

## Tin Can Loom Instructions

What you will need:

- A can with top and bottom removed
- Masking tape
- Measuring tape
- Pen or fine tipped marker
- 1½” to 2½” Finishing nails (the ones with small rounded heads and no ridges along the body work best)
- Fabric tape



A note on sizing:

Unless you are very familiar with loom knitting, your can will typically need to be larger than you think. You can make infant socks and mitts as well as Barbie doll clothes with a 15 – 16 oz can. Infant hats and tube scarves can be made on a much larger can. I used a 108oz can of White House apple sauce from our local Sam’s Club to make my infant hat loom.

A note on gauge:

The gauge of a loom refers to the spacing between your pegs (the nails for tin can looms). It is measured from the center of the peg to the center of the next peg. The smaller your gauge, the closer your stitches will be on your project. Smaller gauges are good for thinner yarns, such as baby weight, while larger gauges are good for thicker yarns, such as “chunky” or “thick and quick” yarns. For example, if you knit with a baby weight yarn on a loom with a ½” gauge, there will be a noticeable gap between your stitches, making your work loose and stretchy. Typical gauges run from ¼” (fine gauge) to ½” (normal gauge) but can be as close or as far apart as you like depending on your own needs. This project is so easy you can make lots of can looms with different gauges to experiment with!

Preparing the can:

I like to use the Zyliss Safe ‘n Secure can opener to remove the tops and bottoms of my cans. This can opener does not leave sharp edges like most can openers do and it keeps the top of your can from falling into your food! Some cans have a rounded bottom and cannot be removed with a can opener. You can use a Dremel tool or a hacksaw to remove the bottom of the can when this is the case. Once you have removed both ends of the can, place masking tape over the edge for safety, so that you don’t get cut making or using your loom!

Be sure to wash and dry your can **and nails** thoroughly before beginning!

1. Choose the gauge of your loom. For easy marking, you can wrap the top edge of your can with masking tape. Wrap your tape measure along the top edge of the can and use your pen or fine tipped marker to mark the increments you choose. It is ok if there is a slightly larger or slightly smaller space between your first and last peg.
2. Place two nails on your first mark along the side of the top of your can. The heads of the nails should be touching and the bodies of the nails should be parallel to each other. Leave 1” of the nails protruding above the top of the can. You can make this as short as ½”, but that will make it difficult to work with tighter stitches requiring multiple strands of yarn and thicker yarns. Make sure there is ½” or more of the nail touching the can for stability. Place a piece of fabric tape over the nail set to hold it in place. This is your first peg! Repeat this step on each of your marks.
3. For added stability, you can place a piece of fabric tape over the tape in between each peg and over the edge of the can. Once all of your nails are in place, wrap fabric tape around the can over your nails a time or two to keep them from moving when you work with them.
4. (Optional) You can decorate your can with a piece of scrap fabric!