spool in this way, gently pulling the knitting through the hole of the spool as you work.

- When you have the desired length, cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread a tapestry needle with yarn tail and pull tail through the next loop on the spool, removing it from the peg or nail at the same time. Continue around the spool in this way, removing each loop.

Hot pads were the most popular item to make with these knitted cords, as were place mats, belts, headbands and bags.