



**HAPPY NEW YEARS!**

### **AH Donations**

The donations for the end of December included:



Keep up  
the  
good  
work!!!

### **? Now You Know ?**

If you are still using your favorite knitting needles from high school, take a look at the many choices of knitting needles now on the market. There are more options than ever before, and you may be surprised at how your choice of needle can affect your knitting. These are not your grandmother's needles!

### **Needle Types**

Needles come in three basic styles: straight, circular and double-pointed.

**Straight needles** are usually found in 10-inch and 14-inch lengths and are the most common and readily available style.

However, their uses are limited because they can't accommodate longer widths or knitting in the round.

**Circular needles** are available in a variety of lengths from 11-inches to 47-inches and are used for knitting seamlessly in the round, or for knitting back and forth. Circular needles allow the knitter to rest the weight of the knitted piece on her lap, thus avoiding strain on the wrist, arm and shoulder muscles. The longer circulars are particularly good for working extra large pieces such as afghans.

**Double-pointed** needles are available in sets of four or five and in lengths from 4-inches to 14-inches. They are used for knitting in the round. The shorter needles are used to knit small pieces such as gloves or socks, while the longer needles are used by Shetland-style knitters who

rest the tip of the needle on their hips.

A fourth style, "**jumper**" or "**flex**" needles, are a cross between straight and circular needles. They look like short straight needles, but have a cable at the end which adds length to the needle without the extra weight. Flex needles can accommodate a larger number of stitches than straight needles.

Pay particular attention to the "size" of needles called for in the pattern. There are different sizing systems used for needles, and a U.S. size 6 is not the same as a 6mm needle. Most patterns give suggested needle sizes in both U.S. and metric formats, and most needles have the size stamped somewhere on the needle.

### **Needle Know-How**

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