MAKE YOUR OWN
Knitting Spool

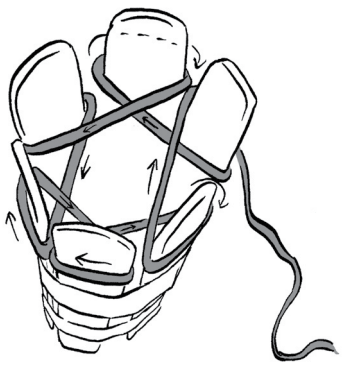
SUPPLIES

- cardboard tube
- 6 craft sticks or pencils
- masking tape
- yarn
- pencil or crochet hook *(optional)*
- scissors

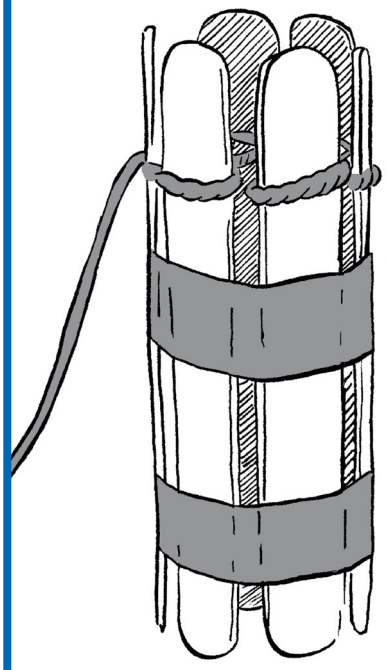
Before the power loom was invented, weaving and knitting were slow, tedious tasks. Try hand weaving with your own knitting spool. With a few simple items and some yarn, you can create a knitted tube that you could use as a bracelet, belt, or skinny scarf!

1 Tape one craft stick against the outside of a cardboard tube, letting it stick out 1 to 2 inches from the edge.

2 Tape a second craft stick directly across from the first stick. Tape the other four sticks evenly around the tube.



3 To begin knitting, take the end of your yarn and tape it to the inside of the tube to anchor it. Wrap the yarn clockwise around one stick.



4 Turn the tube clockwise by one stick and wrap the yarn clockwise around the next stick. Keep turning and wrapping until each stick has one loop wrapped around it. This is your foundation.

5 Begin the second row by wrapping your next loop above the first loop, closer to the end of the stick. Use a pencil, crochet hook, or your fingers to lift the first loop over the second loop. Lift it over the end of the popsicle stick, dropping it into the center of the tube.

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6 Keep going, wrapping each stick clockwise and turning the tube clockwise. Each time, pull the lower stitch over the new stitch and off the stick. Your knitted piece will slowly work its way toward the bottom of your tube.

7 Continue knitting until you reach the length you want. To cast off, lift one stitch off its stick and slide it onto the stick next to it. Lift the bottom stitch over the top stitch. Moving clockwise, move the stitch to the next stick. Keep repeating until there is one stitch left.

8 Cut the yarn, leaving a few inches. Thread the yarn tail through the last loop and pull tightly. Weave the yarn tails into the finished piece.

WORDS TO KNOW

irrigation: supplying water to farmland.

aristocrat: a member of a ruling or wealthy class of people.

AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

If people didn't like working in factories, why couldn't they work on farms instead? Because before the Industrial Revolution there was a revolution in British agriculture. Vast improvements in planting, crop rotation, and **irrigation** helped farmers grow more food and feed more people. But it also meant that fewer workers were needed on farms. As farming became more profitable, British **aristocrats** bought more and more land. By 1815, large landowners had fenced off more than a million acres. Without land to work, small farmers became the source of labor for factories and industry. ⊕