

TEACH A KIDS! Knitting Class!

Show Me How Craft Books take students through the learning-to-knit process logically. Follow the book and the class will almost teach itself! In only four classes you can introduce a new generation to the joys of knitting.



🌸 Here are tips to make your class a sure-fire success:

- Check Mary Ruth's website www.showmehowcrafts.com for a sample "master" flyer. Make copies of this flyer to post in your store and include in shoppers' bags.
- Include the basics in the price of the class:
 - **Show Me How: Knitting** (retail price \$14.95)
 - 1 skein worsted weight (#4) knitting yarn or pre-wound ball of approximately 50 yards
 - 1 pair size 8 needles
- The **Show Me How** series of books are written so that children can learn on their own or with an adult. Consider offering value pricing for a class for adults and kids together. An "adult" could be a mom or dad, big sis, aunt, uncle or trusted friend. What a great way to get new adult customers too! Adult/child classes could include one copy of the book plus two skeins of yarn and two pairs of needles.
- When people sign up and pay for the class, give them the "story" portion of the two-volume set to take home and read. Ask them to come to their first class with the storybook. **Show Me How** books are written for children ages 8 to 12. Younger readers may enjoy having the story read to them. This will excite the students and give the teacher a fun topic to use as an introduction for the class.
- Have a camera ready to take pictures of each session and post them on a special class bulletin board.

Class 1: Introductions and How to Knit pp 1-17

Teacher Prep: Prepare a non-messy, healthy snack for the end of each session. Have nametags ready. Each child can write their name on the tag at the beginning of class. Prepare examples of different kinds yarns, knitting needles, measuring tapes and yarn needles to share with the class. Prepare a small tote with the basic supplies each child will receive, including the instruction volume and slipcase.

- Have students introduce themselves, giving their name, the name of one person they know who knits and why they want to learn to knit.
- Quickly review the Table of Contents with the class to give them an overview of all the things they will learn.
- Have kids identify different yarn put-ups and look at their yarn label to see if they can find the yarn size and suggested needle size.
- Using the book as a guide, teach slip knot, cast on and knit stitch.
- Assign homework of at least 10 rows of knit stitch. Identify it as garter stitch.
- Let students know when someone at the shop is available for remedial conferences.
- Take pictures!

Class 2: How to Purl pp 18–21

Teacher Prep: Have books and models ready to demonstrate how knit and purl stitches can be combined to make various stitch patterns. This class introduces the purl stitch. With just the addition of stitch holders and another small ball of yarn, students can do an interesting exercise (outlined below) that will reinforce what they previously learned and help them understand the difference between knit and purl.

- Start the class by having students show their practice knitting. Answer any questions.
- Help students place their knit stitches on a holder. With a second ball of yarn, have them make a slip knot and cast on six stitches.
- Using the book as a guide, teach the class the purl stitch and have them purl six rows.
- Point out that continuous purl stitches make the same stitch as continuous knit stitches—the two motions are really two different ways of making the same stitch.
- Have them compare their six rows of purl stitches with their rows of knit stitches. Are there any differences? Difference in tension? Could they make garter stitch with all purl stitches? Why or why not? Encourage them to be curious!
- Have the class work six rows by knitting one row, purling the next. Identify it as stockinette stitch and explain front and back.
- Show pictures, swatches or finished projects of how knit and purl stitches can be combined to make pattern stitches.
- Choose which swatch they like best and show how to return that one to the needles. Rip out other swatch. Encourage them to be comfortable ripping out!
- Assign homework of 10 rows of stockinette stitch and 10 rows of their choice of ribbing or basketweave stitch. Explain how to do each.
- Take more pictures!

Class 3: Binding Off, Sewing Seams, Gauge and Starting a New Project pp 22–28

Teacher Prep: Have yarn needles, circular needles, measuring tapes and handheld calculators ready for use or sale.

- Show and share. Discuss what they could make from their learning strips.
- Teach the class to bind off and sew seams to create a headband or glasses case.
- Ask each student to choose a first project from pages 29–37.
- Tour the store and shop for supplies needed for each project.
- For those choosing hats, demonstrate circular needles and how they can be used to knit flat.

- Using the book as a guide, discuss gauge (page 43). Have students measure their learning strips to determine their gauge. Are their gauges different even though they used the same yarn and needles? Why?
- Have each student cast on and make a couple of rows of their project before they leave.
- Homework will be finishing their project.
- Let them know they will make pompoms, fringe and tassels at the next class that they may use to embellish their projects.
- Take more pictures!

Class 4: Pompoms, Fringe and Finishing, pp. 29–48

Teacher Prep: Have scissors, crochet hooks and cardboard available to make pompoms and tassels.

- Using the book, have students make pompoms, fringe or tassels. (pages 40–42)
- Using the book as a guide, teach Another Way To Hold the Yarn (page 38).
- Introduce students to all the wonderful magazines and patterns available for their next project.
- Talk about and review the yarn information on page 47. Show examples of the various weights and ask students to choose what they'd like to work with for their next project.
- Encourage them to visit www.showmehowcrafts.com to post pictures of their projects, view other patterns and learn about Show Me How to Make a Difference, Mary Ruth's charity knitting projects.
- Take more pictures.
- Plan a bring-a-friend class reunion for a month or six weeks in the future for a show-and-tell of projects made.
- Follow up with students by sending out a reminder card that includes at least one picture from the class with a note about the reunion and whatever new products you have that might interest them. Include a discount coupon for them and one for a friend.

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