How to Knit a Scarf (Step by Step for Beginners)

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A fully illustrated 28-step guide to knitting your first scarf: choose yarn and needles, cast on, work even garter stitch, then bind off and block a clean finished edge.

Phase 1 — Choose Materials and Cast On

1. **Choose a soft, light-coloured worsted yarn**
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2. **Match the needles to the yarn label**
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3. **Buy enough yarn in one dye lot**
   Buy enough yarn in one dye lot.
4. **Begin with plain garter stitch**
   Begin with plain garter stitch.
5. **Make a slip knot to start**
   Make a slip knot to start.
6. **Cast on 25 to 30 stitches**
   Cast on 25 to 30 stitches.
7. **Count the stitches before row one**
   Count the stitches before row one.

Phase 2 — Knit the Length of the Scarf

8. **Knit every stitch of the first row**
   Knit every stitch of the first row.
9. **Turn and knit every stitch back**
   Turn and knit every stitch back.
10. **Keep an even tension**
    Keep an even tension.
11. **Catch a dropped stitch straight away**
    Catch a dropped stitch straight away.
12. **Measure length, not rows**
    Measure length, not rows.
13. **Count rows if you add stripes**
    Count rows if you add stripes.
14. **Place a lifeline before a change**
    Place a lifeline before a change.
15. **Weave in loose ends as you go**
    Weave in loose ends as you go.

Phase 3 — Bind Off and Block the Edges

16. Knit a few ribbed rows at each end

Knit a few ribbed rows at each end.

17. Bind off loosely across the last row

Bind off loosely across the last row.

18. Leave a long tail to secure

Leave a long tail to secure.

19. Weave the remaining cast-on tail

Weave the remaining cast-on tail.

20. Soak it in cool water

Soak it in cool water.

21. Roll it in a towel to remove water

Roll it in a towel to remove water.

22. Pin it flat to dry to size

Pin it flat to dry to size.

23. Press lightly once it is fully dry

Press lightly once it is fully dry.

Phase 4 — Care for It and Build on the Skill

24. Hand-wash and dry it flat

Hand-wash and dry it flat.

25. Store it folded, not hung

Store it folded, not hung.

26. Remove pills with a gentle shave

Remove pills with a gentle shave.

27. Try a simple one-row repeat

Try a simple one-row repeat.

28. Learn one new stitch per project

Learn one new stitch per project.

Sources

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