

Knitting

The Navaho also practise knitting, though interestingly enough it is usually the men who knit, making leggings or footless stockings. Originally sticks of hard wood were used for needles, later, wire, or the ribs of old umbrellas served well. Regular knitting needles were ofcourse carried by the traders when the demand for them was manifest.

As many as four or five needles are used. The knitters create a raised rim at the top of the stocking with a left hand stitch, giving a firm edge for longer wear. A knitted or plaited band is added at the bottom to pass under the foot to keep the stocking from working upward.