

FREE KNITTING CHALLENGE

The One Skein Wonder Challenge

10 beautiful knitting projects — each using exactly one skein. Prove that beautiful things don't require big budgets.

- 10 Complete Patterns
- One Skein Each
- Budget Yarn List Included
- Gift or Keep Ideas

A Free Gift for Our Community □

Beautiful Things Don't Require Big Budgets.

The best knitting secret that experienced crafters know? Some of the most impressive, gift-worthy, and satisfying projects use exactly one skein of yarn.

This challenge celebrates resourcefulness. Pick any project from these 10, grab a single skein, and discover just how much you can create. Each project includes complete instructions, yarn recommendations, and an honest time estimate.

Budget Yarn Shopping List

| Yarn Weight | Best Budget Brand | Approx. Cost/Skein | Yardage |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Fingering/Sock | Caron Simply Soft | \$4–6 | 165 yds |
| DK Weight | Lion Brand Pound of Love | \$3–5 | 135 yds |
| Worsted Weight | Red Heart Soft | \$4–7 | 141 yds |
| Bulky Weight | Lion Brand Wool-Ease Thick | \$6–9 | 170 yds |
| Super Bulky | Bernat Blanket | \$6–10 | 72 yds |

Project 01: The Riverside Dishcloth

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| YARN: DK weight cotton | NEEDLES: US 5 (3.75mm) | YARDAGE: ~120 yards | TIME: 1.5–2 hours | LEVEL: Beginner |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

A beautiful everyday dishcloth that makes you actually want to do dishes. A simple pattern combining knit and purl ridges creates a textured, absorbent fabric perfect for gifting.

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|------------------|---|
| CO | 32 stitches |
| Rows 1–4: | Knit all stitches (garter stitch border) |
| Row 5 (RS): | K4, *k2, p2* to last 4 sts, K4 |
| Row 6 (WS): | K4, *p2, k2* to last 4 sts, K4 |
| Repeat rows 5–6: | Until piece measures 8" from cast on |
| Final 4 rows: | Knit all stitches (garter stitch border) |
| Bind off: | All stitches loosely — do not bind off tightly or edges will curl |
| Finishing: | Weave in ends, block if desired to open up the pattern |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Knit 3 in coordinating colors and present them as a set with a hand-tied ribbon — instant hostess gift!

Project 02: Weekend Wrist Warmers

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|----------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| YARN: Worsted weight | NEEDLES: US 8 (5mm) DPNs or magic loop | YARDAGE: ~100 yards | TIME: 3–4 hours (pair) | LEVEL: Beginner |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|

Fingerless mitts in a simple ribbed pattern that works up in an evening. These are the perfect 'last minute gift' and look deceptively stylish for such a simple construction.

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|------------------------|---|
| CO | 32 stitches on DPNs or circular needle |
| Join to work in round: | being careful not to twist |
| Rounds 1–40: | *K2, P2* ribbing — repeat around |
| Thumb gap: | Next round: K2, P2, K2, P2, K2 — then cast on 8 sts for thumb, continue ribbing |
| Rounds above thumb: | Continue *K2, P2* for 12 more rounds |
| Bind off: | Loosely in pattern using stretchy bind off (k2tog, slip back, continue) |
| Thumb: | Pick up 8 sts around thumb hole, work K2P2 rib for 6 rounds, bind off loosely |
| Finishing: | Weave in all ends, block lightly |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Change the length by adding or removing ribbing rounds — the same pattern makes everything from wrist cuffs to elbow-length gloves.

Project 03: The Classic Pom-Pom Beanie

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| YARN: Bulky weight | NEEDLES: US 10 (6mm) 16" circular + DPNs | YARDAGE: ~100 yards | TIME: 2–3 hours | LEVEL: Beginner |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

Every knitter should have this recipe. A simple stockinette hat with ribbed brim, topped with a generously-sized pompom. Works up in a long afternoon and photographs beautifully.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| CO | 64 stitches on circular needle, join to round |
| Brim: | Work *K2, P2* rib for 2.5 inches |
| Body: | Knit every round (stockinette) for 5 inches |
| Crown decreases: | Round 1: *K6, K2tog* repeat — 56 sts |
| Round 2: | Knit plain |
| Round 3: | *K5, K2tog* — 48 sts. Continue decreasing every other round, reducing by 8 sts each time |
| When 8 sts remain: | Cut yarn, thread through remaining stitches, pull tight and secure |
| Pompom: | Make a generous 4" pompom from the same yarn — attach to top of hat firmly |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Knit two hats as a set — one for you, one to give away. You'll use just over one skein total and have the most practical gift in your gift closet.

Project 04: Market Bag

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| YARN: Cotton DK weight | NEEDLES: US 6 (4mm) | YARDAGE: ~150 yards | TIME: 4–5 hours | LEVEL: Beginner-Intermediate |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|

A simple drop-stitch or eyelet lace market bag that stretches to hold significantly more than it looks. Perfect for farmers markets, beach trips, or as a fruit bowl substitute.

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|----------------------|---|
| CO | 60 stitches on circular needle, join to round |
| Rounds 1–5: | Knit plain |
| Body pattern: | *K2, YO, K2tog* repeat around — creates eyelet column |
| Repeat body pattern: | For 12 inches of total length |
| Divide for handles: | K30, turn, work back and forth on 30 sts for 12 rows, BO. Rejoin yarn on other 30 sts, work 12 rows, BO |
| Base: | Pick up and knit around bottom of bag, decrease every round until 8 sts, close |
| Finishing: | Weave in ends, wet block to open up the lace and soften the cotton |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Gift this filled with something — a small jar of jam, a bunch of fresh herbs, or a bar of nice soap. The bag IS the gift wrap.

Project 05: Mini Coin Purse / AirPods Case

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|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| YARN: Worsted weight | NEEDLES: US 7 (4.5mm) | YARDAGE: ~80 yards | TIME: 1.5–2 hours | LEVEL: Beginner |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

An adorable little knitted purse with a zip closure, just large enough for coins, AirPods, or lip balm. Knitted flat and seamed, with a sewn-in zip. Instant gift item.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| CO | 20 stitches |
| Row 1 (RS): | Knit across |
| Row 2 (WS): | Purl across |
| Repeat rows 1–2: | For 4 inches total — this is stockinette |
| Work 4 rows: | Of garter stitch (knit all rows) for top edge |
| Bind off | Loosely — make 2 identical pieces |
| Assembly: | Seam sides and bottom of both pieces together using mattress stitch |
| Zip installation: | Hand-sew a 4" zip to the opening using whip stitch in matching thread |
| Lining (optional): | Cut fabric lining, sew to inside hiding all raw edges |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Make five in different colors over a weekend afternoon and you have the holiday gifting covered. People LOVE these.

Project 06: Cable Phone Sleeve

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|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| YARN: DK weight wool | NEEDLES: US 4 (3.5mm) | YARDAGE: ~100 yards | TIME: 2–3 hours | LEVEL: Intermediate |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|

A protective knitted phone sleeve with a simple 6–stitch cable panel. Slides over your phone like a cozy sweater. Makes a surprisingly impressive gift that looks much more advanced than it is.

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|---------------------|--|
| Measure your phone: | Add 0.5" to width and 0.25" to height for size |
| CO | Enough stitches to match phone width + 2 sts (approx. 40–50 sts) |
| Row 1: | K2, P to last 2 sts, K2 |
| Row 2: | Purl across |
| Cable panel rows: | Work a 6–stitch cable down the center: cross cable every 6 rows |
| Continue pattern: | Until sleeve height equals phone height |
| Bind off: | Leaving long tail for seaming |
| Assembly: | Seam sides using mattress stitch, leaving top open |
| Option: | Add a button loop at the top to keep phone secure |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Use a cable needle for beginners OR try a 'no cable needle' cable (slip to working needle, reorder, and knit) for a faster, more confident process.

Project 07: Seed Stitch Headband

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|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| YARN: Worsted weight | NEEDLES: US 7 (4.5mm) | YARDAGE: ~60 yards | TIME: 1–2 hours | LEVEL: Beginner |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

A wide, cozy headband in seed stitch that lies perfectly flat (no curling!) and stays put. The go-to project for using up a beautiful single skein and for a quick, satisfying finish.

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| CO | 17 stitches |
| Every row: | *K1, P1* alternating — end K1 on odd-numbered rows |
| Continue seed stitch: | Until piece measures 20" from cast on (or desired length) |
| Bind off: | Loosely in pattern — do not pull tight |
| Assembly: | Seam cast-on and bind-off edges together to form a circle |
| Optional twist: | Before seaming, give the strip a half-twist — creates a Mobius headband look |
| Finishing: | Weave in ends, block gently to even out the texture |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Seed stitch naturally lies flat — no curling, no blocking required before seaming. This makes it one of the fastest projects to finish and deliver.

Project 08: Pet Bandana (Knit Flat)

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| YARN: DK weight cotton | NEEDLES: US 5 (3.75mm) | YARDAGE: ~50 yards | TIME: 45–60 minutes | LEVEL: Beginner |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|

An adorable triangular bandana for dogs or cats. Works in a single evening, uses almost no yarn, and is the #1 impulse purchase at every craft fair — meaning it also makes a brilliant gift.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| CO | 3 stitches |
| Increase rows: | Row 1: K1, M1, K1, M1, K1 — 5 sts. Row 2: Knit. Row 3: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1 |
| Continue increasing: | As Row 3 every RS row until you have 51 stitches (or desired width) |
| Straight section: | Knit 4 rows plain for a garter border |
| Bind off: | Loosely |
| Ties (optional): | Use remaining yarn to make two 12" i-cord ties and seam to top corners |
| Alternative ties: | Thread a piece of ribbon through the corners for a different look |
| Finishing: | Weave in ends — no blocking required for cotton |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Personalize these with initials using duplicate stitch after the bandana is knitted. Use a contrasting color yarn threaded on a tapestry needle.

Project 09: Spa Washcloth Set

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|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| YARN: DK cotton or cotton-bamboo blend | NEEDLES: US 5 (3.75mm) | YARDAGE: ~120 yards | TIME: 2 hours | LEVEL: Beginner-Intermediate |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------------|

An elevated version of the basic dishcloth — thicker, softer, and designed for the face. Knitted in a luxe cotton with a simple diagonal lace pattern, these make the most beautiful self-care gift.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| CO | 32 stitches |
| Rows 1–3: | Knit all stitches (garter border) |
| Row 4 (RS): | K3, *YO, SSK* to last 3 sts, K3 |
| Row 5 (WS): | K3, purl to last 3 sts, K3 |
| Rows 6–7: | K3, knit to last 3 sts, K3 |
| Repeat rows 4–7: | Until piece is 7.5" square from cast on |
| Final 3 rows: | Knit all stitches (garter border) |
| Bind off: | Loosely, weave in ends |
| Blocking: | Wet block — this opens up the lace beautifully and softens the cotton |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Package three washcloths with a small bottle of face wash or a natural soap bar in a mesh bag for an effortlessly luxe gift that looks much more expensive than it is.

Project 10: Striped Boot Toppers / Cuff Socks

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|--------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| YARN: Bulky weight | NEEDLES: US 10.5 (6.5mm) DPNs or circular | YARDAGE: ~80 yards | TIME: 1.5 hours (pair) | LEVEL: Beginner |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|

Knit boot cuffs that peek out over the top of tall boots — a massive trend that uses almost no yarn and gets enormous compliments. Perfect showcase for a beautiful single skein.

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|-------------------|---|
| CO | 32 stitches on DPNs, join to round |
| Rounds 1–5: | *K2, P2* rib |
| Rounds 6–10: | *P2, K2* rib — this reversal creates a natural fold line |
| Rounds 11–20: | *K2, P2* rib |
| Optional stripes: | Change colors every 2 rounds for a striped look — carry colors up the inside |
| Final 5 rounds: | *K2, P2* rib |
| Bind off: | Using a stretchy bind off — regular bind off will be too tight |
| Finishing: | Weave in ends on inside, fold cuff down over boots and adjust to desired length |

□ GIFT OR KEEP? Use self-striping yarn and you get the stripey look with zero color-changing effort. The fold line automatically creates a perfect folded cuff every time.

The One Skein Manifesto

Beautiful knitting isn't about how much yarn you own. It's about what you do with what you have. One skein, thoughtfully chosen and carefully knitted, can become a gift someone keeps for years.

My Challenge Tracker:

| Project | Yarn Used | Time | Gift or Keep? | Done □ |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|---------------|--------|
| The Riverside Dishcloth | | | | □ |
| Weekend Wrist Warmers | | | | □ |
| Classic Pom-Pom Beanie | | | | □ |
| Market Bag | | | | □ |
| Mini Coin Purse | | | | □ |
| Cable Phone Sleeve | | | | □ |
| Seed Stitch Headband | | | | □ |
| Pet Bandana | | | | □ |
| Spa Washcloth | | | | □ |
| Boot Toppers | | | | □ |