

Kollage Yarns Square Knitting Needles

Who says you can't fit a square peg into a round hole? Our customers do every day when they knit with our square needles! For the uninitiated, square needles may seem like a gimmick. Once you've tried knitting with them, though, it becomes clear the square shape of the needles is therapeutic. They enable knitters who suffer from arthritis, carpal tunnel or discomfort in their hands to continue their beloved pastime.

Susie and I hadn't really intended to create a knitting needle revolution. We just wanted to send our yarn stores a special Christmas present to show our appreciation for their business. We decided on hand-made needles and asked my father to help. He agreed to make a few dozen sets and got several different varieties of rosewood to work with. Once he got them to size and put the points on, he took them to Susie so she could decide which rosewood she preferred. At this point the wooden needles were square and he planned to round them after she indicated her preference.

Intrigued by the shape, Susie just couldn't wait and had to play with these beautiful new needles, even though they were square instead of round. As she began to knit with these "unfinished" square needles, she realized that they were much more comfortable to knit with than traditional rounded needles. They laid nicely in her hands and felt wonderful. The rest, as they say, is history. My father did all the manufacturing until the demand exceeded his capability. We then found a co-op in Vietnam that could duplicate the process with a beautiful native wood.

We didn't realize at the time how special our Christmas present needles were. We began getting e-mails and letters from customers wishing to thank us for creating a needle that doesn't hurt their hands. We are especially delighted by the letters from customers who suffer from arthritis and carpal tunnel syndrome. Many of these knitters have been able to pick up our square knitting needles and return to the craft they so love without doing further damage to their hands. They tell us knitting with the square needles reduces stress on their hands, perhaps due to the design of the needle, the warm wood, and the way they lay on their hands. Susie now knits exclusively with the square needles. She has been knitting for more years than she cares to admit but has not reached the point where her hands give her problems. By knitting with our square needles, she hopes never to reach that point.

Based on our personal experience and customer response, our square needles seem to help knitters with arthritis and carpal tunnel syndrome to continue to use their hands and knit. We would love for these knitters to know they are available and look forward to getting the word out. Our little Christmas present to our stores has become a gift to all who love to knit and are hampered by discomfort in their hands.

Well that's the story and I hope you enjoy your Square Needles.