

How Tree House Knitting Came To Be

by Cat Bordhi



Note: Tree house knitting is potentially dangerous because you can fall out of the tree. I recommend that you attach yourself securely to the tree at all times for safety, and have several adults with you in case you need

assistance. I am only sharing the theory of tree house knitting here, and do not take any responsibility for your safety. Please take good care of yourself while you enjoy this activity.

I spent much of my childhood daydreaming in the arms of centuries-old oak trees, while all my troubles rested far below, so it is not surprising that the idea of knitting a tree house simply appeared to me one day as I was writing my novel, **Treasure Forest**.

It's a simple process: First find a tree with two strong, relatively horizontal limbs within four or five feet of each other. Cast on to one limb by wrapping it in rope (I prefer 3/16" nylon), then use a long circular needle to

knit the first row of loops. (Since your local yarn store doesn't carry ten-foot



long circular needles in a two-inch diameter, try the hardware store. Buy a length of plastic tubing, carve a set of needle ends out of 2" dowel, and use duct tape to smoothly attach them.)

As sections of your knitting reach the other limb, secure them there, until you have a strong, most likely triangular, web of stockinette stretched tautly between the limbs.

If you like, you can knit a roof and walls as well, and cover them in tarps to keep out the rain. The sky's the limit!

In my novel, I chose to have a 13 year old boy knit the tree house under the tutelage of a crafty (in all senses of the word) elderly man. I dream of the novel



inspiring a whole new generation of young knitters, in and out of trees. I taught Ethan Kellough-Warren, the 8 year old boy in the photos, to knit, and he and I worked together to knit

the tree house he is in. The third photo pictures another tree house in progress, as I make the first attachment to the second branch.