

Arbutus Knitting Class Supply Guide

It sounds like you're interested in taking the Beginning Knitter / Infinite Scarf courses at Arbutus! I'm so excited to teach you some new knitting skills. But before we do that, we're going to need some supplies. **Be sure to read this guide before you go shopping.**

At a Glance

You will need a skein of worsted weight yarn (in a solid, light color), US Size 8 (5 mm) knitting needles, and some method for tracking your rows. Read on for more details on what to buy, and where to find it in Thurston County. This guide goes into a lot of detail, but if you show the above to a worker in a local yarn or craft store, they can help you find what you need.

Yarn

For most Infinite Scarf classes, you're going to need one (1) skein of solid, light-colored worsted weight yarn.

If you're not sure about a yarn's weight, check out the label. Worsted weight yarns will have a symbol with the number 4, like in the image to the right.



I also recommend heading to any of the local yarn stores for help. You'll find friendly advice and good community, plus you'll be shopping local! More info on local yarn stores can be found on page 3.

The yarn should be a solid, light color. Because it can be difficult to see your work when using dark-colored yarns, I don't recommend them for beginners. No black, no navy, no dark brown - we want you to be able to see your stitches. Other than that, find a color you love!

In that same vein, please **do not buy self-striping, variegated, eyelash, or faux fur yarn** for this class. These are fun options, but they will make it more difficult to learn.

As for fibers, dealer's choice! I recommend getting a nice superwash wool or wool blend, but nearly any worsted weight yarn will do. If you don't want wool, no problem! Acrylic yarn is also great and can be found just about anywhere yarn is sold.

I do not recommend getting silk or cotton, as these fibers can stretch as they are worked, and can be frustrating for beginners. I also don't recommend 100% wool, as it can be itchy next to the skin and shrinks in the wash.

Needles

For these classes, you will need US Size 8 (5 mm) knitting needles. You have a lot of choices for knitting needles, and almost all of them will be perfectly fine for beginner classes.

Knitting needles come in quite a few forms and materials. In general, you can find knitting needles made of wood, metal, or plastic. **Any material will work fine, but my personal preference is for metal needles.**

You're probably most familiar with straight or single-tipped knitting needles. They come in sets of two, and can be easily found in lengths of from 8" to 16", though they can be longer. What you need to know is that longer needles can be hard on your wrists, so **for straight needles, I recommend buying a shorter set, of about 8 inches.**

Circular needles are knitting needles that are connected by a cord. They're easy on your wrists, so they make for a good option if you have any sort of wrist injury. They look different from the straight needles you may be used to seeing, but they function the same. The length of a circular needle is how long it is from tip to tip. For this set of classes, you won't need a long cord, so **if you're looking to use circulars, I recommend getting a 16-inch set.**

Do not buy double-pointed needles, circular needles longer than 20 inches, or straight needles longer than 9 inches.

Row Counters

Row counters are devices that help you keep track of your progress through a knitting project. There are a lot of ways that this can be done, and buying a separate device isn't necessarily the only way to do so.

However, I have found row counters to be a really helpful tool, particularly for new knitters, who aren't yet used to "reading" their knitting.

While I won't require a row counter for class, I highly, highly recommend them. I particularly like the plastic Susan Bates or Coats & Clark counters. You can also find digital counters on Amazon, at Michael's, and at Joann Fabrics, or download any one of a number of apps to your phone.

If you can't find a row counter, or don't wish to purchase one, bring a pen with you to class, or download a row counting app before class starts.

Where to Find Your Supplies

Thurston County has a lot of great options for knitting supplies. You can easily find supplies at any of the big-box craft stores like Michael's and Joann Fabrics, but I recommend shopping local. The workers at these stores generally will know how to knit and can help you find exactly what you need.

The Black Sheep Yarn Boutique

2101 Harrison Ave NW #A,
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 350-0470

Lost and Found Crafts

2600 Martin Way E #C,
Olympia, WA 98506
(564) 200-3057

Our Local Yarn Shop

1912 State Ave NE,
Olympia, WA 98506
(360) 915-6943

A final note:

Starting a new hobby can be daunting, but with friends and guidance, it's a breeze. I can't wait to see you in class!

- Cheryl