

1000 HOURS OUTSIDE™



Finger Knit a Wool Bear Hat



First Steps

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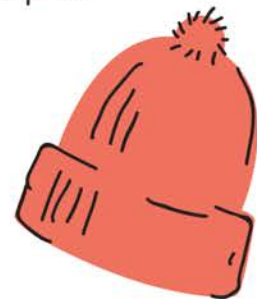
If you're new to finger knitting begin with the finger knitting basics ebook available on the 1000 Hours Outside webstore.

Take your finger knitting to the next level with books such as:

Finger Knitting Fun: 28 Cute, Clever, and Creative Projects for Kids by Vickie Howell or

Finger Knitting: Fast, Easy & Fun Scarves and Accessories to Make (Design Originals) by Mary Beth Temple

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Supplies Needed

Finger knitting is a fun and easy craft for children and grown-ups alike! Our ten-year old daughter can complete this entire craft unassisted in less than three hours but kids as young as four or five can finger knit with some assistance.

This is a great foray into knitting. Kids love the soft feel of the wool and it is less cumbersome than knitting needles for small hands. Having a skein of yarn on hand always gives busy hands something to do. Finger knitting is great for long car rides or for waiting at the doctor's office.

Just one skein of yarn will make an entire hat or neck gaiter! We've tried many brands but for beginners I highly recommend Lion Brand Yarn 640-611 Wool-Ease Thick and Quick Yarn. The thickness and feel of the yarn will affect the outcome of your hat and it's easiest to be successful with this kind when you are just starting out. There are 91 colors to choose from including Crimson, Constellation, Fern and Harvest. Check back often as prices can occasionally be as low as four or five dollars a skein! What a deal for a warm, soft wool hat or neck gaiter.



What you need:



A skein of yarn (or two or three of ten :). That's it!



Standard Finger Knitting

Four Finger Method

1. Drape the yarn over the NON-DOMINANT hand and leave a tail of around six inches.



2. With the dominant hand wrap the yarn
*behind the pointer finger
*in front of the middle finger
*behind the ring finger
*in front of the pinky finger



3. Wrap around the pinky finger and head back the other direction
*behind the pinky finger
*in front of the ring finger
*behind the middle finger
*in front of the pointer finger



At this point each finger will have one loop around it.

5. At the very beginning
(and only at the very beginning),
we will repeat this entire process.

Remember:

With the dominant hand
wrap the yarn
*behind the pointer finger
*in front of the middle finger
*behind the ring finger
*in front of the pinky finger



And then: Wrap around the pinky finger
and head back the other direction
*behind the pinky finger
*in front of the ring finger
*behind the middle finger
*in front of the pointer finger

At this point each finger
will have TWO LOOPS around it.

6. When each finger has two loops,
pull the bottom loop over the top -
leaving the top loop still
on the finger.
Begin with the pointer finger
and working your way down
to the pinky finger.



7. When you have pulled the bottom loop over on each finger we repeat steps 2 and 3 until once again there are two loops on each finger. Just like before, pull the bottom loop over the top working from the pointer finger down to the pinky finger.



That's it!! Seriously!! It's just seven steps and you know how to finger knit! After just a few rounds it starts to look so beautiful. You can make long finger knitting chains and use them for decorations like garland or you could tie a few long chains together and make a beautiful scarf! Add some handles on the end and make a jump rope. Turn the page and learn how to make a neck gaiter or hat!



Continuing On

To a Bear Hat or Neck Gaiter

1. Continue your basic knitting stitch until your chain is the circumference of your head. You can do this by measuring it against your own head or by measuring the circumference of your head with a string and checking against a ruler. Yay, math! Learning is everywhere. If you are making the hat as a gift you could ask for measurements or use a generic chart from the internet.



2. Once your chain is long enough, make your chain into a circle with the ridged side facing in.



3. Loop your pinky finger into the two loops at the bottom of the chain across from the tail. Make sure you enter from the ridged side.





4. Your pinky finger now has three loops on it. Finger knit as normal except this time pull all three loops up and over the top loop on your pinky finger. Only one last tricky step and the rest is a piece of cake!

5. Your pinky finger will loop once more through two loops at the end of the chain. This time, still coming in from the ridged side, loop your pinky finger through the two loops that are on the same side as the tail.

6. Finger knit as normal, once again pull three loops over your pinky finger and leaving one loop behind.





7. You will continue to connect your rows using your pinky finger. You will finger knit as normal with one exception. Before you begin each repetition, loop your pinky finger into the next available top loop so that you will begin with TWO LOOPS on your pinky finger each time. When you pull the bottom loop over the top, each finger will have one loop to pull over EXCEPT FOR THE PINKY finger, which will have two loops to pull over every time.

8. Continue until the hat is the size you would like it to be! With each additional row, there will be a small ridge. We like to have six or seven ridges before we tie off. Keep in mind that you will need about two feet of leftover yarn to finish off your bear hat.



Tying Off

(Last step for a neck gaiter)

At this point, you will tie off.
Tying off is extremely easy.
If you are making a neck gaiter,
this is your last step. Congrats! You did it!



1. Pull the index finger loop off and put it on the middle finger. The middle finger will now have two loops.
2. Just like before, pull the bottom loop over the top, leaving one loop on the middle finger.
3. Take the middle finger loop off and put it on the ring finger. The ring finger now has two loops. Pull the bottom one up over the top.
4. Do the same thing on the pinky finger.
5. When there is one loop left, pull it off of your finger, feed the tail through and pull it snug!



Finishing the Bear Hat

Are you ready for the easiest part?



1. Using your extra yarn you are going to weave from one side of the top to the other, closing up one open edge. Each side of the hat will have two loops. Weave from one side to the other and then double back for reinforcements. Tie off with a double knot of your choice and cut off any excess. Knots are barely visible so don't worry about the type of knot or where you place it.



2. You will also weave the yarn back and forth to make each ear. Roughly measure a 45 degree angle on each side, making sure you leave a little room across the top of each hat between each ear. Weave on an angle from the side of the hat up to the top and then back again. Tie off with a double knot and cut off any excess. Repeat on the other side.

